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Ease of doing business at HFZA highlighted at Global Business Summit

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SAUD SALIM AL MAZROUEI

Director

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority

As we enter the second quarter of the year, I am happy to share our pride in being recognized - for the second consecutive year - as a Superbrand in the UAE. This coveted title is a powerful endorsement and evidence for both existing and potential customers, the media, investors and employees of Hamriyah Free Zone Authority's exceptional status. The Award is a recognition of our sustainable growth, strong customer service, innovation, thought leadership, and policy of excellence that touch all aspects of our operations.

Winning the Superbrand status for the second year in a row is also an honor and tribute to the more than 6,500 companies which make up the investor base of Hamriyah Free Zone and contribute to our success by spearheading growth with strategic business planning. The

continuously growing investor base and the remarkable success stories of these firms affirm that Hamriyah Free Zone provides a truly connected global market place.

It also gives me great joy to congratulate all the companies within the Free Zone who have been bestowed with the Superbrands 2018 Awards. These are undoubtedly some of the strongest and most valuable brands in the region, and we, at HFZA, will continue to maintain our business-friendly environment by delivering outstanding business solutions and exceptional services to our investors.

The launch of our new online portal that promises faster and more seamless processing of services is a step in this direction. More than 40 services ranging from finance and leasing to granting of NOCs and permits are currently available online at <https://eportal.hfza.ae/OsWeb/>. This new initiative is in line with HFZA's commitment to continuous excellence and smart governance and is geared to provide consumers and companies with complete information for investor-related services.

The new package of online services introduced by HFZA is a remarkable value-based service for investors looking to set up business in the Free Zone.

HFZA continued to create awareness of its advantages as an ideal investment hub at various events throughout the GCC and even further away. At Big 5 Saudi, HFZA showcased its portfolio to enhance its access to the regional and international markets. At the Global Business Summit in New Delhi, India, I highlighted the ease of doing business at HFZA in the presence of global thought leaders, heads of state, policy makers, and corporate heads with the singular agenda of scripting economic change.

At the Big 5 Heavy in Dubai, UAE, our officials networked with the Middle East's top construction industry professionals while at Gulfood 2018, Hamriyah Free Zone encouraged those in the F&B sector to leverage the business opportunities available to them at the Free Zone's dedicated Food Park, the region's first city dedicated to food and commercial industries.

In 2018, our aim was to achieve continued growth by increasing the support we offer to our investors. We have realized fantastic growth in challenging economic conditions and we look forward to their continued support and trust for further growth in 2018.



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HFZA showcases its F&B credentials at Gulfood 2018

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority made its presence felt at Gulfood 2018, the region's largest annual food, beverage, and hospitality exhibition, with an impressive stand that attracted investors, suppliers, distributors and manufacturers from across the globe looking to the Middle East as a lucrative market for their products.

With regional investment in food production on the rise, Hamriyah Free Zone called upon all those in the F&B sector to leverage the business opportunities available to them at the Free Zone's dedicated Food Park, the region's first city dedicated to food and commercial industries. HFZA delegates promoted the world-class facility that has been designed for the importing, exporting, holding and re-packaging of foodstuff destined for not only the GCC region but all over the world.

Several food-related companies at the Free Zone's Food Park including Crisp Food Company, Caline FZE, International Traders FZC, Flavors Food Industry FZC, and Quality Trading FZC, joined HFZA delegates at the exhibition to provide their experiences from an investor perspective.

According to Praveen VS, Managing Director, Crisp Food Company, "We

are a leading manufacturer and exporter of snack foods and our base at Hamriyah Free Zone's Food Park has helped us grow our business in new and emerging markets especially thanks to the immense logistics support the Free Zone offers to boost trading activities. We were happy to share our experience to companies and individuals at Gulfood to highlight the wide array of business prospects for those in the food industry at the Food Park."

Essam Elmesiry, Managing Director, Caline FZE, pointed out that features and amenities offered by the Food Park such as warehouses, offices and labor accommodations, have also been instrumental in enabling companies to expand their operations, both locally and regionally. "The food sector holds immense potential and there are significant opportunities for establishing food processing

and manufacturing businesses at Hamriyah Free Zone. Investment opportunities also abound in areas such as warehousing, packaging, cold storage, etc all along the supply chain."

