



MEDIA COVERAGE REPORT

**ITI signs Rs 7,796 crore contract with
Defence Ministry for ASCON Phase IV
Project**

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Govt approves ₹7.8k-cr for Army's tele network

New Delhi: The cabinet committee on security has approved the long-pending Rs 7,796 crore project to further upgrade the Army's digital telecommunication network across the country.

The phase-IV of the Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) will be implemented by public sector unit ITI over the next three years under a contract inked on Thursday. "The project will augment the Army's communication network in sensitive forward areas. It will provide a major boost to the operational preparedness of the force, especially keeping in view the current operational situation at the line of actual control with China," said a defence ministry official.

The project will extend high bandwidth communication, with better survivability and responsiveness, to remote operational areas along the borders with China and Pakistan. TNN



Publication: The Economic Times

Date: 02-10-2020

■ ITI Signs ₹7,796 cr Contract with Defence Ministry



NEW DELHI State-owned ITI on Thursday said it has signed a ₹7,796 crore deal with the defence ministry for deployment of a strategic and secured communication network for the Army across the country. The telecom and defence equipment manufacturer was declared the lowest bidder for the Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) Phase IV tender in 2017. "To strengthen the communication network for Indian Army, ITI Limited...today signed ₹7,796 crore Phase IV Project of ASCON for deploying strategic network for secured communication across the country and subsequent maintenance for next 10 years," ITI said in a statement.



Publication: Business Standard

Date: 02-10-2020

ITI signs ₹7,796-cr deal with DefMin to build network

State-owned ITI on Thursday said it has signed a ₹7,796 crore deal with the defence ministry for deployment of a strategic and secured communication network for the Army across the country. The telecom and defence equipment manufacturer was declared the lowest bidder for the Army Static Switched Communication Network Phase IV tender in 2017.

PTI



Publication: Deccan Herald


Date: 02-10-2020

ITI bags Rs 7,796 cr order from Army

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-based public sector telecom and defence equipment manufacturer ITI Limited, on Thursday signed Rs 7,796 crore Phase-IV project of Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) for deploying network for secured communication across the country.

ASCON is the Army's telecom network spread across different terrains in the northern, north-eastern and western regions. The project

is an IP MPLS based communication network with Microwave Radio, Satellite and Optical Fiber Network as media. The project includes installation, commissioning and maintenance of telecom equipment like IP/MPLS Routers, NMS, Mobile Nodes, test equipment and civil works for providing the complete infrastructure at various sites and roll out of optical fiber network of about 11,000 kms, the company said in a statement.

	Publication: The Hindu
	Date: 01-10-2020
	Link: https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/7796-cr-secure-communication-network-project-for-army-cleared/article32744448.ece

₹7,796-cr. secure communication network project for Army cleared


It enhances coverage closer to the international border, Line of Control (LoC) and Line of Actual Control (LAC)

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the long-pending proposal for the establishment of a secure communication network for the Army, Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) phase IV network, to be implemented by the Public Sector Undertaking ITI Limited at an estimated ₹7,796.39 crore, the Defence Ministry said.

The contract was signed on Thursday with an implementation schedule of 36 months. “The project is a strategic and theatre area communication network which will upgrade the existing asynchronous transfer mode technology to Internet Protocol (IP), Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) Technology,” the Ministry said. Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), microwave radio and satellite will be used as communication media, it said.

The project will provide better survivability, responsiveness and high bandwidth in any operational scenario and enhance the communication coverage of network closer to the international border, Line of Control (LoC) and Line of Actual Control (LAC). The Ministry said it will provide a major boost to the “operational preparedness of the Army especially in view of the situation at the LAC”.

The project has approximately 80% indigenous content and involves execution of civil works, laying of OFC and tower construction among others.

	Publication: The Economic Times
	Date: 01-10-2020
	Link: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/ccs-clears-rs-7796-crore-communication-network-for-indian-army-to-be-done-by-iti/articleshow/78428003.cms

CCS clears Rs 7796 crore communication network for Indian Army, to be done by ITI


The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has cleared a project to establish a secure communication network for the Indian Army that will include modern optical fibre cable links to forward areas, with Public Sector Undertaking ITI set to implement the Rs 7796 crore plan.

The defence ministry has said that the new Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) will provide a “big boost to the operational capability of the defence forces”, given the current operational situation on the border with China and provides an opportunity to the PSU to give an “impetus to the Indian economy”.

The project will lead to a complete upgrade of military communication systems that will shift to Internet Protocol (IP) / Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) Technology. “Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Microwave Radio and Satellite will be used as communication media,” the defence ministry said. Official said that the project will provide better survivability, responsiveness and high bandwidth in any operational scenario and enhance the communication coverage of network close to international boundaries, like the Line of Actual Control (LAC), where tensions have been simmering with China since May. “The project would augment the communication network of Indian Army in the sensitive forward operational areas which in turn will provide a major boost to the operational preparedness of the Indian Army especially keeping in view the current operational situation at LAC,” the ministry has said.

The network will extend the high bandwidth communication to the remote operational areas in Central and Eastern Sectors and enhance communication reach to the forward locations in the Western border too.

