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MASTEK Ltd, an information technology application outsourcing company, plans to set up a development centre in Mahindra City, the industrial park promoted by Mahindra Industrial Park Ltd in Chennai.

According to the company's Chairman, Mr Ashank Desai, the centre would come up on 15.5 acres of land and construction is scheduled to begin in 2005-06 fiscal. Operations at the centre would start in 2006-07 fiscal, he told newsmen.

Mr Desai said, "Once fully done, the centre can accommodate 10,000 employees. However, at this moment we do not

know how many people would be recruited for the centre." He, however, declined to elaborate on investment details.

The Chennai centre, expected to be Mastek's largest facility, will be its first development centre outside Maharashtra and the sixth in India. According to Mr Desai, after shortlisting eight to nine cities the company had to choose between Hyderabad and Chennai for the new centre. It settled for Chennai because of manpower availability, cost competitiveness and infrastructure. The talent pool in Chennai is ideal considering the complex and mission-critical nature of projects that Mastek works on, he said.



Mr Ashank Desai (left), Chairman, Mastek, and Mr Arun Nanda, Executive Director, Mahindra and Mahindra, at a press conference in Chennai on Wednesday. — Shaju John