



EMAAR AND MODON TO DEVELOP MORE INDUSTRIAL CITIES IN SAUDI ARABIA

Emaar, The Economic City (Emaar EC) is currently negotiating with UAE's Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority (Jafza) and Kuwait's Eltizam for the \$6 Billion infrastructure project to develop the 64-square-kilometer industrial zone at King Abdullah Economic City (KAEC) in Saudi Arabia. The industrial zone, which covers almost one-third of the entire KAEC project, is expected to accommodate downstream petrochemicals, small to medium sized industries such as trade and logistics, as well as light to medium manufacturing facilities. A plastics valley, which will use raw materials available in the Kingdom to make products for export, is also planned. An award is expected to be announced in early 2009 and it will take 15 years to complete the KAEC project.

KAEC is one of the six economic cities planned for the Kingdom. There are six districts within KAEC. Located near the town of Rabigh on the Red Sea coast, 100 kilometers northwest of Jeddah, the city covers 168 sq km in total. The other components of the KAEC project include a central business district, a residential area and a seaport, the first phase of which is due to be completed in 2010 and facilities such as aluminium smelter, a lubricant oil facility planned by France's Total and a national academic college. According to Amr al-Dabbagh, governor of the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA), the smelter would create 2,500 direct jobs and 7,500 indirect jobs.

Aside from KAEC, economic cities already launched are the Knowledge Economic City (KEC) in Medina, Al-Mal Economic City and Jizan Economic City in the south of the Kingdom while the remaining cities of Tabuk and Ras al-Zour will also be developed, according to SAGIA.

Meanwhile, Modon, formerly the Saudi Industrial Property Authority (SIPA), is launching three more industrial cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Two of the cities, *Al-Baha and Makwah*, will be in the south of the Kingdom and cover 3 sq km and 6 sq km respectively. The other city, which will cover 4 sq km, is *Gurayat* in the north of the Kingdom near Jordan, 100 kilometers from Amman.

In addition to these projects, Tawfig-al-Rabiah, Director General of Modon also announced the development of the cities of *Jizan*, measuring 30 sq km which is located in the Red Sea coast, and the other is in *Arar*, a 2 sq km site in the north of the country near the Iraqi border.

Modon is set to inaugurate Hail Industrial City as well with the launch of two factories that will be built in the first phase of the 25 sq km city.

The Philippine Overseas Labor Offices in Saudi Arabia reported that the manpower demand from the Kingdom for Filipino workers in 2009 for the construction sector includes opportunities for supervisory positions such as Project Engineers, Site Engineers, and Commissioning Engineers, draftsmen, welders, electricians, fitters and other skilled and semi-skilled work categories in real estate and petro-chemical projects.