

## Arabtec to build 37 new towers for Aabar in Abu Dhabi & Dubai for a value of AED22.440 billion

- The biggest project award by Value in Arabtec's History,
- The contract Award includes 14 residential towers in various locations in Abu Dhabi,
- The 7 new hotels and serviced apartments are the latest addition to Arabtec's extraordinary hotel and hospitality portfolio in the UAE and the region

**Dubai, UAE, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014** – Arabtec Holding PJSC, a leading engineering and construction Group of companies specialising in complex projects in the Middle East and North Africa region, announced today that it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Aabar Properties, a real estate development, management and investment company and a subsidiary of Aabar Investments, for its subsidiary, Arabtec Construction, to design and construct 37 towers in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, for a total contract value of AED22.440 billion.

The memorandum, which is considered one of the largest in the real estate sector in the region and Arabtec's biggest project by value, was signed at Aabar Properties offices in Abu Dhabi by His Excellency Khadem Abdulla Al Qubaisi, Chairman of the Board of Aabar properties, on behalf of Aabar Properties while Mr. Hasan Abdullah Ismaik, Managing Director and CEO of Arabtec Holding, signed for Arabtec.

According to the memorandum, Arabtec is to construct thirty seven mixed-use, residential, and hotel towers in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, including nine mixed-use towers in the Tomouh City of Lights development in Abu Dhabi, with a total plot area of 900,000 sq.ft and a built area of 14,000,000 sq.ft. In addition, Arabtec will construct four mixed-use towers in Reem Island development.

The residential component of the memorandum includes fourteen towers: two in Rawdhat Abu Dhabi, (total plot area of 64,673 sq.ft); seven in Al Raha Beach (total plot area of 1,000,000 sq.ft), three in Maysan (total plot area of 160,000 sq.ft), and two in Shams (total plot area of 200,000 sq.ft), with a total plot area of 1,900,000 sq.ft and a built area of 14,000,000 sq.ft.

The memorandum also includes the construction of a five star hotel under the management of "Hard Rock International" in prime location on the Abu Dhabi Corniche, with a total plot area of 18,858 sq.ft. The Hotel will be the first Hard Rock Hotel in the region.

In Dubai, Arabtec will build three mixed-use towers in Business Bay, and six new hotels and serviced apartment towers in Aljaddaf district, adjacent to the Culture Village development. Occupying a total plot area of 300,000 sq.ft and a built area of 3,000,000 sq.ft, these include a 5 star hotel to be managed by Swissotel, a 4 star hotel managed by Hilton, a 3 star hotel managed by Park Inn, as well as three serviced apartment buildings to be operated by Fraser Suites.

The new hotels in Aljaddaf district are the latest addition to Arabtec's hotel and hospitality portfolio which includes Abu Dhabi's iconic seven-star Emirates Palace Hotel, as well as a host of towers and resorts for world-renowned hospitality brands in the UAE, including the Palazzo Versace in Dubai, the Fairmont Hotel Abu Dhabi and Serviced Apartments, and the Tiara hotel on Palm Jumeirah in Dubai.



Commenting on the contract signing, HE Khadem Al Qubaisi, Chairman of Aabar Properties said: “We are truly proud that we are the principal shareholder in Arabtec which has become one of the leading business groups in the region, highly credited by clients for its professionalism and exceptional experience in project management. It was only natural that we award this contract to them, and this is just the beginning of what we hope will be long-term cooperation between us.”

“We will assign all construction work in Aabar’s USD20 billion real estate portfolio in the UAE, USA, Morocco, Jordan, Serbia and other countries to Arabtec. This is in recognition of what Arabtec has achieved, under the able leadership of Hasan Ismaik, and we will not spare any effort to support Arabtec and it’s ambitious vision.”

Hasan Abdullah Ismaik, Managing Director and CEO of Arabtec Holding, commented: “We are thankful to Aabar, represented by its Chairman HE Khadem Al Qubaisi, for their continued support and trust. A good part of the credit for what we have achieved so far goes to Aabar and we are particularly proud that the biggest project in our history comes from Aabar.”

Ismaik added: “We are already off to a strong start of the year. This project award to the tune of AED22.440 billion, and last week’s AED5.7bn contract for themed entertainment resort in Jordan, are strong signs that our robust performance in 2013 will gain further momentum in 2014. We look forward to another exceptional year for Arabtec.”

“Our first major awards in 2014 are also early indicators of a continued uptrend in the property and hospitality markets in the UAE. Our growing backlog has now become a major benchmark of the speedy recovery of the sector. We expect to see good results with efforts to diversify into higher-margin sectors in association with international partners.”

The substantial Hospitality segment of this contract award significantly increases Arabtec’s backlog for hospitality projects in the UAE and across the region, and it certainly confirms its longstanding status as the contractor of choice for a wide range of hospitality projects. The Company looks forward to making further contributions in support of Dubai’s preparations for Expo 2020, a global event that will further reinforce the UAE’s image as an iconic tourist destination and economic powerhouse.

The vibrant hospitality sector in the UAE has been growing exponentially over the past couple of years, with Dubai as the world’s biggest growing market outside of China since 2008 in terms of new hotel openings. According to Dubai Tourism Vision 2020, the city needs to double its hotel inventory to around 164,000 hotel and hotel apartment rooms within the next seven years.

Construction work is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2014 and all projects will be delivered before 2020. Arabtec and Aabar Properties are in the final stages of signing definitive agreements, including mechanisms for the implementation of the projects.

-ENDS-



**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**About Arabtec Holding**

A leading engineering and construction group of companies specialising in complex projects in the Middle East and North Africa region, including high-rise commercial and residential development, infrastructure and oil and gas.

The UAE-based group's impressive list of completed projects includes iconic buildings such as the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, and Abu Dhabi landmark, the Emirates Palace Hotel; as well as other technically challenging work on airports and related infrastructure.

Arabtec was the first private construction firm to go public when it was listed on the Dubai Financial Market in 2005. Today, Arabtec Holding consists of many subsidiaries, with specialisations spanning all segments of the construction cycle. The group is currently working on some of the most prestigious projects in the Middle East, such as the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi and a regeneration project in the centre of the Qatari capital, Doha, and is expanding into other regions. The group is also expanding in the oil and gas, power and related infrastructure sectors.

Arabtec's strong track record and commitment to timely and cost-efficient delivery has contributed to its rapid growth in recent years and a reputation for quality that has often translated into a market-led pricing premium for completed projects.

For more information, please visit [www.arabteholding.com](http://www.arabteholding.com)

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