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Construction firms line up for big water play

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Mumbai, 3 August

Domestic engineering and construction companies are expecting deals in water-related projects to pick up.

The Centre formed a new water ministry – Jal Shakti – in May in a bid to bring various water schemes under one roof.

Almost three months later, while orders are yet to fructify, construction companies see the formation of the ministry as an indication of greater investment in the natural resource.

Welspun Enterprises, for instance, expects water projects to contribute in a big way to its current order book of ₹5,240 crore. “Over the next two years, Welspun Enterprises will look to build a robust order book of between ₹3,000 crore and ₹5,000 crore under the water infrastructure vertical,” said Sandeep Garg, managing director and chief executive officer (CEO), Welspun Enterprises. Others, like KEC International have now reactivated their water vertical team. “Our earlier experience was not great



because there were issues like delays. We had then decided not to quote for water projects,” said Vimal Kejriwal, managing director (MD) & CEO, KEC International. The company has now changed its strategy and has also hired officials for its water verticals team.

“We have now merged the water projects team with the civil team and reactivated the team with new hires,” Kejriwal added. The company plans to participate in the water sector orders again.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has been one of the largest beneficiaries of water projects in India so far.

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