The project will have indigenous content of about 80 percent, with official saying that it would come as a boost for the industry as well. “The project involves execution of civil works, laying of OFC, tower construction, etc. and with utilization of local resources, hiring of manpower, it would generate employment opportunities especially to the people in remote border areas, support and boost rural economy, assist in upliftment of the local of the local economies, provide skill development during the prolonged period of execution and maintenance of the network,” the ministry has said.

	Publication: The Hindu BusinessLine
	Date: 02-10-2020
	Link: https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/iti-signs-contract-for-armys-7796-crore-ascon-phase-iv-project/article32749938.ece

ITI signs contract for Army's ₹7,796-crore ASCON Phase IV project


ASCON Project covers IP MPLS-based communication network ITI Ltd, a PSU telecom and defence equipment manufacturer, has signed a ₹7,796-crore contract for Phase IV of the Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) project.

The contract was signed by Rakesh Mohan Agarwal, CMD, ITI, and Joint Secretary and Acquisition Manager - Land Systems, Ministry of Defence, in New Delhi on Thursday. ASCON is the army's telecom network spread across different terrains in the northern, north-eastern and western regions. The project covers an IP MPLS-based communication network with microwave radio, satellite and optical fibre network as media. It will handle communication across the country and subsequent maintenance for the next 10 years.

The project also includes the installation, commissioning and maintenance of telecom equipment like IP/MPLS Routers, NMS, mobile nodes, test equipment and civil works for providing the complete infrastructure at various sites and rollout optical fibre network of about 11,000 km.

Agarwal said: "Having successfully implemented and maintained the first-three phases of ASCON project for the last three decades, we have an edge in implementing this prestigious project. Having ASCON IV project at this juncture certainly gives a big boost to the Indian Army and ITI is very much excited to roll out this network."

The scope of the project also includes a warranty period of two years and maintenance support of the network for another eight years after the warranty.

	Publication: Financial Express
	Date: 02-10-2020
	Link: https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/big-boost-for-indian-armys-communication-network-to-get-upgraded-ascon/2096560/

Big boost for Indian Army's communication Network! To get upgraded ASCON

To provide a big boost to the operational capability of defence forces, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has given its approval for Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) Phase IV of the Indian Army. The India Army's Corps of Signals maintain the Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON).

This was a long pending demand of the Indian Army and the project has been given to M/s ITI, a PSU. To be implemented within 36 months from the date of signing the contract, the project is estimated to cost around Rs 7796.39 crore.

How will this help the Indian Army?

This is going to be an upgrade on the existing Asynchronous Transfer Mode Technology to Internet Protocol (IP) / Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) Technology. Also, Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Microwave Radio and Satellite will be used for communication. In any operational scenario with almost 80 per cent indigenous content this system is expected to provide better survivability, responsiveness and high bandwidth. It will enhance the communication coverage of network closer to IB/LC/LAC.

Through this network, the high bandwidth communication will extend to the remote operational areas in Central and Eastern Sectors. And will also reach to the forward locations in the Western border. This whole project is expected to augment the communication network of Indian Army in the sensitive forward operational areas.

Keeping in view the ongoing tensions in eastern Ladakh, this communication project upgrade will give a boost to the operational preparedness of the Indian Army. Also, the Indian industry gets a big boost as this project involves the execution of civil works, laying of OFC, tower construction, etc. And more employment opportunities will be generated in remote border areas.

Expert View

According to Debajit Sarkar, expert on competitive intelligence and market research in the defence and aerospace and industry, "Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) is the army's telecom network spread across different terrains in the western, northern, north-eastern regions."


According to him, "The project is an Internet Protocol- Multi Protocol Label Switching (IP-MPLS) based communication network with that combines satellite, microwave radio and optical fiber

network. It is a fully automated, digital, protected, dependable and survivable static communication system based on satellite, microwave radio, optical fiber cable and mill metric wave communication apparatus. ASCON also provides services such as FAX, TELEX, Data Transfer and Video to defence users on this network.”

“Under Phase IV of this project ITI will install and maintain telecom equipment’s like IP/MPLS routers, mobile nodes, various telecom equipment and network managed services in order to provide the complete infrastructure at various sites and thereafter rollout of an optical fibre network over thousands of kilometers,” Debajit Sarkar explains.

Why is it critical?

“ASCON Phase IV will provide better survivability, responsiveness and high bandwidth in any operational scenario and enhance the communication coverage of the network closer to the LAC, LOC and International Border. So now at a place line Ladakh for instance, the Army’s communication channel will become more robust and adversaries will find it difficult to jam,” he adds.

	Publication: Rediff News
	Date: 01-10-2020
	Link: https://www.rediff.com/news/report/rs-7796-crore-border-network-system-cleared-by-govt/20201002.htm

Govt okays project to boost army communications in border areas

The Cabinet Committee on Security has cleared an ambitious project under which a highly secure communication network will be set up for the Indian Army in strategically key forward locations, including along the Line of Actual Control, at a cost of Rs 7,796 crore, officials said on Thursday.

The project will be rolled out by government-owned company ITI within three years, they said, adding that the contract for its implementation was signed with the telecom entity on Thursday.

The officials said the project will provide better "survivability, responsiveness and high bandwidth" in any operational scenario and enhance the communication coverage of the network in areas closer to forward areas, including along the LAC.