The fact that licensing formalities take less than one hour and follows a simple three-step application process makes it very easy for companies to set up a manufacturing unit here, says Mohamed Noor E Nazar Suleman, Managing Director, International Traders FZC. "Hamriyah Free Zone has the distinct advantage of being strategically located adjacent to the Hamriyah deep water port and its excellent road, sea and air connections is no doubt an attractive proposition for potential investors," he added.

HFZ is currently home to more than a 100 F&B firms and the Food Park has emerged as a regional hub for the Middle East and North Africa's multi-billion dollar food industry.





Zhen Li, Marketing Executive, with attendees of PVPC Expo 2018

HFZA explores market potential at PVPC Expo 2018

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) delegates at the 3rd International Pumps, Valves, Pipes & Compressors Industrial Exhibition (PVPC Expo 2018) held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, engaged with key decision makers as they explored business opportunities in the local, regional and international markets. With the

presence of several high-profile oil & gas or related business sectors in the Free Zone, and as the event brought in more new technologies, products, innovations in pumps, valves, pipes and compressors, PVPC Expo 2018 served as a platform for HFZA delegates to assess the potential market and demand for these

products which are applied in many industry sectors ranging from energy, water treatment, electricity, oil and gas, construction, environmental, etc.

According to Zhen Li, Marketing Executive, HFZA, "PVPC Expo gave an insider's view of the oil & gas, water, energy, and construction industries under one roof. We met with senior executives and decision makers to know about the latest developments, projects, strategies and investment opportunities planned or underway to identify new business possibilities and markets for the Free Zone."

Also in attendance at the event was Ohoud Ali Abdalla, Sales Executive. "PVPC Expo provided an unrivalled and highly valued opportunity to interact with industry leaders and meet potential clients to discuss their expansion into the Middle East market as there is tremendous potential in the oil and gas, marine, petrochemical, water treatment, irrigation, offshore and refrigeration industries," he said.

More than 350 exhibitors and over 7,000 trade visitors attended PVPC Expo 2018.



HFZA consolidates partnership with ICAI Dubai Chapter

"Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) Dubai Chapter have had a strong and mutually beneficial partnership that has increased the scope for networking opportunities and business expansion," according to Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director, HFZA. Taking

this partnership forward, HFZA has been a key sponsor of the events organized by ICAI.

A conference titled 'Empowering CAs to meet Challenges of Digital Transformation' was held on 20th January where Padma Bhushan awardee Shri Rajat Sharma, Chairman of IndiaTV gave a keynote address.

Renowned speakers also spoke on related topics highlighting the need for chartered accountants (CAs) to embrace new technologies such as artificial intelligence and blockchain to remain relevant or risk doing low-paying jobs.

Another event sponsored by HFZA was 'Indian Union Budget 2018: An analysis by ICAI UAE (Dubai) where speakers hailed the pro-growth reforms of the Indian budget.

ICAI also held a day-long event to update its members about VAT challenges. At the event, tax experts said that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are still facing a lot of challenges as the first deadline for VAT filing returns approaches, with more than 50 per cent of them still not ready to accurately file the returns. Attendees raised concerns about reverse charge mechanism, free zones, system implementation and accounting.

Yet another ICAI event sponsored by HFZA was the Women's Day mega event on 10th March to commemorate International Women's Day. Achievers from the world of sport, fitness, art and cinema addressed ICAI members and their spouses at the event.



HFZA promotes its facilities at Big 5 Saudi

A three-member Hamriyah Free Zone Authority delegation headed by Ali Al Jarwan, Deputy Commercial Director, interacted with exhibitors from Saudi Arabia, Iran, India, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt, Italy, Germany, Spain, Greece, the UK, and many more at Big 5 Saudi, the largest exhibition in Saudi

Arabia. In addition, the HFZA team - also comprising of Omar Rashid Al-leem, Head of Sales Support, and Habishmon Khalidkutty, Sales Executive, - held a series of meetings with potential investors from Europe, America, Asia and the Middle East.

"Big 5 Saudi, which attracted over

500 manufacturers of construction products from around the world, was an outstanding venue to showcase our portfolio and enhance our access to the regional and international markets," said Ali Al Jarwan. "As one of the most important construction events in the Middle East, the event was also an ideal platform for us to network, secure qualified leads and close business deals."

The urban construction sector in the Middle East region shows huge growth potential in the next years, fueled by population growth and urbanization, he added. "Free Zones have an important role in promoting non-oil economies, and HFZA particularly, has successfully boosted the growth engine of the local economy by catering to the demands and needs of the construction and building industry."



