NASSTALK

A NASS GROUP AND NASS CORPORATION PUBLICATION

ISSUE 20 JANUARY 2018



THE ACQUISITION OF UDC

(VOLATILE COMMODITY, STABILISED)

3M MAN-HOURS ACHIEVED BY CONTRACTING UAE

05

VAT EFFECT ON CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

NEW CONSTRUCTION TRENDS TO EXPECT IN 2018

19

20

Story

Story

NASS TALK

A Nass The Group and Nass Corporation Publication

Issue 20 January 2018

WHAT'S INSIDE ...

Chairman's Message

04 NASS News

11 **Product Spotlight**

12 Project Updates and On-the-Ground Projects

18 **Economic News**

19 Industry News

20 Market Trends

23 Our Greatest Asset

28 Cover Story

30 In the Community

32 In Our Next Issue



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

GET IN TOUCH

Please e-mail or write to us with your views. All NASS employees are kindly urged to participate in further improving Nass Talk by sending their valued suggestions, views, ideas, proposals, articles, or news on their personal achievements, company activities or social events. Any contribution to the NASS photographic and film archive will also be gratefully accepted. Please contact the Public Relation Department at media@nasscorporation.com or call 1745 6191 so we can safely archive any old Nass Group's film or images.



NASS COMMERCIAL INTRODUCES 180-DEGREE TILT COUPLER



VAT EFFECT ON CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN GCC



IRCA CERTIFICATE FOR NASS CONTRACTING **EMPLOYEES**

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As we bid farewell to 2017, our insight has grown stronger, and our will is firmer, to make 2018 better for everyone within this corporation.



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 20th issue of Nass Talk, a publication dedicated to keeping you up to date on our projects, partners, and the people who make it all happen.

Over the years, NASS worked hard to place a magazine between your hands that rises to international standards, and I think we have never been closer. NASS Talk gradually evolved from being an internal social newsletter, to a magazine with a value. This would not have been possible without the support of all the divisions.

We bid farewell to 2017, with all its ups and downs; our insight has grown stronger, and our will is firmer to make 2018 better for everyone within NASS.

Throughout this year, we have witnessed businesses flourish and others wither; a normal rhythm within the industry.

Summer of 2017 was extremely bright for us, big things happened for many divisions. Nass Contracting announced the success of the First Concrete Pour in Potline 6 Foundation with the commencement of early works in the construction site. Alba's Line 6 Expansion Project is one of the largest brownfield developments in the region and we are proud to be a part of it. Delmon Readymix has inaugurated its third production facility at Lhssey, North Alba to meet the increasing construction demand in the Southern Governorate. The facility increases production of readymix by four times and is ideally located to support Nass Contracting's ongoing construction work on the Alba Potline 6 over the coming twelve months.

Another exciting news for Nass Corporation, as it has signed a memorandum of understanding after obtaining an approval from the Annual General Meeting to acquire 60% of the marine sand dredging company, United Dredging Company (UDC), which will solve the shortage of sand supply for the construction industry, a full acquisition of assets of the sandwashing company Dream

Sandwashing, which will be operated by Nass Sand Processing Plant (NSPP) and a full acquisition of assets of Dream Readymix which is operating now under Delmon Readymix. In addition to the acquisition, the deal included an enforcement of closure to both Dream Sandwashing and Dream Readymix.

Nass International Trading, the exclusive agent for Hyundai Elevators and Allied Car Rental have moved to a new facility on Sitra main highway to better service their customers.

On the economic level, 2017 was very black and white for the industry in general. The significant rise of construction activities and the government's promise to spend more on infrastructure projects are faced with the overwhelming rise of fees on business activities and the expected application of VAT in mid of 2018.

Being one of the leading organisations in the kingdom, we must be cautious in 2018; the momentum of rising projects will apply enormous pressure on the construction industry to deliver, and we must be realistic of the number of projects we will participate in.

Finally, our speculation for 2018 is very optimistic. NASS is growing solidly and remains steadfast to its commitment to adding value in the community.



SAMEER ABDULLA NASS CHAIRMAN

NASS

News

News

Story

Trends

NASS NEWS

Highlighting the business activities and achievements of our companies during the last six months.

ONE MILLION MAN-HOURS WITHOUT LTI, ACHIEVED!

Nass Contracting sustains high standards SHEQ procedures.

Kingdom of Bahrain

Nass Contracting has successfully completed One Million Man-Hours at the ALBA Line 6 Power Station 5 without Lost Time Incidents (LTI) on 5th October, 2017; a significant milestone demonstrating the company's commitment to safe performance.

Acknowledging the significance of the occasion, Mr. Nigel Hector, Operations Manager, said "Safety is a core value in Nass Contracting that we have embedded in all of our systems. Over the past few years, we have continuously improved our SHEQ programs and introduced several initiatives aimed at ensuring the safety of our people and assets."

He added: "This milestone however, was not achieved by these programs alone. The dedication and expertise of our people and the support of our shareholder partners were crucial in making this achievement possible. As we continue our journey to be the Regional Premier contracting company, we will set ever higher SHEQ standards and strive to reach new milestones. This achievement clearly demonstrates that we are on the right path. I wish to express my thanks and congratulations to all Nass Contracting employees and contractors for their support in reaching this important milestone.