The project will also help provide secure network coverage in areas along the Line of Control and the international border with Pakistan, they said.

"In order to meet the long pending demand of the Indian Army, the Cabinet Committee on Security has approved the proposal for establishment of Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) Phase IV Network," the defence ministry said.

It said the project would augment the communication network of the Indian Army in the sensitive forward operational areas which in turn will provide a major boost to the operational preparedness especially keeping in view the current situation at the LAC.

India and China are locked in a five-month-long bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh that has significantly strained their ties. Both sides have held a series of diplomatic and military talks to resolve the row. However, no breakthrough has been achieved to end the standoff.

"The project is also a big opportunity for the public sector to showcase its capability and provide an impetus to the Indian economy and will be a step in the direction of achieving the goal of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India)," the ministry said.


With approximately 80 per cent indigenous content, the project will provide a boost to the Indian industry, it said.

The ministry said the project will lead to upgradation of the existing 'Asynchronous Transfer Mode Technology' to Internet Protocol (IP)/ Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) technology.

"Optical Fibre Cable, Microwave Radio and Satellite will be used as communication media," it said.

The ministry said the project would generate employment opportunities especially to the people in remote border areas and boost rural economy.

"The project involves execution of civil works, laying of OFC, tower construction, etc. And with utilisation of local resources, hiring of manpower, it would generate employment opportunities especially to the people in remote border areas, support and boost rural economy, assist in upliftment of the local economies, provide skill development during the prolonged period of execution and maintenance of the network," the ministry said.

	Publication: OMMCOM NEWS
	Date: 01-10-2020
	Link: https://ommcomnews.com/india-news/india-army-to-get-new-communication-network-for-rs-7796-cr

India Army To Get New Communication Network For Rs 7,796 Cr

For better survivability and responsiveness in operational situations, the Cabinet Committee on Security on Thursday approved a proposal for a secure and better communication network at an estimated cost of Rs 7,796.39 crore.

The Defence Ministry said that the new Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) was a long pending demand of the Indian Army.

“It is being implemented by the ITI, a public sector undertaking, at an estimated cost of Rs 7,796.39 crore,” said the ministry, adding that the implementation schedule is of 36 months from the date of signing of the contract.

Further, with approximately 80 per cent indigenous content, the project will provide a boost to the Indian industry.

The project will upgrade the existing Asynchronous Transfer Mode Technology to Internet Protocol (IP) and Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) Technology.

“Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Microwave Radio and Satellite will be used as communication media,” the ministry said.


The project will provide better survivability, responsiveness and high bandwidth in any operational scenario and enhance the communication coverage of the network closer to International Border, Line of Control and Line of Actual Control.

The network will extend the high bandwidth communication to the remote operational areas in Central and Eastern sectors and enhance communication reach to the forward locations in the Western borders too.

Thus, the project would augment the communication network of the Indian Army in the sensitive forward operational areas, which in turn will provide a major boost to the operational preparedness of the Indian Army, especially keeping in view the current operational situation along the LAC.

The project involves execution of civil works, laying of OFC, tower construction, and with utilisation of local resources and hiring of manpower, it would generate employment opportunities, especially for the people in the remote border areas, support and boost rural economy, assist in upliftment of the local economies, and provide skill development during the prolonged period of execution and maintenance of the network.

The project is also a big opportunity for the public sector to showcase its capability and provide an impetus to the Indian economy and will be a step in the direction of achieving the goal of ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’.

	Publication: Outlook India
	Date: 01-10-2020
	Link: https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/iti-signs-rs-7796-cr-contract-with-defence-to-build-armys-communication-network/1946935

ITI signs Rs 7,796 cr contract with Defence to build Army's communication network

State-owned ITI on Thursday said it has signed a Rs 7,796 crore deal with the defence ministry for deployment of a strategic and secured communication network for the Army across the country.

The telecom and defence equipment manufacturer was declared the lowest bidder for the Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) Phase IV tender in 2017.


"To strengthen the communication network for Indian Army, ITI Limited...today signed Rs 7,796 crore Phase IV Project of ASCON for deploying strategic network for secured communication across the country and subsequent maintenance for next 10 years," ITI said in a statement.

ASCON is the army's telecom network spread across different terrains in the northern, north-eastern and western regions. The project is an Internet Protocol- Multi Protocol Label Switching (IP-MPLS) based communication network with microwave radio, satellite and optical fiber network as media.

"Having successfully implemented and maintained the first three phases of the ASCON project for the last 3 decades, we have an edge in implementing this prestigious project. Having ASCON IV project at this juncture certainly gives a big boost to the Indian Army and ITI is very much excited to roll out this network," ITI Chairman and MD RM Agarwal said.

The project includes installation, commissioning and maintenance of telecom equipment like IP/MPLS routers, network managed services, mobile nodes, test equipment and civil works for providing the complete infrastructure at various sites and rollout of optical fiber network of about 11,000 kilometer.

"The scope of the project also includes a warranty period of two years and maintenance support of the network for another eight years after the warranty," the statement said.