Encouraging response to HFZA's participation at PackPlus South

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) recently showcased its facilities and amenities with an impressive stand at PackPlus South, the most attended packaging show in the south of India. Held in Hyderabad, HFZA delegates Ajeeb Moidunni, Head of Business Development Department, and Geomon George, Business Development Executive, represented Hamriyah Free Zone at the event.

"We met with important decision makers and specifiers from various industries including Pharmaceutical & Chemical; Food & Beverage, Dairy & Meat; Engineering; Garments & Textiles; Personal Care Products and Logistics," said Ajeeb Moidunni. "Growing urbanization is driving the need for new packaging formats, and opportunities abound in this thriving market. Visitors to our stand

were updated on the new facilities and e-services the Free Zone offers to achieve its goals of providing quick, efficient access to major global markets while maintaining the highest standards of customer service."

Dayaker Reddy, President of Indian Printing Packaging & Allied Machinery Manufacturer's Association visited the HFZA stand and appreciated the various incentives offered by the Free Zone for businesses to expand their operations in the Indian Subcontinent, North and East Africa and the Arabian Gulf region.

The HFZA delegates held several meetings during the exhibition and highlighted the advantages of being in a strategic location to access global markets. They also raised awareness of the various competitive incentives of investing in the Free Zone including 100% ownership and 100% repatriation of capital and profits.

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Saud Al Mazrouei speaking at panel discussion; seated next to him is Bangladesh's Minister of Industries

Al Mazrouei highlights ease of doing business at HFZA at Global Business Summit

Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF ZONE), was invited as a speaker at the prestigious Global Business Summit held in February 2018 in New

Delhi, India, that brought together visionaries, thought leaders, heads of state, policy makers, academicians and corporate heads with the singular agenda of scripting economic change.

Al Mazrouei also participated in a

round table discussion titled "Ease of Doing Business" at the event which serves as a platform for government to government interactions, business to government meetings, business to business engagements and helps corporates and governments secure investments by showcasing opportunities to apt audiences.

Accordingly, the HFZA Director showcased the UAE in general and Hamriyah Free Zone in particular, as a cost-effective business hub and a sound financial center with well-developed sea, air and road transport capabilities and a highly developed infrastructure making it an attractive business friendly environment for investment.

He also highlighted HFZA's strategic location as a business hub with direct access to the Gulf and the Indian Ocean, offering an instant gateway to more than two billion people in 160 countries.

Other HFZA delegates at the event included Rakesh Ranjan, Chief Development Officer, and Habishmon Khalidkuty, Sales Executive.

The 2018 edition of GBS was held under the theme 'New Economy, New Rules'.

HFZA strengthens ties with British business community

To further its business interests in the UAE and the wider Middle East North Africa region, Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) participated in a B2B networking event organized by the British Business Group Dubai & Northern Emirates (BBG) at Armada Blue Bay Hotel, Dubai, UAE.

Manju Mehla, Marketing Executive, represented HFZA at the event where she interacted and held talks with like-minded professionals from a wide spectrum of business sectors.

"The networking event provided an excellent platform to develop and strengthen our business ties and also interact with entrepreneurs and investors who might be interested in investing in the business-friendly environment of the free zones in Sharjah," she said. "It was also an opportunity to meet with some of our existing clients as well as explore new business avenues."

Opportunities for HFZA investors highlighted at The Big 5 Heavy

With the GCC infrastructure market said to have an estimated value of over USD 400 billion, The Big 5 Heavy was the ideal platform for Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) to network with the Middle East's top construction industry professionals.

The continuous positive outlook of the markets in the region is reflected in the more than 1,200 ongoing projects currently in different stages of the construction life cycle. The Big 5 Heavy provided HFZA delegates an exceptional opportunity to do business, network and learn from global leaders as they met with global suppliers and buyers of construction products.

The delegates attending the event highlighted the advantages of setting up business in a strategic location to access global markets and highlighted the various competitive incentives of investing in the Free Zone including 100% ownership and 100% repatriation of capital and profits.



Renish Group launches Alaska International with higher storage capacity at Hamriyah Free Zone

Renish Group, a growing company in oil space with a vision to be a global energy organization, officially launched its Hamriyah port-based storage facility, the Alaska International FZE, with higher storage capacity in March 2018.