About ALBA Line 6 Power Station 5:

ALBA Line 6 Power Station 5 will be the largest single site smelter upon project completion. The Line 6 Expansion Project, expected to begin production in early 2019, will boost the per-annum aluminium production by 514,000 metric tonnes

upon full ramp-up. This would bring Alba's total production capacity to approximately 1,450,000 metric tonnes per year. Due to increased power demands, the Line 6 Expansion Project will require the construction of a fifth power station (PS5) and Power Distribution System (PDS). The power station PS5 is intended to supply the new Line 6 expansion smelter loads at 220kV and auxiliary loads at 11.5kV.

THREE MILLION MAN-HOURS WITHOUT LTI, **ACHIEVED!**



Abu Dhabi, UAE

Story

Nass Contracting UAE has successfully completed 3 Million Man-Hours at the Concrete Package-II Project, 500,000 man-hours at Operation Management Center Al Taweelah Alumina Refinery (BPJV) and 250,000 Power Steam Integration Project (HATCH) a total of 3,750,000 without Lost Time Incidents (LTI) on 27th September, 2017.a significant milestone demonstrating the Company's commitment to safe performance.

Acknowledging the significance of the occasion, Mr. Stuart Smith, Country Manager, said: "This is an excellent achievement which demonstrated our collective efforts and commitment to incident-free operation. The accomplishment is particularly impressive given the enormous scope of work and number of personnel involved in Al Taweelah Refinery projects (Bechtel and Hatch)".

He added: "I encourage all of you to continue using safe work practices, whether you are working at sites or office/support facilities. With every workforce member staying focused on incident-free operation we can send everyone home safely to their families. Thank you again for your support and commitment to incident-free operation".

About Al Taweela Refinery and Power and Steam Integration Project:

Al Taweela Alumina Refinery involves the development of a Greenfield Alumina Refinery in the Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi (KIZAD), United Arab Emirates (UAE), comprising an alumina refinery located at KIZAD Industrial Area A.

Al Taweela Refinery will be developed in two phases. Construction of Phase 1 was planned to commence in the fourth quarter of 2014 with operation of the refinery commencing in 2017. Once fully operational, Phase-1 is anticipated to produce approximately 2.5 million tons per annum (Mtpa) of alumina.

The integration of the power and steam project involves the addition of a GE 9F.05 combustion turbine and heat-recovery steam generator. As well as converting the simple cycle unit to a combined one, a condensate treatment center, a new water treatment plant, and all required utility interconnections were built, installed, and managed. On completion, the facility will be one of the largest captive power plants in the world.

The integration allows for the utilization of ten gas turbines, ten heat-recovery steam generators, and four steam turbines in numerous configurations to meet the constantly changing demands for power and steam.

In Our Next Chairman's NASS Project Economic Industry Market Our Greatest In Our Next Contents Chairman's NASS Product Project Economic Industry Market Our Greatest Community Spotlight Community News Spotlight Updates News News Trends Asset Story News Updates News News Trends Asset Issue Story



Over 2000 international exhibiting companies have confirmed their participation at one of the world's most influential events for the oil and gas industry. As a premium exhibition platform ADIPEC enables professionals from around the world to do business.

Each year, ADIPEC provides one of the most important channels to network and exchange information, attracting Energy Ministers, global CEOs and leading decision makers across the four days of business discussions and knowledge exchange.

The four NASS companies that participated in ADIPEC 2017 were:

Nass Contracting, Nass Marine Services, Nass Scafform Contracting, and Nass Industrial Services.



2000

international companies have confirmed their participation at one of the world's most influential events for the oil and gas industry.





ESCALATING GROWTH

Delmon Readymix has inaugurated its third production facility at Lhssey, North Alba on 18 July, 2017 to meet the increasing construction demand in the Southern Governorate.

The new facility comprises two production plants with a combined output of 160 cubic meters of concrete per hour, a chilled water plant and flaked ice plant with a capacity of 82 tonnes of ice per day to control the concrete temperature during hot summer months.

The facility is ideally located to support Nass Contracting's ongoing construction work on the Alba Potline 6 over the coming twelve months.

And on this occasion, Mr. Nick Davis, Technical Manager at Delmon Readymix stated that "It is a fantastic location as it ensures we can meet the current workload in the area."

He added: "With the continued rise of traffic on major routes it is vital that our production facilities are located close to our customers. With the new facility we are now strategically located to capitalise on the growth taking place in southern area of Bahrain, and guarantee to better serve our customers in this area".

Delmon Readymix now operates from three different locations; Salmabad, Hidd and North Alba which enables easy access to sites throughout the Kingdom, also, all plants are fully automated and computer controlled to ensure excellent batching accuracy and consistent product quality.



Story



NASS COMMERCIAL ORGANISES ISO AND OHSAS AWARENESS SESSION

Nass Commercial, agent of the most durable and efficient industrial machines and equipment, and in cooperation with Jafcon Consultants for Productivity Improvement, have organised an ISO and OHSAS awareness session for all the company's management and employees at Elite Resort & Spa on 14th October, 2017.