	Publication: Republic World
	Date: 03-10-2020
	Link: https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/law-and-order/india-army-to-get-new-communication-network-ascon-for-rs-7796-cr.html

India Army To Get New Communication Network ASCON For Rs 7,796 Cr: Defence Ministry

In a massive boost for the Indian Defence forces, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Thursday has given its nod for the Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) Phase IV of the Indian Army. The long-pending demand of the Indian Army and the project has been given to ITI, a PSU, and it will be implemented within 36 months from the date of signing the contract. The estimated cost of the project is around Rs 7796.39 crore, the Defence Ministry said in its official statement.

Network to be used in forward areas

The network will extend the high bandwidth communication to the remote operational areas in Central and Eastern Sectors and enhance communication reach to the forward locations in the Western border too, the ministry said. "Thus, the project would augment the communication network of Indian Army in the sensitive forward operational areas which in turn will provide a major boost to the operational preparedness of the Indian Army especially keeping in view the current operational situation at LAC," Defence Ministry said.


About the ASCON project

ASCON project will be an upgrade to the existing Asynchronous Transfer Mode Technology to Internet Protocol (IP) / Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) technology, the ministry said. Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Microwave Radio, and Satellite will be used for communication, it added. In any operational scenario, the project will provide better survivability, responsiveness, and high bandwidth and enhance the communication coverage of network closer to IB/LC/LAC, the ministry said.

Boost to the Indian industry

Furthermore, with approximately 80 percent indigenous content, the project will provide a boost to the Indian Industry as the project involves the execution of civil works, tower construction, laying of OFC, etc. Moreover, with the utilization of local resources, hiring of manpower, it would generate employment opportunities especially to the people in remote border areas, support and boost the rural economy, assist in the upliftment of the local economies, provide skill development during the prolonged period of execution and maintenance of the network, the ministry said.


The communication project is also a big opportunity for the public sector to showcase its capability and provide an impetus to the Indian economy. It will be also a step in the direction of achieving the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat, according to the ministry.

	Publication: Deccan Herald
	Date: 01-10-2020
	Link: https://www.deccanherald.com/national/iti-signs-rs-7796-cr-contract-with-defence-to-build-armys-communication-network-895880.html

ITI signs Rs 7,796 cr contract with Defence to build Army's communication network

State-owned ITI on Thursday said it has signed a Rs 7,796 crore deal with the defence ministry for deployment of a strategic and secured communication network for the Army across the country.


The telecom and defence equipment manufacturer was declared the lowest bidder for the Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) Phase IV tender in 2017. "To strengthen the communication network for Indian Army, ITI Limited...today signed Rs 7,796 crore Phase IV Project of ASCON for deploying strategic network for secured communication across the country and subsequent maintenance for next 10 years," ITI said in a statement. ASCON is the army's telecom network spread across different terrains in the northern, north-eastern and western regions. The project is an Internet Protocol- Multi Protocol Label Switching (IP-MPLS) based communication network with microwave radio, satellite and optical fiber network as media. "Having successfully implemented and maintained the first three phases of the ASCON project for the last 3 decades, we have an edge in implementing this prestigious project. Having ASCON IV project at this juncture certainly gives a big boost to the Indian Army and ITI is very much excited to roll out this network," ITI Chairman and MD RM Agarwal said. The project includes installation, commissioning and maintenance of telecom equipment like IP/MPLS routers, network managed services, mobile nodes, test equipment and civil works for providing the complete infrastructure at various sites and rollout of optical fiber network of about 11,000 kilometer. "The scope of the project also includes a warranty period of two years and maintenance support of the network for another eight years after the warranty," the statement said.

	Publication: News 18
	Date: 01-10-2020
	Link: https://www.news18.com/news/business/iti-signs-rs-7796-crore-contract-with-defence-to-build-armys-communication-network-2925789.html

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	Publication: PSU Connect
	Date: 01-10-2020
	Link: https://www.psuconnect.in/news/ITI-Limited-signs-contract-with-Defense-to-implement-Rs-7796-crore-ASCON-Phase-IV-project/24838/


ITI Limited signs contract with Defense to implement Rs 7796 crore ASCON Phase-IV project

To strengthen the communication network for Indian Army, ITI Limited, a telecom & defense equipment manufacturing PSU has today signed Rs 7,796 crore Phase IV Project of Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) for deploying strategic network for secured communication across the country and subsequent maintenance for next 10 years. The contract was signed by Shri Rakesh Mohan Agarwal, CMD, ITI Limited and Joint Secretary & Acquisition Manager (Land Systems), Ministry of Defense, Government of India in New Delhi today.

ASCON is the army's telecom network spread across different terrains in the northern, north-eastern and western regions. The project is an IP MPLS based communication network with Microwave Radio, Satellite and Optical Fiber Network as media. The project includes installation, commissioning and maintenance of telecom equipments like IP/MPLS Routers, NMS, Mobile Nodes, Test Equipment and civil works for providing the complete infrastructure at various sites and roll out optical fiber network of about 11,000 kms.

Shri R M Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director, ITI Limited said, "having successfully implemented and maintaining the first three phases of ASCON project for last 3 decades, we have an edge in implementing this prestigious project. Having ASCON IV project at this juncture certainly gives a big boost to Indian army and ITI is very much excited to roll out this network".