The launch event was held in the presence of senior Hamriyah Free Zone Authority officials, Mohamed Abdulla Sultan Al Qasimi, Commercial Director, and Ali Al Jarwan, Deputy Commercial Director.

The newly launched facility will have a higher capacity at 22 tanks as part of its continuing efforts to boost its storage ability and expand its operations in the Middle East.

Renish Group acquired Alaska International in 2013 with just

60,000 cbm (cubic-meter) capacity for petroleum products. In just a few years, the company increased its storage capacity to 125,000 cbm spread across its 22 tanks, in light of expanding its operations in the region for base oil, bitumen, high centistokes (CST) fuel oil, Rubber Process Oil (RPO), and gas oil.

According to Kalrav Dixit, Executive Director, Renish Group, "Acquiring and expanding Alaska International is a timely move intended to achieve our vision to broaden our reach. The facility does not act as a storage point alone but it also allows us to expand our offerings to cover every stage of the entire supply chain system. It helps in blending, making bulk, breaking bulk of cargoes,

and many others. Additionally, as Alaska International is based in the strategically located UAE – particularly in the Hamriyah port where opportunities for bunkering, exports and blending are immense – we will now be able to efficiently meet the requirements of leading global oil players and subsequently grow our business in this area."

Alaska International's 22 tanks are uniquely configured to handle clean and dirty products with direct connection to the outer berth with a 12m draft and the inner berth with a 7m draft.

Moreover, the storage facility's dock infrastructure can handle vessels with 12.5m draft. It is served by two oil product pipelines connecting to the main docks and two oil product pipelines from the barge dock.

"Alaska International has the right capacity that can serve the various needs of our clients in the Indian subcontinent, the Red Sea, and East Africa. Our company is keen to invest more in this strategic sector as we consider the oil storage industry as the key to our further advancement and development as a business organization," Dixit added.

A decade from its inception in early 2006, the Renish Group has grown to become a \$600mn company in 2017 from a \$240mn company in 2012, with assets estimated at \$300mn.

Owning and operating a storage terminal has allowed the Renish Group to contribute to the growing trading activities in the region. In addition, investing in the sector, which is a key growth area for the organization, has also enabled the group to capture the structural benefits of the oil markets with regards to the forward curve and future derivatives trading.

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Executive Suite L1 - 56
P.O.Box: 124959, SAIF Zone
Sharjah - UAE



HFZA wins coveted Superbrand title for second consecutive year

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA), one of the largest free zones in the UAE and across the Middle East, emerged as one of the strongest brands in the region as it was recognized and voted as a Superbrand for 2018 for the second consecutive year. HFZA earned the 2018 Superbrand title after a meticulous selection process set by the Superbrands Council that judged the brand's supremacy in the market, longevity and customer loyalty.

In addition, 23 companies operating in Hamriyah Free Zone have won various categories of this year's Superbrand Awards.

Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of HFZA and Sharjah Airport





International Free Zone, received the award at an official ceremony held at the HFZA headquarters. The awards ceremony was attended by more than 100 top executives from companies operating in the Free Zone, representatives from Superbrands Middle East, senior officials from HFZA and media personnel.

Speaking on the occasion, Al Mazrouei stated that the second consecutive win of the Superbrand Award comes as recognition for the excellence and leadership of HFZA in providing innovative and customized

high quality services in accordance with international standards to serve the needs of its investors.

Recognized for its customer-focused services and business excellence, HFZA has also been presented with various awards and accolades over the course of the past year. HFZA was a recipient of the Arabian Business Excellence Awards 2017, International Business Excellence Awards, FDI Free Zone of the Year Awards, and was also conferred with the BIZZ 2018 Award from World Confederation of Businesses.





HFZA launches new e-services system

With the aim of providing its valued customers with quick access to its various investor-related services, the Hamriyah Free Zone Authority has launched a new online portal for faster and more seamless processing of services. More than 40 services ranging from finance and leasing to granting of NOCs and permits are currently available online at <https://portal.hfza.ae/OsWeb/>.

The new package of online services introduced by HFZA is a remarkable value-based service for investors looking to set up business in the Free Zone, said Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director, HFZA and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF ZONE). "The new initiative is in line with HFZA's commitment to continuous excellence and smart governance and is geared to provide consumers and

companies with complete information for investor-related services. The portal has been designed using the latest design and technology to deliver an easy, user-friendly access with real-time results in the form of statement of accounts, for example, to our growing base of investors."