As part of the overall development plan, which will enable Nass Commercial to certify for ISO standards internally, the session was organised to create awareness of the



Mr. Alnaqi, Jafcon Consultants in action

requirements, principles, and concepts of the three international standards of quality; ISO 9001:2015, health & safety OHSAS 18001:2007, and environment ISO 14001:2015.

Mr. Ahmed Alnagi; Management Consultant, Mr. Jalal Majeed; Principal Management Consultant, and Mr. Jalal Jaffari; Senior Management Consultant at Jafcon Consultants shared roles in delivering the awareness session.

On this event, Mr. Ahmed Saber, General Manager of Nass Commercial, said: "We work constantly to educate our employees of new procedures and policies, this will elevate work efficiency, which allows us to deliver the best quality service to all our customers."

He added: "At Nass Commercial, quality and great customer service come as standard, and we work very hard to maintain the high standards, at all times."

CONTRACTOR OF THE MONTH, AWARDED

Nass Contracting UAE's proven record of quality, health and safety has yet again set higher standards in the industry, as it was recognised as Contractor of the Month by the Al Taweelah Alumina for the second quarter of

Al Taweelah Alumina is an EGA development project mandated to construct a greenfield alumina refinery in







Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi, adjacent to EMAL's Al Taweelah operation and Khalifa

The competition was evaluated based on several scores and focused on:

- Overall compliance from ES&H inspections and audits:
- Close out of corrective actions by due
- Completion of Supervisor Observations by BPJV and Contractors;
- Completion of Sadiq Safety activities (Targets and Quality) and
- · Quality and Construction performance.

Mr. Stuart Smith, Country Manager, was extremely happy about this achievement and he said: "We are very proud to receive this award periodically, this mean we are keeping track and doing the right thing." He added: "this would not have happened without the hard work of our team. This award makes us work even harder to beat our own records.

SALES BOOST IN KUWAIT



CLUB CARS

Alghanim and Nass General Trading and Contracting Co. Kuwait, the exclusive agent for Club Cars USA, have recently sold a total number of 17 units of Club Cars, which included: battery-operated vehicles, petrol-driven and diesel-driven vehicles.

The company have sold 12 units to its loyal customer; BOMCO United Group Company, while Al Ghanim Motors received one unit and Zour North O&M Company received four units of the Club Cars.

Worth mentioning; Club Car USA boasts nearly 60 years of industry-leading innovation and design, initially focused on golf cars and then expanding to commercial utility vehicles and personal-use transportation.

WELDING PRODUCTS

Alghanim and Nass General Trading and Contracting Co.; the exclusive agent for ESAB welding products, have reached a new record by selling over USD 9 million worth of cutting and welding automation, and welding consumables including:



- Model ISGM 3500, a new model recently introduced by ESAB, CNC cutting machine Ergostar, and Phoenix:
- Two sets of column and boom automatic submerged arc welding machines and welding tractors;
- More than 370 welding machines, and
 - Various types of welding consumables, mild steel, alloy steel, and stainless steel to various EPC contractors for the New Refinery Project, Heavy Oil Development Project, and Oil Gathering Centers in Kuwait

MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT

Alghanim and Nass General Trading and Contracting Co. Kuwait have recently been awarded the agency representation for Sennebogen Material Handling Equipment. Two of the German made materials have been sold to the local steel mill in Kuwait.

The stationary electrical-driven model 835A, are usually used for feeding the shredder, while the diesel-powered model 840R crawler are used for handling the scrap.



ALBA LAYS THE FIRST **CONCRETE IN POTLINE 6 FOUNDATION**

Nass Contracting and Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba), the Bahrain-based international aluminium smelter, announced that the First Concrete in Potline 6 Foundation was successfully achieved in May 2017 with the commencement of early works in the construction site.

The Potline 6 has two pot rooms, E&F, wherein each pot room is approximately 1.4 km in length. They are considered the longest buildings on the Line 6 Expansion Project plot.

Commenting on this event, General Manager of Nass Contracting, Mr. David Anthony said "We are very pleased with the progress of the project. We are very optimistic that we will maintain the schedule and deliver the project in accordance with employer's requirements."

About Line 6 **Expansion Project:**

Alba's Line 6 Expansion Project is one of the largest brownfield developments in the region. Expected to begin production by early 2019, this Project will boost the smelter's per-annum production by 540,000 metric tonnes, bringing its total production capacity to 1.5 million metric tonnes per year.

The Line 6 Expansion Project will make Alba the world's largest single-site aluminium smelter and be a significant economic boost for the Kingdom of Bahrain due to the many coinvestment opportunities through local and foreign aluminium investments.

June - December 2017 | Issue 20 June - December 2017 | Issue 20

Story

News

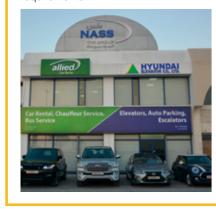
RELOCATED, FOR A BETTER SERVICE

Aiming towards satisfying all of their customer requirements, Allied Car Rental, has relocated to its new premises on June 2017.

The new premises is located on the main Sitra highway (next to Al Ahli Bank), to better service their customers.

Mr. Essam Al Jassim, Operations Manager, commented by saying: "This is a positive step for Allied Car Rental. Constant expansion is our aim, we strive to provide the best services to all our customers, and increase market share".

