

ExxonMobil hosts info session on Hebron in Marystown

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TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA—MARYSTOWN

Hebron senior project manager Hareesh Pillai suggests there's reason for people in the Marystown area to be optimistic about future work from the development.

"I think it's pretty obvious by inspection a lot of the yard capability and capacities that are in the province are between Bull Arm and Marystown. So, I think, while we can't at this point tell you who's going to get what kinds of work, I think there's a fair chance that some work will obviously go to Marystown."

The town was the location for one of three information sessions ExxonMobil conducted for contractors, looking to learn more about contracting strategies the company will employ for the Hebron Project.

The first session took place in St. John's Tuesday, followed by another in Clarenville the next day. A fourth will take place in Corner Brook next month.

About three dozen people were present for the Marystown event.

Not just for big players

"I don't want you to read a lot more into that, but it's kind of obvious you've got a pretty large yard here. Also, I'll tell you the focus of what we're doing is really not just for the big players," Pillai said.

"There are opportunities for small and medium-sized companies to participate and that's probably the biggest focus that we have."

"The big boys know how to play this game and how to get involved. So, most of our focus is on the smaller companies."

Pillai said the main intent of the sessions was to help people to under-



Hareesh Pillai

stand the project's status, give them a sense of the technical aspects of the project so they can understand how it will come together, and provide a timeline and a schedule relative to the end of the project.

He said perhaps, most importantly, the sessions provide a chance to explain what the opportunities will be available for provincial suppliers — both for service and materials — to participate in the project. Also outlined was what kinds of bid packages will become available and when, the process used to invite people to participate and how contracts will be evaluated.

"So, all in all, a lot of information — very early, but very focused to make sure provincial companies understand what it's going to take to compete and participate."

Pillai said the company has a commitment to start production by 2017, but indicated if all goes well the date may be earlier.

He acknowledged it's important to get in the game early.

"A lot of the devil is in the details, and so we're working through some of those details now, with some front-end engineering design contracts to be awarded next year. So, very early days, but very early days is also an important time to get the market ready for us."

Overall, he was "extremely pleased" with the Marystown session.

"Whether it's 30 people or 400 people, the community is important to us. We want to get the message going, and it won't be the last time we'll be out."

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