Investors will no longer have to visit HFZA's Finance & Accounts Department to make outstanding payments, receive statements of accounts, or complete formalities regarding tax registration certificate updates etc. The different permits and/or NOCs and certificates from the Lease & License department will also be available online.

The new portal will also ensure that all NOCs, plot demarcation documents, drawing approvals and related services of the Engineering Department are now available online. Similarly, the various NOCs and permits required for relevant authorities from the Environment Health and Safety Department and Food Control Section will also be available through the new portal. More services will be integrated online in due course.



Hamriyah Free Zone thrash Dubai Customs in cricket test in Sharjah

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) demolished Dubai Customs (DC) by 44 runs in the Rashid Alleem Premier League Season 3 match held in Sharjah in March 2018 following a blitzkrieg of 87 by Sudeesh Ramanan.

After HFZA had lost three wickets with just 24 runs on the board, Ramanan

added a convincing 102 runs for the fourth wicket with Abdulsalam (39) to take the scores to 126-4. He hit a fluent six fours and five sixes in his 58-ball knock to help HFZA post a huge total of 164/5 in their allotted 20 overs.

Abdulsalam also kept HFZA's scoreboard ticking as he hit two

boundaries during his 37-ball knock. Rammohan Ethamukkala took three wickets for 31 runs in his four overs for Dubai Customs (DC).

DC failed to build on a solid start and were never in the chase as they failed to score at the required run rate. DC also lost wickets at regular intervals.

However, Fahad Anwir Khan and Arshid Rahiman did show some resistance with the fighting innings of 32 and 25 respectively but their effort was not enough to take DC over the line. Abdulsalam and Ramanan picked two wickets each for HFZA.





HFZA meets with Chinese business delegation to explore investment opportunities

Hamriyah Free Zone's prominence as a gateway for business and expansion plans in the Gulf and Asian markets and the larger Middle East and North Africa region, attracted the interests of a Chinese business delegation who visited the headquarters of the Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq) in Al Qasba. The Chinese delegation's meeting with Shurooq formed part of a visit to the UAE to explore investment and business opportunities in Sharjah.

Zhen Li, Marketing Executive, and

Cristina dela Cueva, Marketing Executive, represented HFZA at the event and held discussions with the visiting Chinese delegates to highlight the strategic geographic location of the Free Zone that makes it an ideal destination for attracting Chinese investment, and also a key destination for all international investors willing to expand in the GCC markets in particular, and the Middle East, in general.

"Hamriyah Free Zone is home to a host of Chinese companies in all the key areas of potential growth, and it was

a pleasure to welcome the Chinese business delegation and showcase Sharjah's and the Free Zone's considerable investment offering," said Zhen Li. "We discussed areas of mutual cooperation and investment opportunities to facilitate expansion and trade between the two entities."

"China is the top trading partner of the UAE, and the two countries enjoy distinguished trade relations. The number of Chinese companies has been increasing steadily in Hamriyah Free Zone," said Cristina dela Cueva. "HFZ today serves as a growth catalyst both for budding entrepreneurs and multinational firms looking to expand their operations. The visit served as an excellent opportunity to explore new collaborations, joint ventures, and increased cooperation."

Following a presentation by the HFZA team on the various facilities offered at the Free Zone, including the quick and simple license registration process, the Chinese delegation commended HFZ on its efforts to create and facilitate exceptional investment opportunities in Sharjah. They also affirmed that HFZ would be a destination of choice for Chinese companies keen on capitalizing on the opportunities and benefits provided here, particularly in the industrial, business and exports sectors.

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Sweet learning experience for kids at Caline Chocolates

Fifteen young and curious students from the Al Qalaa Elementary and Secondary School for Girls in Al Hamriyah, Sharjah, were given the opportunity of extending the learning

experience in a fun manner on their visit to the Caline Chocolates factory situated in Hamriyah Free Zone. Accompanied by three teachers, the children were received by Essam

Elmesiry, Managing Director, who warmly welcomed them into the premises.

Abdurrahman, Manager of the chocolate factory facilitated the tour as he guided the students and teachers and answered all queries as they observed the chocolate making process. The main aim of the field trip was to give an insight to the students about the making of chocolate, and the effort and processes that go into the manufacturing of chocolate into consumer products.