He added: "We are here to accommodate all your needs, whether it is a fancy car to rent over the weekend, a chauffeur service to drop you to a business meeting or a fleet of cars to service your business. We have tailor-made solutions for all your requirements".





"DO IT RIGHT"...

Capital Municipality and Gulf City Cleaning implement a campaign targeting cleanliness and municipality offences.

On 10th August, 2017, the Capital municipality and Gulf City Cleaning Company launched their new campaign "Do It Right" as part of its Awareness plan for 2017- 2021. This strategically targets increasing public environmental awareness for creating a clean sustainable environment by educating the public of the laws and regulations of the Municipality. This is achieved by enforcing the laws through regular inspections by the municipality inspectors and enhancing the awareness programs towards the public.

The campaign was launched during a press conferences attended by the Capital Municipality Director Council Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Capital Municipal Council Chairman Eng. Mohammed Alkhozaae, Capital Municipality Technical Services Manager Eng. Shawqia Humaidan, and a number of officials from the Municipality and the Company.

Gulf City Cleaning announced the launch of its mobile application Gulf City Services, which is an app that allocates the nearest recycling bin to user's current location where you can use the GPS guided system to help you reach the bin. Adding to that, the app shows the closest land mark to the location to assist the user in finding the location as well as containing information about the company.

The new recycling nodes locations were also announced in the conference as well as 12 new creative programs. These included the Recycling Cat Walk Fashion Show, School Waste Invention Exhibition, the Educational Bus, the Waste to Art Expo, the Companies Plastic Collection Competition, the Recycling Olympics, as well as the parks educational visits, and the social media campaigns.

INTRODUCTION TO VAT

Nass Group and Corporation, in cooperation with KPMG, have organized a Value-Added Tax 101 presentation for all Nass Group and Corporation Directors and General Managers. The presentation was held in the late Abdulla Ahmed Nass Auditorium in Applied Science University on 4th October, 2017.

The four-hour presentation aimed to introduce the Value-Added Tax (VAT) basic practices and the importance of being VAT compliant

Head of Indirect Taxes at KPMG in Bahrain, Philippe Norré, explained during the four-hour presentation about VAT by saying: "Given the speedy progress Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are making in rolling out their VAT legislations, it will soon be a reality and compliance formalities will start affecting businesses even before VAT goes live in Bahrain".

Mr. Hemant Joshi, Director at Nass Corporation emphasized on the importance of complying with VAT regulations financially by saying: "We know that VAT is coming, and Nass Group and Corporation are preparing to welcome the new system. We are employing Tax experts within our finance team, and we will start implementing



the new accounts and finance systems across Nass Group and Corporation divisions and companies very soon."

He added: "Nass Group and Corporation were and will remain the innovative market leaders in the region, and we want to continue being the market leaders, by adopting the new systems before anyone else in the market.



The PowerLatch Tilt coupler builds on the proven Miller TwinLock design. This low maintenance quick hitch coupler gives the operator additional peace of mind from the ABS mechanical backup system that ensures attachments remain securely engaged on both pins in the unlikely event of loss of engagement forces.

This industry leading design enables up to 180° tilt functionality on all models, providing increased versatility and flexibility for the operator and making it a must have for a variety of applications such as grading, road construction and demolition.

Designed for use on excavators ranging from 3.5 to 20 tonnes, the cast compact design is achieved through side mounted arms which reduce the overall height and weight of the PowerLatch Tilt for enhanced performance and productivity.

Features:

- Up to 180° rotation on all models
- Tried and tested TwinLock design with mechanical front and rear locks
- · Highly visible front latch
- · Cast coupler for strength and durability
- · Reduced overall height and weight due



to the side mount arm

- · Robust and reliable actuator
- · Low maintenance, actuator is selflubricating
- Variable pin centre design
- Available for 3.5T 20T machines

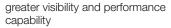
Why use Full Tilt Coupler from Miller?

- 180° tilt across all models creates maximum flexibility with your attachments
- · Compact design gives the operator

Innovations in construction industry products.

SPOTLIGHT

PRODUCT



- The PowerLatch Tilt coupler enhances the overall productivity and versatility of vour machine
- Reliable actuator for low maintenance
- The PowerLatch can be supplied with Miller Mate (Coupler Alert Safety System) which provides the operator with an illustrated step by step operational guide, as well as a visual warning light and an audible alert message signalling to operator and all site workers, the coupler is detached.

In Our Next Contents Chairman's NASS Product In Our Next News Spotlight Updates News Asset Community News Spotlight Updates News Trends Story Issue Trends Issue



CONSTRUCTION OF OVERFLOW CAR PARK AT BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The project is a part of the Airport Modernisation Programme (AMP) comprehensive development plan designed to improve the infrastructure and services at the airport to cater to future aviation needs. Nass Asphalt was awarded the contract for infrastructure works.

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Bahrain Airport

The project's main scope of works is completed with asphalt works, electrical and other services, fencing works, guardhouse, rest facility etc. The scope of works included the construction of overflow car parking, including demolish of existing structure, relocation, installation testing and commissioning of new external services, supply, installation of new guardhouse, rental rest facility building asphalt works, fencing works and road marking works etc.





CONSTRUCTION OF EXTERNAL ACCESS ROAD FOR THE AVENUES MALL

Nass Asphalt was awarded the contract for road and infrastructure works of The Avenues, the waterfront shopping monument located in Manama.