The scope of the project also includes a warranty period of two years and maintenance support of the network for another eight years after the warranty.

	Publication: The Pioneer
	Date: 02-10-2020
	Link: https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/business/iti-signs-rs-7-796-cr-contract-to-build-indian-army-s-communication.html

ITI signs Rs 7,796 cr contract to build Indian Army's communication

State-owned ITI on Thursday said it has signed a Rs 7,796 crore deal with the defence ministry for deployment of a strategic and secured communication network for the Army across the country.

The telecom and defence equipment manufacturer was declared the lowest bidder for the Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) Phase IV tender in 2017. “To strengthen the communication network for Indian Army, ITI Limited, today signed Rs 7,796 crore Phase IV Project of ASCON”, said ITI Ltd.

	Publication: Dailyhunt
	Date: 01-10-2020
	Link: https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/deccan+herald-epaper-deccan/iti+signs+rs+7+796+cr+contract+with+defence+to+build+army+s+communication+network-newsid-n218947222

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"The scope of the project also includes a warranty period of two years and maintenance support of the network for another eight years after the warranty," the statement said.

	Publication: Firstpost
	Date: 02-10-2020
	Link: https://www.firstpost.com/india/centre-approves-setting-up-secure-communication-network-for-army-in-forward-locations-at-cost-of-rs-7796-crore-8873761.html

Centre approves setting up secure communication network for Army in forward locations at cost of Rs 7,796 crore

The Cabinet Committee on Security has cleared an ambitious project under which a highly secure communication network will be set up for the Indian Army in strategically key forward locations, including along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), at a cost of Rs 7,796 crore, officials said on Thursday.

The project will be rolled out by government-owned company, ITI, within three years, they said, adding that the contract for its implementation was signed with the telecom entity on Thursday.

The officials said the project will provide better "survivability, responsiveness and high bandwidth" in any operational scenario and enhance the communication coverage of the network in areas closer to forward areas, including along the LAC.

The project will also help provide secure network coverage in areas along the Line of Control (LoC) and the international border with Pakistan, they said.

"In order to meet the long pending demand of the Indian Army, the Cabinet Committee on Security has approved the proposal for establishment of Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) Phase IV Network," the defence ministry said.

It said the project will augment the communication network of the Indian Army in the sensitive forward operational areas which in turn will provide a major boost to the operational preparedness especially keeping in view the current situation at the LAC.

India and China are locked in a five-month-long border standoff in eastern Ladakh that has significantly strained their ties. Both sides have held a series of diplomatic and military talks to resolve the row. However, no breakthrough has been achieved to end the standoff.

"The project is also a big opportunity for the public sector to showcase its capability and provide an impetus to the Indian economy and will be a step in the direction of achieving the goal of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India)," the ministry said.

With approximately 80 percent indigenous content, the project will provide a boost to the Indian industry, it said.

The ministry said the project will lead to upgradation of the existing 'Asynchronous Transfer Mode Technology' to Internet Protocol (IP)/ Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) technology.

"Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Microwave Radio and Satellite will be used as communication media," it said.

The ministry said the project would generate employment opportunities especially to the people in remote border areas and boost rural economy.

"The project involves execution of civil works, laying of OFC, tower construction, etc. And with utilisation of local resources, hiring of manpower, it would generate employment opportunities especially to the people in remote border areas, support and boost rural economy, assist in upliftment of the local economies, provide skill development during the prolonged period of execution and maintenance of the network," the ministry said.


ITI Ltd, India's oldest telecom public sector undertaking, has said that it was hit hard by the disruption in supply and constraints in sourcing components from China.

RM Agarwal, CMD, ITI Ltd, "The company saw huge disruption in the sourcing of components from China from the first week of February and later due to lock-down could not ship our finished products to the customers in Maharashtra and Gujarat. This resulted in lower profits and we lost revenues majorly from high margin products."

The Bengaluru-based telecom equipment manufacturer posted 46.95 per cent lower profit at ₹36.46 crore for the fourth quarter (Q4) of FY20 against ₹68.74 crore in the same period last year.

The company's total revenue for Q4 was marginally higher at ₹662.91 crore as against ₹646.76 crore posted last year. For the FY20, it was 11.85 per cent higher at ₹2,242.58 crore (₹2,004.84 crore). It posted 63.02 per cent higher profit at ₹150.86 crore against ₹92.54 crore last year.

"As part of diversification, we are gearing up to make ventilators for the armed forces. At the moment we have made five sample pieces and are giving it to DRDO for trials in a week's time," Agarwal added. The company has identified Bengaluru for manufacturing 5,000 units a year and later depending on the needs it will be scaled-up to make 20,000 units spread across our four plants across India." The company has taken a number of initiatives on improving business prospects by transformed strategy for manufacturing, marketing and management of projects. "We are also positioning the company in the upcoming areas of 4G upgradable to 5G manufacturing, manufacturing of IoT based products and services, IT & telecom equipment manufacturing," Agarwal said.

	Publication: Spo India
	Date: 02-10-2020
	Link: https://spoindia.org/iti-limited-signs-contract-of-rs-7796-crore-ascon-phase-iv-project/

ITI Limited signs contract of Rs 7796 Crore ASCON Phase-IV project


To strengthen the communication network for Indian Army, ITI Limited, a telecom & defense equipment manufacturing PSU has today signed Rs 7,796 crore Phase IV Project of Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) for deploying strategic network for secured communication across the country and subsequent maintenance for next 10 years.

