

First international seminar on MRO in Land Systems to be held in New Delhi on December 3-4, 2012

NEW DELHI, October 1, 2012. A modern Army's equipment readiness has to be sustained at high levels, in order to meet the demands of a complex and uncertain operating environment. This becomes crucial since the Army is looking at capabilities for quick deployment. The Army's modernisation strategy is focused on acquiring capabilities that will enable them to succeed in any operation today or in the future. Operational sustainment of weapon systems aims to retain these capabilities throughout its lifecycle. The proliferation of Land Weapon Systems across the complete spectrum in the military necessitates effective implementation and integration of Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) environment so as to keep the User in a state of Mission Readiness 24x7.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME), Indian Army, today announced that the First International Seminar on '**MRO in Land Systems: A 21st century Perspective for Army**' would be held on December 3-4, 2012, in New Delhi. The seminar would aim to institutionalise measures for adoption of MRO for Land Systems in Army through forging strong public private partnerships, so as to ensure military equipment meets operational requirements in a cost effective manner. During the curtain raiser ceremony at FICCI, **Lt Gen Narendra Singh, AVSM, SM, VSM, Deputy Chief of Army Staff**, released the brochure of the seminar in the presence of a large number of dignitaries from the Army and industry. Amongst those present were, **Lt Gen N B Singh, AVSM, VSM, Director General EME; Lt Gen AV Subramaniam, VSM, Director General Weapons and Equipment; and Dr Arbind Prasad, Director General, FICCI.**

During his keynote address, Lt Gen Narendra Singh complimented FICCI and Corps of EME for identifying a contemporary, futuristic subject for the seminar, especially in the context of an intensely fluid and rapidly changing modern battlefield environment. He highlighted the importance of the effective integration and implementation of MRO's best practices for Land Systems and strengthening the coordination within the Military Industrial complex. The Director General EME, during his address, emphasized the importance of equipment sustainability which reflects an Army's capabilities to keep its weapon systems operational 24x7, 360 degrees.

Dr. Prasad stated, "In the current operational environment there is an inescapable need to keep war fighting equipment and systems in a mission ready state at all times. Given the vast expanse of the theatre of operations and varied terrain, this is a daunting challenge. To overcome this there is a need to evolve a strategy to integrate the multi-dimensional industrial base and derive a service-oriented solution aimed at reducing repair cycle time, inventory overhang and repair costs. This would ensure low lifecycle sustainment costs without compromising on a high mission reliability of equipment and systems."

“To contribute meaningfully to the growth of indigenous defence sector, FICCI’s one point agenda is towards creation of a robust defence industrial base in the country with meaningful participation of the private sector in armed forces modernisation. FICCI is striving to make the private sector an indispensable and integral part of this modernization process. Towards this objective, FICCI is constantly engaging with the policy makers and user to project the strengths of the private sector. Moving ahead in this direction, it is imperative to bring about better understanding of needs and expectations between the user and industry and this seminar will provide such opportunity to the industry and user,” added Dr. Prasad.

MEDIA DIVISION