Location	Status - Completed
King Faisal Corniche	The project was completed in November 2017. Major scope of works included; construction of new asphalt road, widening and reinstating of existing roads, walkways and paving, relocating of traffic signal, installation of different barriers, installation of Beta fencing, road marking, road sign installation, modification and installation of existing utilities and services.



In Our Next Contents Chairman's NASS Project Economic Industry Market Our Greatest In Our Next Contents Chairman's NASS Product Project Economic Industry Market Our Greatest Spotlight Updates Message News Asset Community News Asset Community News Updates News Trends Story Spotlight News News Trends Story Issue Issue

LOT-2 OF THE 400KV TRANSMISSION DEVELOPMENT IS INITIATED

LOT-2 of Prysmain Group subcontracted package for the 400kV circuit has been initiated. The 400kV cable is dilated from the new Riffa Sub-station to the new Umm Al Hassam Sub-station and from Umm Al Hassam Sub-station to Hidd existing power station (feeder 1). Riffa to Umm Al Hassam referred as LOT – 1 and Umm Al Hassam to Hidd Sub-station as LOT – 2.

LOT-1, which started in 2016 was completed in June, 2017 while LOT-2 is set to be completed on 26th December, 2018.

Location	Status
Riffa, Um Al Hassam and Hidd	LOT-2 is 70% complete with surveys, soil investigation, route clearance, temporary works, site offices and lay-down areas, excavations, conventional road crossing ducts, non-disruptive road and sea crossings, concrete work, cable installation in precast concrete troughs generally, backfilling (thermal and normal) and re-instatement.







REACHING SKY HIGH

Nass International Trading was awarded the manufacturing and installation of six units of Hyundai Elevators in the 47 floors high; S Plaza, Seef District with a capacity of 1000kgs each.

The state of the art elevators, come with a speed of four meters per second.

Location	Status
Juffair	The installation has started in December 2017. and is expected to complete in July 2018.

LANDSCAPES REFURBISHES CROWN PLAZA COURTYARDS

Nass Landscapes has recently been awarded the landscape refurbishment project for Crown Plaza Blocks B, C & D, which consisted of three internal courtyards and landscaping around the exterior of the building. The courtyards include planter boxes with water feature as a central fixture. A paved pathway surrounds the planter boxes which allows access to the internal gardens.

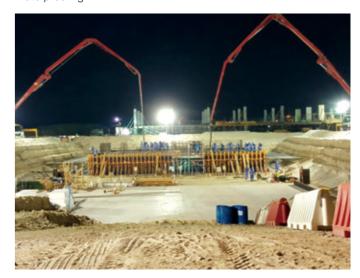
Landscape lighting has been included with bollard lighting around the pathways and focal lighting in the garden. A new fully automatic irrigation system has been designed for the project and a new irrigation storage tank with pumps will be installed on the roof of the building.



Location **Status** AL TAWEELAH NASS scope includes reinforced insitu concrete works in the form Abu Dhabi, UAE of foundations, walls, tunnels, and extensive slabs. Wharf facilities Overland conveyor Bauxite stockyard Bauxite crushing Bauxite grinding Pre-Desilication Digestion Evaporation Mud filtration Condensate storage • Acid cleaning preparation · Waste chemical disposal · Process water treatment and distribution • Potable water treatment and distribution · Cooling water system Fire protection and detection Sewerage Plant communications system

CONCRETE PACKAGE II

Concrete Works at various facilities for the project refinery area of proposed Alumina Refinery, including procurement of material, Excavation, Backfill, Disposal of Surplus Material, Installation of Blinding, Structural concrete with Reinforcement Formwork and Waterproofing.



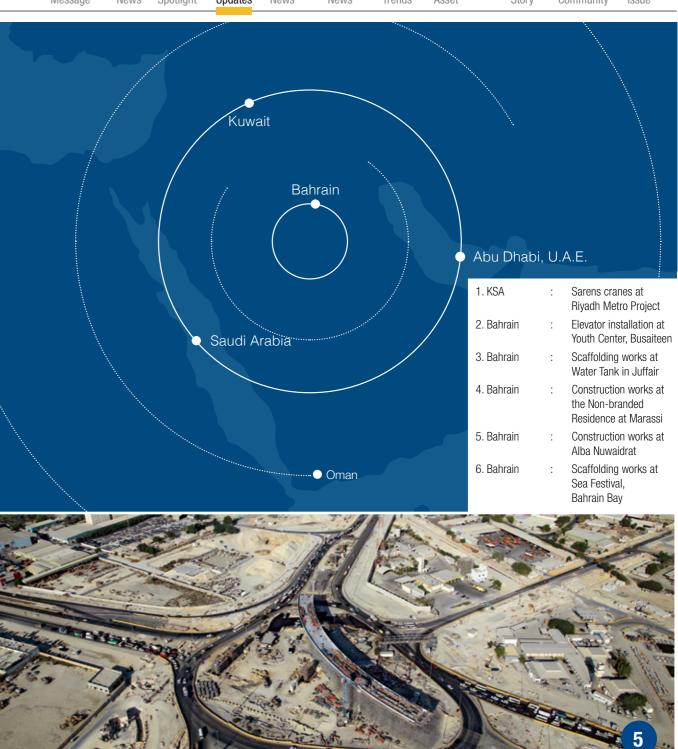
Contents Chairman's NASS Product Market Our Greatest Cover In the In Our Next Chairman's NASS Product Project Economic Industry Market Our Greatest Cover In the In Our Next News Spotlight Updates News Spotlight Updates News Trends Asset Story Community Issue News News Trends Asset Story Community Issue News

PROJECTSON THE GROUND











Project

Updates

Trends

Story



BAHRAIN'S ECONOMY REMAINS ROBUST, SAYS CENTRAL BANK

S&P lowered its ratings based on the kingdom's 'weak external liquidity and increasing financial risk'.