The contract was signed by Shri Rakesh Mohan Agarwal, CMD, ITI Limited and Joint Secretary & Acquisition Manager (Land Systems), Ministry of Defense, Government of India in New Delhi today.

ASCON is the army's telecom network spread across different terrains in the northern, north-eastern and western regions. The project is an IP MPLS based communication network with Microwave Radio, Satellite and Optical Fiber Network as media. The project includes installation, commissioning and maintenance of telecom equipments like IP/MPLS Routers, NMS, Mobile Nodes, Test Equipment and civil works for providing the complete infrastructure at various sites and roll out optical fiber network of about 11,000 kms.

R M Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director, ITI Limited said, "having successfully implemented and maintaining the first three phases of ASCON project for last 3 decades, we have an edge in implementing this prestigious project. Having ASCON IV project at this crucial juncture certainly gives a big boost to Indian Army and ITI is very much excited to roll out this network".

The scope of the project also includes a warranty period of two years and maintenance support of the network for another eight years after the warranty.

	Publication: OnlyTech
	Date: 02-10-2020
	Link: https://onlytech.com/iti-bags-rs-7796-crore-ascon-phase-iv-project-for-indian-army/

ITI bags Rs 7796 Crore ASCON Phase-IV project for Indian Army

ITI Limited yesterday signed a Rs 7796 crore Phase IV ASCON project that will see it deploy strategic network for secured communications throughout the country for Indian Army. ITI will also maintain the Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) for the next 10 years.

The contract was put to paper by ITI and the Ministry of Defense yesterday in New Delhi. ITI has been mandated to lay down the army's telecom network which is spread in the northern, north-eastern, and western regions crosscutting across different terrains.


ITI has also been mandated to roll out the first three phases of the ASCON project in the last 3 decades which it still maintains. ITI will provide warranty of two years followed by maintenance support for another eight years after the warranty.

“Having successfully implemented and maintaining the first three phases of ASCON project for last 3 decades, we have an edge in implementing this prestigious project. Having ASCON IV project at this juncture certainly gives a big boost to Indian army and ITI is very much excited to roll out this network”

Shri R M Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director, ITI Limited

ITI will provide civil works for complete infrastructure at various sites and roll out an optical fiber network of over 11,000 kilometers along with the installation, commissioning, and maintenance of telecom equipment like Mobile Nodes, NMS, Test Equipment, and IP/MPLS Routers.

The contract is an IP/MPLS based communication network with Microwave Radio, Satellite, and Optical Fiber Network as media. ITI is a premier telecom company in the country with state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities across the country.

	Publication: Swarajya
	Date: 02-10-2020
	Link: https://swarajyamag.com/insta/indian-army-to-get-secure-communication-network-ascon-will-be-used-in-forward-areas


ITI Indian Army To Get Secure Communication Network ASCON, Will Be Used In Forward Areas

In a massive boost for the Indian Army, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has green-lighted a Rs 7,796 crore project to establish a secure communication network which would include the deployment of modern optical fibre cable links in forward areas along with the use of satellites and microwave radios, reports Economic Times.

Called "Army Static Switched Communication Network" or ASCON, the project is likely to give a big fillip to the operational capability of the armed forces. The project will be implemented by the public sector undertaking ITI.

ASCON will result in the complete overhaul and upgrade of the military communication systems, marking a shift to internet protocol (IP) / multi-protocol label switching (MPLS) technology. The project would extend the high bandwidth communication to the remote operational areas.

It should also be noted that the project would involve as high as 80 per cent indigenous content, and involve large scale of civil works, laying of the optical fibre cables, tower construction et cetera which would generate employment in remote areas by means of the utilisation of local resources and hiring of manpower.

	Publication: Bharat Shakti
	Date: 02-10-2020
	Link: https://bharatshakti.in/ccs-clears-rs-7796-crore-communication-network-for-indian-army-to-be-done-by-iti/


CCS Clears Rs 7796 Crore Communication Network for Indian Army, to be Done by ITI

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has cleared a project to establish a secure communication network for the Indian Army that will include modern optical fibre cable links to forward areas, with Public Sector Undertaking ITI set to implement the Rs 7796 crore plan. The defence ministry has said that the new Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) will provide a “big boost to the operational capability of the defence forces”, given the current operational situation on the border with China and provides an opportunity to the PSU to give an “impetus to the Indian economy”. The project will lead to a complete upgrade of military communication systems that will shift to Internet Protocol (IP) / Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) Technology.

“Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Microwave Radio and Satellite will be used as communication media,” the defence ministry said. Official said that the project will provide better survivability, responsiveness and high bandwidth in any operational scenario and enhance the communication coverage of network close to international boundaries, like the Line of Actual Control (LAC), where tensions have been simmering with China since May.


“The project would augment the communication network of Indian Army in the sensitive forward operational areas which in turn will provide a major boost to the operational preparedness of the Indian Army especially keeping in view the current operational situation at LAC,” the ministry has said.