The children enjoyed watching the magical production of chocolate from its raw form to being moulded and packaged into different products. "It was fun, educational and tasty," said a young child, describing her experience of the field trip.

The children were provided with samples to taste and carried home a goodie-bag after the tour.



HFZA employees receive training in Level 4 Award in HACCP

Employees of the Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) Shatha Saeed and Syed Bari attended a training session on Level 4 Award in HACCP (HABC Accredited Course) along with other officials from the civic bodies in the UAE.

At the 5-day training session held in January at the HFZA headquarters, other attendees included Yahiya, Food Inspector, Sharjah Municipality; Mohammed, Food Inspector, Hamriyah Municipality; and Fatima from Dubai Municipality. Aimed at senior

supervisors and managers working within the food manufacturing industry and with a sound knowledge of food safety hazards and controls, the Level 4 qualification training enabled the attendees to understand the importance of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)-based food safety management procedures, the management and implementation of HACCP-based procedures, development of the procedures and the evaluation of the procedures.

HFZA employees Shatha Saeed and Syed Bari have thus further strengthened their knowledge necessary to determine hazards and risks in the production process and can be an integral part of a HACCP team in manufacturing and other related industries, for example, those involved with food distribution and storage.

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Albwardy Damen names world's biggest Rotortug in Hamriyah Free Zone

Albwardy Damen, a joint venture between Dubai-based Albwardy Investments and Damen Shipyards Group, a leading repair yard headquartered in the Netherlands, hosted a naming ceremony earlier this year for the world's biggest Rotortug, the ART 100-46 RT Raven, at Hamriyah Free Zone.

The vessel will be operated by Perth-based KT Maritime Services Australia,

a joint venture partnership between Kotug International BV and Teekay Shipping Australia.

The ceremony was attended by the pioneer of the Rotortug® design, Ton Kooren along with Kotug CEO Ard-Jan Kooren. Representing Damen was CCO Arnout Damen and MD of Damen Shipyards Hardinxveld Jos van Woerkum. The tug was built in the yard of Albwardy Damen – Sharjah

at Hamriyah Free Zone and was delivered to the customer in February 2018. Albwardy Damen builds marine units for clients all over the world including Europe and Australia. Other projects under construction include a new 29M tugboat for Saqr ports and a lift boat for Aquadive in Dubai.

The Infield Support Vessel (ISV) RT Raven is built to a Robert Allen design. She is a customized 46 meter-long, DP2, 100-tonne bollard-pull Rotortug® for offshore support. She is designed and outfitted for operations in the Timor Sea, 500km north-west of Darwin and 250km south of East Timor.

Lars Seistrup, MD of Albwardy Damen, said: "This is a special vessel in many ways. It is the biggest Rotortug® ever built; it is also one of the most powerful tugs ever built in the UAE. We are very pleased with the end result which is the consequence of close cooperation and teamwork with the client."



Memaar Building Systems (MBS) enters new era of expansion and growth

Memaar Building Systems (MBS), previously known as Mammut Building Systems, is specialized in the design, manufacture and supply of Pre-Engineered Steel Buildings (PEB) and Sandwich Panels.

Established in 1997 and among the earliest residents of Hamriyah Free Zone, with its facility covering an impressive area of over 163,000 square meters (with a covered production area of over 40,000 square meters and a raw material yard of over 20,000 square meters), MBS is a subsidiary of Emaar Industries and Investments (EII), and is one of the world's largest manufacturers of Pre-Engineered Steel Buildings (PEB)

and Sandwich Panels, with a capacity for a monthly output of 8,000 metric tons of Steel Buildings and 150,000 square meters of Sandwich Panels.

"I am pleased to announce that we have changed the company name to Memaar Building Systems, in line with the company strategy and ambitions for continued growth worldwide and to better reflect our shareholders and stakeholders" says Achraf Kassem, CEO of Memaar Building Systems.

MBS initiated its rebranding and name change in 2017 and continued in early 2018 with the launch of its new and revamped website: www.mbs.ae. This website is updated on a regular basis, and allows

the user to easily and seamlessly browse through the myriad buildings designed and manufactured by MBS.

MBS boasts the manufacture and supply of over 35,000 steel buildings to over 70 countries, with exceptional growth in several regions including the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Middle East, Africa, Central Asia, and the Indo-Pacific. It is involved in the designing, manufacturing and supplying Pre-Engineered Steel Buildings (PEB) for industrial, commercial, recreational, institutional, educational, aviation and agricultural applications such as factories, workshops, warehouses, sports halls, aircraft hangars, bulk storages, cold stores, poultry buildings and many more.