S&P lowered Bahrain's foreign and local currency sovereign credit rating from B+ to BB-, in a move it said was a reflection of Bahrain's weak external liquidity and increasing financial risk.

According to S&P, Bahrain's gross international reserves are low and have become more volatile throughout the year, having fallen as low as 30 percent of the monetary base during Q3 2017.

In S&P's view, the Bahraini government's access to international capital markets has been crucial in supporting the Central Bank's low level of foreign currency reserves. This, however, increases financial risk should Bahrain's access to external liquidity deteriorate.

S&P added that its outlook on Bahrain is stable, largely because of an expectation that foreign sovereigns will offer their financial support if Bahrain's Central Bank is unable to meet demands for foreign currency or temper the effects of the potential worsening of investor sentiment.

In response to the S&P statement, the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) put out a statement which said that "notwithstanding the rating agency's action, the economic situation in Bahrain remains robust,

supported by a strong banking system."

"Despite the current low oil price, the economy continues to grow with low inflation reflecting the government's ongoing initiatives to foster sound fiscal and economic policies," the statement added.

The CBB statement also noted that the country's economic growth was recorded at 3.4 percent during the first half of 2017, compared to 3.2 percent in 2016. The nonoil sector, for its part, grew 4.7 percent in H1 2017, compared to 4 percent during the same period in 2016.

the statement added: "This is a remarkable achievement in light of lower oil prices and subdued regional growth, reflecting the effectiveness of the government's initiatives in gradually adjusting the fiscal imbalances and the efforts in enhancing the overall legal, investment and business environment".

Additionally, the CBB noted that foreign direct investment has grown to USD 695 million as of October, compared to USD 280 million in 2016, and that the capital adequacy ratio of the banking reached 19.8 percent in September 2017. Retail deposits also grew to USD 45.1 billion in October, a 4.5 percent increase over the same period

Mr. Sameer Nass, Chairman of Nass Corporation commented on the reports by saying: "Lowering Bahrain's foreign and local currency sovereign credit rating from B+ to BB- will affect the economy, especially the construction industry. The domino effect will start once the government fails to finance the infrastructure projects set to start in 2018, which will eventually affect our industry.'

He added: "The MARSHALL program might be the ring buoy that keeps the construction industry afloat but, the government needs to stop depending on oil as an income and start investing in various creative channels to attract international investments and reduce expenditure"



Bahrain's foreign and local currency sovereign credit rating is lowered by S&P in the Q3 2017.



VAT EFFECT ON CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

From January 2018, Value-Added Tax (VAT) was introduced in UAE and KSA, to be followed by the other GCC countries within the same year, with regional construction companies - as well as those in several other sectors - seeing 5% VAT added to the cost of their works.

Authorities in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, and Kuwait will seek to register all companies with annual revenues in excess of USD 100,000 for the tax, and anticipate that at least 95% of companies will comply during the initial stage.

Though some sectors will be exempt, commercial construction is certain to go ahead, and the introduction of VAT is expected to result in an overall increase in construction costs, as well as in the cost of building materials, which will create a burden of their customers.

Part of this preparation, includes the need for companies to get to grips with their compliance arrangements, work through the cash-flow implications, put in place proper invoicing, and make sure their contracts reflect the new tax.

In the long term, it is expected to have minimal impact on the sector, because most of the cost of construction projects will be fully recoverable from a VAT perspective.

Experts believe that the tax is a positive step for GCC governments, and will ultimately help to grow the region's economies through more diversified sources of revenue.

One of the issues faced by oil-producing states is an over-reliance on oil to generate revenues. VAT will be a useful way of raising revenue as it is a consumption tax, and will be implemented directly on individual corporations. VAT is a very important fiscal reform for the governments of the GCC.

It is important that they have a stable and diversified revenue basis. This is especially true with many GCC economies currently facing budget deficits due to the continued slump in oil.

Many industry experts agree that the implementation of VAT will not be easy for the construction sector, as major construction companies will fall under pressure to get their affairs in order in less than a year.

Construction companies need to look at their arrangements. And the sooner, the better, as the sector will face a scramble leading up to 2018, mainly due to the lack of domestic legislation currently in place.

Technically, companies like Nass Corporation, have until the end of 2018 to introduce it simultaneously across the GCC in order to minimise the risk of arbitrage between these countries, but having less than nine months [in which] to not just build the system, but [also] educate staff and to structure - or possibly restructure - will be extremely difficult.