The network will extend the high bandwidth communication to the remote operational areas in Central and Eastern Sectors and enhance communication reach to the forward locations in the Western border too. The project will have indigenous content of about 80 percent, with official saying that it would come as a boost for the industry as well. “The project involves execution of civil works, laying of OFC, tower construction, etc. and with utilization of local resources, hiring of manpower, it would generate employment opportunities especially to the people in remote border areas, support and boost rural economy, assist in upliftment of the local of the local economies, provide skill development during the prolonged period of execution and maintenance of the network,” the ministry has said.

	Publication: MBS News
	Date: 01-10-2020
	Link: https://www.mbs.news/2020/10/business-news-news-iti-gets-contract-worth-7796-crore-for-army-communication-network-iti-gets-rs-7796-crore-contract-for-armys-communication-network.html

Business news news: ITI gets contract worth 7,796 crore for army communication network – iti gets rs 7796 crore contract for army’s communication network

New Delhi, an Aktbar (language) public sector ITI said on Thursday that it has signed a Rs 7,796 crore contract with the Ministry of Defense to establish a strategic and secure communications network for the military across the country. Telecom and defense equipment manufacturer ITI was declared the lowest bidder for the tender issued in 2017 for ‘Army Static Switched Communication Network’ (ASCON) Phase 4. “To strengthen the communication network for the Indian Army, ITI Ltd today (Thursday) signed a contract for the fourth phase ASCON project worth Rs 7,796 crore,” ITI said in a statement. Under this, a strategic network will be established across the country for secure communication facility and it will be maintained for 10 years. “ASCON is the Army’s telecommunications network that spans the northern, north-eastern and western regions. The project is Internet Protocol-Multi Protocol Label Switching (IP-MPLS) based communication network with microwave radio, satellite and optical fiber network. “We have successfully implemented and maintained the first three phases of the ASCON project for the last three decades,” said ITI Chairman and Managing Director RM Aggarwal. We have full experience in this matter. At this time the implementation of the ASCO-4 project will definitely give a boost to the army. ITI is excited to implement this network.


	Publication: Devdiscourse
	Date: 01-10-2020
	Link: https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/headlines/1235439-iti-signs-rs-7796-cr-contract-with-defence-to-build-armys-communication-network

ITI signs Rs 7,796 cr contract with Defence to build Army's communication network

State-owned ITI on Thursday said it has signed a Rs 7,796 crore deal with the defence ministry for deployment of a strategic and secured communication network for the Army across the country. The telecom and defence equipment manufacturer was declared the lowest bidder for the Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) Phase IV tender in 2017. "To strengthen the communication network for Indian Army, ITI Limited...today signed Rs 7,796 crore Phase IV Project of ASCON for deploying strategic network for secured communication across the country and subsequent maintenance for next 10 years," ITI said in a statement.

ASCON is the army's telecom network spread across different terrains in the northern, north-eastern and western regions. The project is an Internet Protocol- Multi Protocol Label Switching (IP-MPLS) based communication network with microwave radio, satellite and optical fiber network as media. "Having successfully implemented and maintained the first three phases of the ASCON project for the last 3 decades, we have an edge in implementing this prestigious project. Having ASCON IV project at this juncture certainly gives a big boost to the Indian Army and ITI is very much excited to roll out this network," ITI Chairman and MD RM Agarwal said. The project includes installation, commissioning and maintenance of telecom equipment like IP/MPLS routers, network managed services, mobile nodes, test equipment and civil works for providing the complete infrastructure at various sites and rollout of optical fiber network of about 11,000 kilometer.

"The scope of the project also includes a warranty period of two years and maintenance support of the network for another eight years after the warranty," the statement said..

	Publication: Military Men
	Date: 02-10-2020
	Link: https://militarymen.in/iti-signs-contract-for-armys-%E2%82%B97796-crore-ascon-phase-iv-project/

ITI signs contract for Army's ₹7,796-crore ASCON Phase IV project

ITI Ltd, a PSU telecom and defence equipment manufacturer, has signed a ₹7,796-crore contract for Phase IV of the Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) project.


The contract was signed by Rakesh Mohan Agarwal, CMD, ITI, and Joint Secretary and Acquisition Manager – Land Systems, Ministry of Defence, in New Delhi on Thursday.

ASCON is the army's telecom network spread across different terrains in the northern, north-eastern and western regions. The project covers an IP MPLS-based communication network with microwave radio, satellite and optical fibre network as media. It will handle communication across the country and subsequent maintenance for the next 10 years.

The project also includes the installation, commissioning and maintenance of telecom equipment like IP/MPLS Routers, NMS, mobile nodes, test equipment and civil works for providing the complete infrastructure at various sites and rollout optical fibre network of about 11,000 km.

Agarwal said: "Having successfully implemented and maintained the first-three phases of ASCON project for the last three decades, we have an edge in implementing this prestigious project. Having ASCON IV project at this juncture certainly gives a big boost to the Indian Army and ITI is very much excited to roll out this network."

The scope of the project also includes a warranty period of two years and maintenance support of the network for another eight years after the warranty.