MBS has maintained its consistent growth by constantly expanding into new markets and now with its targets set on strengthening its presence in Europe and the Americas in order to maintain its trajectory. This growth is supported by MBS's large manufacturing facility with its advanced equipment and its well-developed organizational structure with its over 250 in-house experienced and trained engineers, using the latest engineering software in the industry.



Development works at Port Khalid sees the construction of a new state-of-the-art berth

Sharjah is home to three of the finest deep water harbors in the United Arab Emirates - Port Khalid, Port Khorfakkan and Port Hamriyah. The location of these ports have transformed Sharjah into a national and regional transport and logistics hub, as these three ports are the leading trade gateways to the UAE and handle all kinds of ships and cargoes.

While Port Khalid, a multipurpose port located in the city of Sharjah, serves as a vital entry point to the industrial heartland of the UAE, Hamriyah Port is located 18kms north of Sharjah and is adjacent to the Hamriyah Free Zone. Port Khorfakkan is a highly efficient

container terminal and is located on the East Coast of the UAE which makes it a perfect transshipment hub for the region.

Since its establishment in the 1970s, the Department of Seaports and Customs, Sharjah, has taken a continuous path in developing the infrastructure, innovation, port-expansion and performance improvement of its ports.

The latest development works at Port Khalid have included the construction of a completely new state-of-the-art berth (berth No. 21) of 373 meters which is in line with the vision of the Department of Seaports and Customs to provide more facilities and best

services to port users.

On February 27th 2018, Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman Al Sarrah, Director of the Department attended the inauguration of the new berth which witnessed the berthing of the oil tanker Jag Lok.

Marking the occasion, the Director met with Captain K.K. Dinesh, Master of Jag Lok and presented him with a plaque to commemorate the maiden call of the vessel in the new berth.

In attendance at the event were Captain Mohammed Saleh, Director of Operations (Port Khalid); Captain R. Devathirajan, Harbor Master of the port; Sunil Gangadharan, Business Development Management; K.R.S. Nair, Head of Accounting Department; and other dignitaries and officials.

The overall length of the tanker which was accommodated at the berth is 274 meters with a beam of 48 meters.

Port Khalid which was established in the mid-1970s, is a pioneer among all seaports in the Gulf region and was the earliest container and Ro-Ro terminal.

With 21 berths, the Khalid Port lends itself to a variety of shipping applications, ranging from general, reefer, dry, liquid and bulk cargo to container, oil and offshore support services. The port authority also provides stevedoring services with its own labor.



جمعية الشارقة الخيرية
Sharjah Charity International

Sharjah Charity International provides aid worth AED266.4 million in 2017

The value of Sharjah Charity International's projects and aid assistance in 2017, both inside and outside of the UAE, reached AED266.4 million, compared to AED235.2 million in 2016.

During a press conference held on 25th March to announce the organization's 2017 report, Abdullah Mubarak Al Dukhan, Secretary-General of Sharjah Charity International, said that the value of the organization's charity aid

over the last 10 years reached some AED2 billion, of which 45 percent was provided to various projects within the country and 55 percent to projects outside the country.

He explained that Sharjah Charity International, since its establishment in 1989 as the humanitarian arm of the Sharjah Government, has adopted the directives of H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, in the best possible manner.

He added that the organization's charity efforts in 101 countries are filled with accomplishments and diligent work, which rely on the spirit of teamwork to promote endless giving and achieve humanitarian success, in light of its cooperation with benefactors and charities that are keenly supportive of its charity and humanitarian efforts.



Global game changers descend on Sharjah for IGCF 2018

Sean Spicer, former Whitehouse Press Secretary (2017), Nobel Peace Laureate Lech Walesa, former Polish President who played a leading role in the fall of communism in the Eastern Bloc, Sir Timothy Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web and Jimmy Wales, founder of Wikipedia are among the many modern history makers who spoke at Sharjah's International Government Communication Forum that opened on 28th March, 2018.

Held with the support of H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, the event was hosted by the International Government Communication Centre (IGCC), a subsidiary of the Sharjah Government Media Bureau, from March 28th-29th at Expo Centre Sharjah.

