

# Vedanta to Raise Odisha Refinery Capacity



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**Kolkata | Mumbai:** Vedanta is evaluating plans for a three-fold expansion of its alumina refinery in Odisha to 6 million tonne per annum (mtpa) from its present level of 2 mtpa.

On Thursday, the Anil Agarwal-led company invited global bids for engineering procurement construction (EPC) contract for the Lanjigarh project that is tipped to emerge among the world's largest refineries. The company has invited Expressions of Interest (EoIs) from leading construction companies to partner with it. Vedanta said it was in the process of working out final details of the cost and investment required for the project.

According to the tender document, the contract would involve construction of a 6 million tonne refinery and bauxite unloading and handling system and construction of a 210 MW co-generation power plant on an EPC basis. It would also involve building necessary railway infrastructure on an EPC basis. While the refinery project will have to be completed within 18 months from the date of order, the power plant will have to be finished 15 months from the date of ordering. The last date for submission of bids is February 12.

"The project expansion is still in the evaluation stage and we are in the process of working out the final details like costs and investments," said Vedanta's Aluminium & Power CEO Ajay Kapur.

"As part of our plans shared earlier, this expansion is in line with our endeavour to have a fully-integrated value chain for our own aluminium production," he said. Once the plant is commissioned in the next 2-3 years, this alumina refinery will be the largest in India, Kapur added.

This is part of Vedanta's investment of \$9 billion in capital projects over the next 2-3 years, as it targets doubling of its revenues from the current levels of \$15 billion.

The refinery expansion comes at a time when Vedanta has managed to prune the cost of production of aluminium by nearly \$600 per tonne in the last one and half years. This also contributed to the company's profitability.