

QVC to get \$200m PE funding

SUPRIYA UNNI

Bangalore

QVC Realty is expecting up to \$200 million in funding from private equity players by December 2008. This will be the second round of funding for the company.

Prakash Gurbaxani, chief executive officer and managing director of QVC Realty, said the company is in talks with private equity players, including IL&FS Investment

Managers, to raise between \$100-200 million for future projects.

Analysts have maintained that private equity players have become cautious about the real estate sector. However, Gurbaxani does not anticipate any reason for concern.

"Based on the progress we have made in the last 15 months, we did not find any problem raising money. The funding would be tied up by year end," he told *Financial*

Chronicle. Adverse market conditions have made it difficult for companies to raise funds through public offerings. Indian real estate firms are looking at the PE route to for funding. Earlier, QVC Realty received \$100 million from IL&FS in February 2007, reportedly becoming the first venture capital-backed realty start-up in the country.

supriyaunni@mydigitalfc.com