



## **Press Release**

### **First day of Project Qatar 2018 reveals nation's booming construction sector**

***Key road & public transport projects to proceed construction with QR 42 billion government allocation for 2018***

May 8, 2018

The first day of Project Qatar 2018, the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Trade Exhibition for Construction Technology, Building Materials, Equipment and Environmental Technology, witnessed a huge turnout of exhibitors and visitors as it kicked off yesterday (Monday, May 7, 2018), with 280 international exhibitors led by 10 country pavilions from China, Turkey, Iran, Germany, Kuwait, Italy, United Kingdom, Pakistan, Austria, and Malaysia. Under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of Qatar, the event also threw a spotlight on the latest infrastructure developments in key sectors through the inaugural Future Projects Qatar Conference 2018, which received huge participation on the first day from major industry stakeholders and local decision-makers.

In line with its efforts to meet the goals of Qatar Vision 2030 and the demand to provide world-class facilities for the hosting of the global sporting event FIFA World Cup in 2022, Qatar has been massively spending on major transportation and infrastructure projects. It has announced the allocation of QR 42 billion for 2018 to improve roads and public transport facilities.

The second day of the conference featured Ashghal – Public Works Authority, which highlighted roads and infrastructure development projects that are set for implementation in 2018 to 2019.

The conference also discussed the future of the rail industry in Qatar and the importance of 'Intelligent Transport System' to improve policy options. It also tackled on the second day the concerns of the water and wastewater sector regarding ways to optimize an increasingly fragile resource. A panel discussion provided a detailed overview on the infrastructure networks implemented across Qatar to achieve the National Vision 2030.

The third day of the conference will focus on the opportunities in Qatar's education and healthcare sector where QR 41.7 billion will be spent on the sectors in 2018. The conference will also discuss 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.

Haidar Mshaimesh, Projects Director, IFP Qatar, said: "It is overwhelming to witness the increasing international focus on Qatar as the FIFA World Cup 2022 comes closer and scaled up investments to ensure the efficient delivery of national targets embodied in the Qatar National Vision 2030. There is a very strong and positive feedback from the market regarding the selection of exhibitors seriously exploring market opportunities in the country. Being a World Cup host nation brings enormous opportunities to develop key sectors including transport, tourism and various business sector. The buoyancy of the industry is firmly supported by strong government initiatives, a stable business environment and a growing consumer demand. Undoubtedly, Qatar remains one of the fastest growing construction markets across the GCC."

Amer Mahasen, General Manager of Palmera, said: "Project Qatar is a must-attend for its vast spectrum of construction-related products and services. For many years now, Project Qatar has been a benchmark for the industry, and every year, we are committed to new developments and unveiling of new projects in line with the region's infrastructure."

The fourth day of the conference will look deeper into the role of tourism in shaping Qatar's economic and social future and will discuss the role of sustainability as driver for the hospitality sector, as well as the development and application of a novel and integrated performance driven

approach for assessing, benchmarking and improving Building Information Modelling (BIM) competency of Qatar's construction industry practitioners.

Christopher Sharkey, Country Manager, Hempel Paints Qatar, concluded: "As one of the most notable events for projects in Qatar, we believe the Project Qatar 2018 is the best platform to showcase our professional range of high quality products and services to a high potential audience. As gold sponsor of the event, we are confident that the sponsorship and participation give us the edge to connect with different industry players and generate potential opportunities for new alliances and project in the future. More importantly, we are here to express our support as among the leading local manufacturers to various projects in Qatar."

Some of the world's leading companies are showcasing their products and services throughout the week until May 10, 2018, including 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 a total of 421 exhibitors. 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.

-ends-