The 7th edition of the IGCF, held under the theme 'Digital Millennium Where To?', welcomed more than 3,000 communication experts, decision makers, government officials, government communication

professionals, civil society organizations media personnel and students of communication and journalism.

Around 40 speakers from 16 countries, including global industry influencers and international policy advisors took part in the Forum, presenting sessions on subjects as diverse as 'Digital Diplomacy in Government Communication', 'Media Charisma' and 'New Media in Serving

Humanitarian Issues'.

The event featured 18 panel discussions and inspiring sessions, six interactive talks, four brainstorming sessions for children and young adults and seven workshops for journalists, government communication experts and visitors to the Forum.

Launched in 2012 under the directives of the Ruler of Sharjah, the event aimed to highlight best practices to achieve more efficient and effective communication between the government and the public – a field in which the emirate of Sharjah has played a leading regional role in terms of digital integration and smart government.



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Sharjah honored as special guest city at Paris Book Fair 2018

A world-class and bespoke symbol for Arabic culture and literature in the Middle East, Sharjah celebrated its selection as the Special Guest City of the Paris International Book Fair (Salon Livre Paris) this year by engaging with tens of thousands of young and old

book lovers from France and all over the world. The emirate of Sharjah, under the supervision of Sharjah Book Authority and in cooperation with cultural institutions and heritage entities, organized a series of sessions, seminars, performances and folklore events

that communicated an authentic and meaningful understanding of the rich cultures and heritage of the UAE and the Arab region.

The UAE delegation to the fair, held from March 16 to 19, comprised of over 150 Arab and Emirati authors, intellectuals, journalists and media personnel, who demonstrated the region's unique cultural and literary charms to the western world through a colorful program, which included a public exhibition of artworks by some of the most prominent Emirati artists.

Sharjah also demonstrated its creative and diversified literatures and arts on the streets of Paris, with performances that provided an inspiring and educational journey into the UAE and its cultures, through a mix of music, traditional costumes, folk songs, poetry and traditional crafts. One of the highlights of the event was book signings by 40 renowned authors, whose prominent works have been translated to French.



Shurooq puts Sharjah in focus at ITB Berlin 2018

The Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq) has promoted the emirate's status as one of the Middle East's most progressive and dynamic tourism destinations to 180 countries across five continents at the 2018 edition of ITB Berlin, the world's largest travel trade show.

Shurooq was part of a delegation led by Marwan bin Jassim Al Sarkal, CEO of Shurooq. Highlighting Sharjah's authentic heritage, cultural locations and eco-friendly hospitality,

Shurooq participated under Sharjah Commerce and Tourism Development Authority pavilion, and aimed to attract interest from more than 160,000 visitors and industry leaders at the event, which was held from March 7 to 11.

With its unique portfolio of projects, the focus was mainly on such developments as Mleiha Archaeological and Eco-tourism destination, Al Montazah Parks, Al Bait Hotel and the hospitality projects under Sharjah Collection.

Providing investors and visitors with latest insights and investment plans across Sharjah's authentic and cultural tourism and hospitality sector, Shurooq outlined services and features on the Sharjah Collection developments, which comprise of Al Badayer Oasis at Al Badayer desert; Bait Khalid bin Ibrahim in Heart of Sharjah; Kingfisher Lodge in Kalba as part of the Kalba Eco-tourism project; and Fossil Rock Lodge at the Mleiha Archaeological and Eco-tourism project. The Kingfisher Lodge is 90% complete, while the Fossil Rock Lodge stands at 80%.

Additional projects developed by Shurooq and exhibited at ITB Berlin 2018 include Al Qasba, Al Noor Island, Heart of Sharjah, Al Majaz Waterfront and Flag Island.

As Sharjah's tourism sector continues in its rapid growth, Shurooq is investing heavily in environmentally responsible luxury hospitality in natural areas that conserve the area's environment and natural habitat, as well as improve the welfare of the local people. Although 35% of tourists around the world are likely to book eco-tourism holidays, according to GlobalData, the Middle East is still a niche market and Sharjah has established itself as a leading eco-destination.



Taste success at Hamriyah Free Zone's Food Park

Flexible corporate facilities focused on the food industry.

Across more than 11 million ft², businesses involved in processing, storage, cold storage, manufacturing and packing are creating a new hub for the region's food industry. Hamriyah Free Zone's Food Park – the first of its kind in the Middle East – is purpose-built to help your business tap into global opportunities.



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هيئة المنطقة الحرة بالحميرة
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