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UAE expands project portfolio in target sectors

by David Gibson



Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Domestic and international investors across the UAE are continuing to embark on the delivery of a diverse programme of appealing investment projects in priority sectors across the country despite the ongoing global oil price slump. In defiance of the general pattern, areas of substantial investment have sprung up in various strategically important fields of the UAE economy in the run up to Expo 2020 – prominently in construction, infrastructure and transport, complemented by ambitious plans in renewable energy and medical technology.

The Emirate of Dubai is awash with examples of this trend. Among the most voluminous with a total project value of USD 2.8bn is the Route 2020 metro project – whose purpose is to extend the Red Line of the Dubai Metro by 15 km to the site of the Expo 2020 exhibition,

passing through Nakheel Harbour, Tower Station, Discovery Gardens, Furjan, Jumeirah Golf Estates and Dubai Investment Park. Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) awarded this contract to the Expolink Consortium, which is led by France's Alstom, Spain's Acciona and Turkey's Gülermak.

Construction will start before the end of 2016 according to Matar Al Tayer, Director General of RTA, who added that the service is to undergo its trial run in late-2019 before becoming operational on 20th May 2020, five months prior to Expo 2020. In total, the expansion project entails seven stations, including an interchange, with its passenger volume projected to reach 125,000 per day by 2020 before more than doubling to 275,000 by 2030. Al Tayer also suggested that the route will serve Al Maktoum International Airport.

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