

PPP Contract for Development of the Inland Container Depot (ICD) near Dhirasram Railway Station to Enhance Container Handling and Transportation Efficiency through Public Private Partnership

The new Inland Container Depot (ICD) near Dhirasram Railway Station is a strategic initiative to address the escalating demands of container-based cargo handling in Bangladesh. With the Kamalapur ICD nearing its capacity limits, the need for a modern, fully-equipped ICD with 24-hour operations is critical. This project will facilitate efficient container transfers between Chittagong port, Dhaka, and other regions, enhancing the speed and reliability of goods transportation. Executed under the auspices of Bangladesh Railway and the Ministry of Railways, this project has progressed through initial approvals and comprehensive feasibility studies, paving the way for its realization through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

Project Objectives

The primary goal of this project is to drive economic growth necessary for managing increasing container traffic:

Increase Container Rail Movements:

Enhance the frequency and reliability of container movements via rail in the crucial Dhaka-Chittagong corridor.

Modal Shift in Cargo Transport:

Transition from traditional bulk transport by truck to more efficient and environmentally friendly container rail movements.

Advanced Intermodal Systems:

Develop state-of-the-art intermodal transport systems to streamline logistics operations.

Quality Freight Services: Elevate the standard of freight services to ensure efficient and timely delivery.

Operational Excellence: Achieve high operational standards at the new ICD to support the anticipated increase in container traffic.

Project Scope

Set to be developed on a 55.26-hectare site, the new ICD at Dhirasram will include a 6-kilometer railway spur linking it to the national railway network. The facility will boast extensive infrastructure necessary for the fueling and maintenance of locomotives and will feature a dual-gauge

railway line to ensure seamless container movement across the railway's eastern and western zones. This forward-thinking project also anticipates accommodating future bilateral container traffic between India and Bangladesh, which is expected to boost regional trade.

Project Location and Land Acquisition

Located strategically in Gazipur district, the proposed ICD site benefits from its flood-free status and proximity to vital transport links like the Pubail railway station. While land acquisition is ongoing, public consultations are set to play a pivotal role in the process, ensuring transparency and community involvement.

Project Consultations

A series of consultations with stakeholders—including government bodies and potential private sector partners—are integral to the project's planning phase. These discussions are designed to align project goals with stakeholder expectations and community needs, facilitating a cooperative project environment.

Project Execution

Bangladesh Railway is spearheading the project with support from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. Comprehensive feasibility studies by PwC and Canarail confirm its viability. The PPP Authority plays a crucial role in guiding the project and enhancing public-private collaboration.

Closure

The construction of the new ICD near Dhirasram Railway Station is a critical development for bolstering Bangladesh's logistics capacity. It promises to modernize the container transport system, supporting economic growth through enhanced logistical efficiencies.