	Publication: Timesnownews
	Date: 01-10-2020
	Link: https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/india-army-to-get-new-communication-network-for-rs-7796-cr/661085?utm_source=googlenewstand&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=latest-news

India Army to get new communication network for Rs 7,796 cr

For better survivability and responsiveness in operational situations, the Cabinet Committee on Security on Thursday approved a proposal for a secure and better communication network at an estimated cost of Rs 7,796.39 crore.

The Defence Ministry said that the new Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) was a long pending demand of the Indian Army.

"It is being implemented by the ITI, a public sector undertaking, at an estimated cost of Rs 7,796.39 crore," said the ministry, adding that the implementation schedule is of 36 months from the date of signing of the contract.

Further, with approximately 80 per cent indigenous content, the project will provide a boost to the Indian industry.

The project will upgrade the existing Asynchronous Transfer Mode Technology to Internet Protocol (IP) and Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) Technology.


"Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Microwave Radio and Satellite will be used as communication media," the ministry said.

The project will provide better survivability, responsiveness and high bandwidth in any operational scenario and enhance the communication coverage of the network closer to International Border, Line of Control and Line of Actual Control. The network will extend the high bandwidth communication to the remote operational areas in Central and Eastern sectors and enhance communication reach to the forward locations in the Western borders too.

Thus, the project would augment the communication network of the Indian Army in the sensitive forward operational areas, which in turn will provide a major boost to the operational preparedness of the Indian Army, especially keeping in view the current operational situation along the LAC.

The project involves the execution of civil works, laying of OFC, tower construction, and with the utilisation of local resources and hiring of manpower, it would generate employment opportunities, especially for the people in the remote border areas, support and boost the rural economy, assist in the upliftment of the local economies, and provide skill development during the prolonged period of execution and maintenance of the network.

The project is also a big opportunity for the public sector to showcase its capability and provide an impetus to the Indian economy and will be a step in the direction of achieving the goal of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

	Publication: Indiavsdisinformation
	Date: 02-10-2020
	Link: http://www.indiavsdisinformation.com/20201002/govt-clears-rs-7-796-cr-project-to-boost-army-communications-in-border-areas

Govt clears Rs 7,796 cr project to boost army communications in border areas

With the government approving a long-standing demand, the Indian Army is all set to get the Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) Phase IV Network for better communication in the border areas, including the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.


The project, to be implemented by public sector undertaking ITI at an estimated cost of Rs. 7796.39 crore within a period of 36 months, was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Thursday.

The project is of strategic significance with an indigenous content of approximately 80% in terms of communication network, which will enhance the existing Asynchronous Transfer Mode Technology to Internet Protocol (IP) / Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) Technology. Moreover, Communication media like Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Microwave Radio and Satellite will be used, according to a statement by the ministry of defence.

It said that the communication network will provide high bandwidth to the remote sensitive operational areas in central and eastern Sectors and augment its reach to the forward locations in the Western border too.

The official statement also mentioned that it will help the Indian industry flourish as the project consists of implementation of civil works, laying of OFC, tower construction, etc. With the utilization of local resources, hiring of manpower, it would raise employment opportunities, especially to the people who dwell in remote border areas, strengthen rural economy, assist in upliftment of the local economies, and provide skill development during the maintenance and execution period.

It added that it was an opportunity to the Public Sector Undertakings for stimulating the Indian economy as a part of achieving the goal of self-reliance.


	Publication: Newsdig
	Date: 02-10-2020
	Link: https://newsdig.in/news/222749812n/ITI-signs-Rs-7796-cr-contract-with-Defence-to-build-Armys-communication-network

ITI signs Rs 7,796 cr contract with Defence to build Army's communication network

State-owned ITI on Thursday said it has signed a Rs 7,796 crore deal with the defence ministry for deployment of a strategic and secured communication network for the Army across the country.

The telecom and defence equipment manufacturer was declared the lowest bidder for the Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) Phase IV tender in 2017.

"To strengthen the communication network for Indian Army, ITI Limited...today signed Rs 7,796 crore Phase IV Project of ASCON for deploying strategic network for secured communication across the country and subsequent maintenance for next 10 years," ITI said in a statement.

	Publication: Postintrend
	Date: 01-10-2020
	Link: https://postintrend.com/business/markets/iti-signs-rs-7796-crore-contract-with-defence-to-build-armys-communication-network/

ITI Signs Rs 7,796 Crore Contract with Defence to Build Army's Communication Network

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ASCON is the army's telecom network spread across different terrains in the northern, north-eastern and western regions. The project is an Internet Protocol- Multi Protocol Label Switching (IP-MPLS) based communication network with microwave radio, satellite and optical fiber network as media. "Having successfully implemented and maintained the first three phases of the ASCON project for the last 3 decades, we have an edge in implementing this prestigious project. Having ASCON IV project at this juncture certainly gives a big boost to the Indian Army and ITI is very much excited to roll out this network," ITI Chairman and MD RM Agarwal said. The project includes installation, commissioning and maintenance of telecom equipment like IP/MPLS routers, network managed services, mobile nodes, test equipment and civil works for providing the complete infrastructure at various sites and rollout of optical fiber network of about 11,000 kilometer.

"The scope of the project also includes a warranty period of two years and maintenance support of the network for another eight years after the warranty," the statement said.