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2014 top GCC construction companies revealed

by Christoph Leonhardt and David Gibson



King Abdullah Economic City

Confirming the construction sector's status as the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) burgeoning market, the total value of its projects across the region is expected to increase by 22% this year. Construction has regained its position as the most active sector in the GCC, having trailed behind an unusually active transport industry in the second half of last year. In the first half of 2014, nearly USD 32bn of contracts were awarded regionally, a major share of the USD 92bn sum across all sectors.

The main protagonists in this market were listed in the Construction Week Power 100 this June, seeing Saudi Binladin Group (SBG), Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC) and HBK Contracting ranked as the three most prominent firms in the industry. Chaired by **Bakr Bin Ladin**, SBG, the

multinational construction conglomerate, has recaptured the pole position in the rankings, having last reached the top spot in 2012 and been a permanent fixture in the top three places of the Power 100 list since its inception in 2010. The company remains the largest contracting company in the GCC's most significant construction market, Saudi Arabia, which underlines Bin Ladin's status as one of the most powerful figures in the construction industry. SBG's current focuses include the expansion of both the Grand Mosque in Mecca (USD 21bn) and King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah (USD 7.2bn), the construction of both the Green Line on the Doha Metro and stations on the Haramain high-speed rail link, as well as work on the world's prospective tallest building, the 1 km-high Kingdom Tower in Jeddah. Last year, the firm also sealed a USD 3.5bn deal to erect 12

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