

**Contractor starts work on
Emaar shopping mall**

The UAE's Alec has started construction work on the estimated AED2.8bn (\$763m) shopping mall at the Dubai Hills development for local developer Emaar Properties. Canada's EllisDon is the programme manager for the development.

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Thematic District at Expo site tendered



The fast-track project is scheduled to be completed in 24 months

As MEED Business Review went to press, companies were working to submit bids by 23 January for the contract to build the Thematic District at the Expo 2020 site in Dubai.

The estimated AED2bn (\$544m) project is split into three packages and involves building a basement and the main exhibition platform for the Expo. The work also includes completing buildings on a shell and core basis for facilities serving the exhibition area. The fast-track project is scheduled to be completed in 24 months. Contractors have also been given the option to help arrange financing for the project.

Pavilion packages

There are several major construction packages out to tender for work at the Expo site. Contractors are also preparing to submit bids in mid-February for the deal to build the UAE Pavilion.

The pavilion is expected to cover up to 15,000 square metres and will include numerous exhibition areas, an auditorium, food and beverage outlets, and VIP lounges. It will be located facing Al-Wasl Plaza, which lies at the centre of the main exhibition zone.

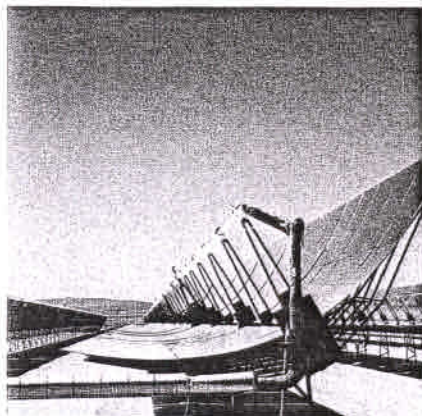
The UAE's National Media Council selected Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava's falcon-inspired design for the UAE Pavilion in May last year.

Dubai has also appointed the UK's Foster+Partners and Grimshaw Architects, and Denmark's Bjarke Ingels Group to design three other pavilions.

Colin Foreman

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Dubai invites bids for concentrated solar



Prices to be submitted by 15 May for fourth phase of solar park

Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (Dewa) has invited prequalified bidders to submit proposals for its planned 200MW concentrated solar power (CSP) project.

At least six groups have been invited to submit prices by 15 May for the scheme, which is the fourth phase of the emirate's Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum solar park. The project is being procured through the independent power project model.

The groups prequalified to participate in the tender include:

- Acwa Power (Saudi Arabia)
- Cobra (Spain)
- Engie (UK/France)/Sepco 3 (China)
- Masdar (UAE)/EDF (France)/Abengoa (Spain)
- Alfanar (Saudi Arabia)/Suncon (China)

MEED reported in December that Dewa had received prequalification entries from several regional and international developers. The project will be the first major CSP scheme at the park; the initial three phases all used photovoltaic solar technology. Dubai is targeting to develop 1,000MW of CSP technology by 2030.

In September 2016, Dewa awarded the advisory services contract for the CSP scheme to a consortium led by KMPG of the Netherlands. KPMG will be the financial adviser, and will be supported by the UK's Mott MacDonald as technical adviser and Ashurst, also of the UK, as legal adviser.

Dewa received bids from four international financial services providers on 20 July for the scheme.

Andrew Roscoe

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