



Press Release

Minister of Economy and Commerce welcomes 29 countries & over 421 exhibitors at the opening of Project Qatar 2018

- *Future Projects Qatar Conference kicks off today to explore untapped growth prospects in construction sector*
- *Nearly QR200 billion allocated towards development in 7 different sectors*

May 7, 2018

Under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of Qatar, Project Qatar 2018, the 15th edition of the International Trade Exhibition for Construction Technology, Building Materials, Equipment and Environmental Technology, kicked off today (Monday, May 7, 2018). The event was inaugurated by The Minister of Commerce and Economy H.E. Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim bin Mohammed al-Thani, welcoming 280 international exhibitors from 29 countries, as well as 141 local companies participating at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center.

The global event which takes place until May 10, aims to meet the needs of Qatar's ever-growing construction sector following the massive development projects being implemented in the country in line with its efforts to meet the goals of Qatar Vision 2030 and the upcoming hosting of the global sporting event FIFA World Cup 2022. The Qatar Government has earmarked as much as QAR 200 billion to spend in 2018 for the construction of key projects in transport and infrastructure, healthcare, education, sporting facilities, water, and tourism.

Haidar Mshaimesh, Projects Director, IFP Qatar, said: "The continued interest of the global construction market to Qatar's development has kept us working doubly hard to attract major

international industry players. It is aimed to meet the local demand for world-class product and services, which we are witnessing now at this event. Qatar's construction sector demands top quality products and services following international standards, in line with the ambitious plans of the country to deliver economic growth and sustainable development.”

Some of the world's leading companies are showcasing their products and services which belong to the top ten construction-related needs in the sector such as: building materials; electrical supplies; construction systems and technology; engineering and design services; marble blocks, tiles and slabs; pipes and fittings; steel products; marble finished products; stone blocks, slabs and finished products; and ceramic tiles and granite from 29 countries.

Mohammed Masoud Al-Marri, Infrastructure Affairs Director, Ashghal, said: “The Public Works Authority ‘Ashghal’ is honored to be a part of such a strategic event. This important networking event is key for the development and provides support to the requirements of Qatar's construction sector, which is essential at this stage specially in our move towards sustainable development. The platform has been instrumental in paving the way for key projects such as the Expressway Programme which will deliver some of the largest expressways in Qatar, and the Local Roads & Drainage Programme which will deliver many roads and integrated infrastructure projects in local areas. Ashghal is also cooperating with working relevant Qatari authorities on significant building projects that include healthcare, educational, and general sector projects. We are committed to Qatar's infrastructure development, and this event will help us showcase our efforts to achieve this end.”

Ahmad Nasser Sraiya Al Kaabi, COO, Al Sraiya Holding, added: “We are privileged to sponsor Project Qatar for the 15th year, recognizing that the event is growing the importance of Qatar in the global construction market. By showcasing the latest and the best in technology and products, Project Qatar brings the world spotlight on the potentials of the country. This event helps us acquaint ourselves with the latest trends and stay ahead of the curve.”

Project Qatar, for the first time, also hosted the Future Projects Qatar Conference, which kicked off with a panel discussion themed ‘Shaping the Future of Qatar's Construction’. It was followed by the project updates and a presentation on the upcoming opportunities in Qatar's buildings and infrastructure construction market and concluded with an update on the sports infrastructure

development in the country, advanced cooling solutions for stadiums and sports facilities, and an update of the number of sports facilities under construction.

Ashghal – Public Works Authority, will highlight the key projects underway and in the pipeline on the second day of the conference, including the implementation of more than 100 roads and infrastructure development projects in 2018 to 2019. It will also discuss the USD 15 billion-led Doha Metro Project, mainline freight and passenger networks, the role of innovative technologies in reducing congestion around Qatar's transport networks, as well as key innovations in the water and wastewater treatment sector. The third day of the conference will focus on Qatar's national health strategy as well as the innovative trends in constructing healthcare facilities. The second session during the day will focus on education, including a presentation on the advanced materials for the construction of sustainable schools in Qatar.

Among Qatar's leading businesses which are participating as sponsors include: Manateq, Al Sraiya Holding Group, Doha Kowate, Nakheel Landscapes, Palmera Landscape, Hempel, Qatar Building Company, NBK Heavy Equipment, Watermaster, PERI and others.

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