Construction companies will certainly have a lot of complex issues to deal with, especially if there are certain exemptions or rate reliefs on [particular] types of construction works. VAT is a self-assessment tax, and so the burden is on the businesses to assess their tax liability, collect tax, and pay it to the government. Accurate and timely compliance is important to avoid fines, interest and penalties.

INDUSTRY NEWS

All that you need to know!

And in an economy that has been tax-free for most of its history, businesses might find it difficult to get used to timely tax

These concepts, which pose challenges in countries such as the UK - a country that has had VAT for more than 40 years - will be even more challenging to introduce in a jurisdiction that is not only unused to the tax, but also did not "have a culture of taxation to begin with".

Implementation, will also be expensive for the sector in the coming year. Big construction companies are going to have to spend a lot of money, not just on having systems to be able to charge VAT, but to also be able to determine their own VAT status

Companies will have to hire accountants to aid in the transition and compile paperwork, and will also need to train staff in the new

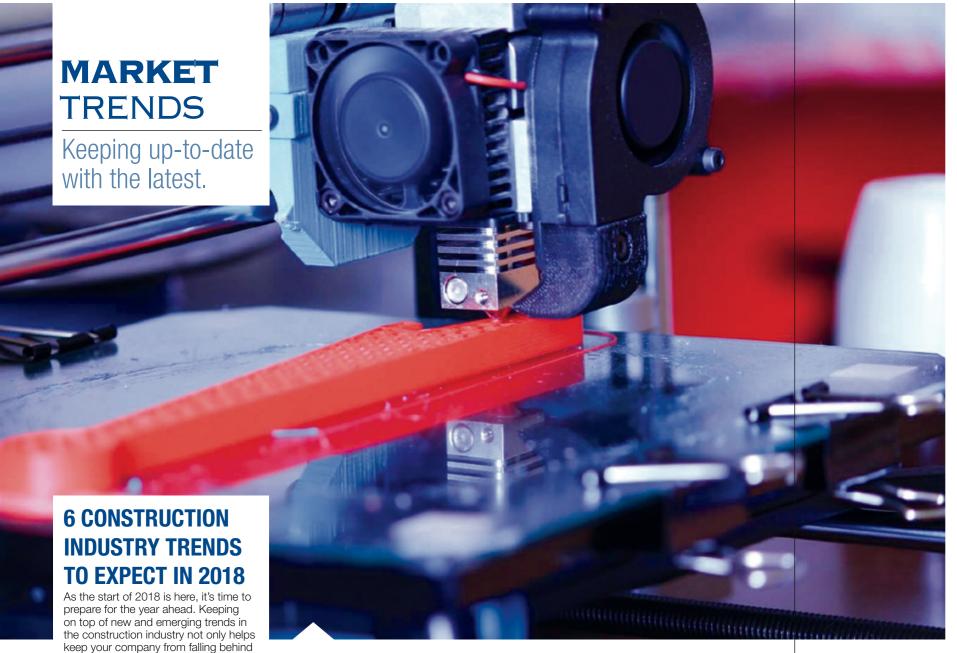
Mr. Sameer Nass, Chairman of Nass Corporation said: "We have in fact started upgrading our financial systems and hired tax experts to train our accountants and purchasers. Nass Corporation and its various companies is ready for VAT".

With each country set to finalise its own VAT law within the year, many questions remain unanswered as to how affected sectors will handle the changes. "Ideally, these new laws should be issued by the first half of this year, in order to allow companies and individuals to prepare, but the details and official date of issuance have not yet been revealed. While the sector is dealing with an overall slowdown, an added burden of VAT may just make the recovery that much more

So far, it has been revealed that registration for VAT will be completed through a fully electronic system. The UAE has already announced that companies will be able to register from October of this year.

Mr. Nass added: "VAT basically means an overall rise in construction costs by 5%, which will be covered eventually by the client. I do not think applying VAT will have a damaging effect on the industry, but we yet need to wait and see how things go in UAE and KSA to learn from their experience".

In Our Next Chairman's NASS Project Economic Industry Market Our Greatest In Our Next Chairman's NASS Project Economic Industry Market Our Greatest Spotlight Spotlight News Updates News News Trends Asset Community News Updates News Trends Story Community Issue Story Issue News





Increase in modular and prefabrication construction projects

In 2017, modular and prefabrication construction has become an increasingly popular trend due to its cost-effectiveness and energy efficiency.

With material prices expected to stay high, modular and prefabrication construction will continue to be an attractive option in 2018. Expect to see a lot more pop-ups and permanent modular buildings, as well as prefab houses this upcoming year!

Technology advancements and integration

While the construction industry has been notoriously slow to jump into the technology revolution, soon companies will have no choice. With mobile and cloud applications, technology will only continue to grow in 2018. Expect to see more 3D printing and drone usage, as well as self-driving vehicles. Another big thing to look out for is an increase in virtual and augmented reality use. This type of technology is changing the entire industry as we know it by allowing us to see projects before building and allowing virtual construction site tours.

Construction industry must participate in the technological revolution, or they will not be able to grow.



Better safety procedures

It's no secret that the construction industry is known for its significant amount of workplace accidents. This knowledge has placed increased scrutiny on the construction industry throughout 2017. In 2018, expect to see a continued focus on implementing better safety procedures in the field. With new technology and safety mobile apps, construction companies have more resources than ever before to ensure a safer work environment. Safety technology is expected to improve continually in the upcoming year.

June - December 2017 | Issue 20

but also helps prepare you for the future. With the continuing growth and evolution of the construction industry, companies must stay up-to-date if they

While it can be difficult to predict exactly what 2018 holds for the

construction industry, there are a few

significant construction industry trends

want to remain competitive.

that we can expect to see.

Keeping on top of

new and emerging

trends, helps

falling behind.

companies from

Trends

Story



Slower growth

Story

While construction demand is expected to continue to grow, growth will be slower than originally predicted. This will be especially true for the beginning months of 2018. While there will be a few dips, the industry should still see growth through both residential and nonresidential sectors. This also means competition will increase.



Increased importance on sustainability

Environmental sustainability has become a hot topic of discussion in the last few years and is expected to stay that way. In 2018, a focus on ecological benefits will remain a trend throughout the industry as well as an increased emphasis on the financial benefits. Expect to see increasingly green business models!





Increasing material costs

In 2017, we have seen a steady increase in the price of materials. Due to the rising price of supplies and skilled labor, construction companies have been put in a tough situation. Prices are expected to stay high throughout 2018, meaning construction companies need to start thinking about saving costs in other areas if they want to stay competitive. One way that companies can ensure they are getting the most bang for their buck is through new construction technologies. For example, new mobile applications help keep better track of employee work patterns and monitor where materials are at all times.

Overall, the outlook for the construction industry is bright. As with any industry though, it will have its challenges to overcome. The best thing that construction companies can do is to stay knowledgeable and open to new ideas and ways of doing things. The construction industry will continue to evolve through 2018, and it's up to construction firms on whether or not they want to grow with it.



NASS CONTRACTING EMPLOYEES GEAR UP WITH IRCA

Nass Contracting has nominated three of its employees to receive the International Register of Certified Auditors (IRCA), which is considered the highest certificate in QMS auditing from Charted Quality Institute (CQI). The certificates were handed over by Mr. Izhar Ahmed, Training Manager at Bureau Veritaz Middle East, in the company's Ma'ameer

Mr. Saurav Sen, QA/QC Manager, Mr. Abdulnabi Marhoon, HSE Manager and Mr. Shahzad Shakoor, Senior Technical Engineer took the extensive five-day course to develop the knowledge and skill required to conduct a third-party audit of an organisation's Quality Management System (QMS) which will boast Nass Contracting qualification for the ISO 9001:2015 certificate in July of this year.

Mr. David Anthony congratulated his employees and said: "Investing in the development of manpower is the greatest asset for any organisation and at Nass Contracting we value that"



Mr. Shahzad Shakoor, Senior Technical Engineer, Mr. Izhar Ahmed, Training Manager from Bureau Veritaz Middle East, Mr. Abdulnabi Marhoon, HSE Manager and Mr. Saurav Sen, QA/QC Manager at Nass Contracting office in Ma'ameer.



HND CERTIFIED

Nass Contracting's Samya Al Mohsen, Clerk, and Mohammed Abaza, Diving Supervisor, have recently received Pearson's BTEC Level five Diploma in Construction and The Built Environment (Civil Engineering).

The two employees passed with distinction. They received the certificates in August, 2017 from Bahrain Training

Worth mentioning, both employees started their courses in 2013 while still performing their full time duties in Nass Contracting, including, the work on the Diyar Al Muharraq Reclamation and Edge Protection project.

Mr. David Anthony, General Manager of Nass Contracting said: "These two employees have performed exceptionally on site during their studies and had to manage with little sleep to achieve their targets. We are extremely proud of them and wish them all the best in their striving careers".

Project

News

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION





SHARPENING SKILLS

Ms. Fatima Ali, Nass Commercial Administrator, has recently obtained a certificate in HR Basic Skills from AMA International Training Institute in Bahrain on July 2017.

Ms. Fatima, who has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from University of Bahrain, wanted to develop and sharpen her HR skills to further help her with her day-to-day responsibilities at work. This course has helped her discover new methods and strategies to support her productivity and work quality

Congratulations Ms. Fatima, and we wish you all the best!

ACCREDITATION

Our Greatest

Asset

Mr. Asif Kannoth from Nass Contracting's IT Department has been appointed as an "Approved CrestDocs Trainer" for Nass Contracting. CrestDocs is a drawing and document control solution that Nass Contracting is implementing on all its projects to control the day to day issue, approval and management of all project documentation. The solution allows the users to collaborate at all stages of a project from feasibility through to final completion and archiving of a project. Asif received the award from Mr. Daniel Dent, Director of Crest Software during a recent visit to Bahrain.





CERTIFIED

Mr. Ali Abdulla Ali, HSE Department Head of Nass Scafform Contracting, with his Certificate of Appreciation from The Ministry of Labour for his participation in "Working at Height Safety" awareness workshop. The workshop was held on 5th October, 2017 at the Ministry of Labour. Mr. Ali delivered a presentation to a mixed audience on the Hazards and Safety Considerations whilst working at height

IOSH CERTIFIED

Ms. Celeste Menezes, of Nass Food, received an IOSH Certificate in Managing Safely, which was awarded to her on 1st November, 2017 following successful completion of a four-day training course. She was presented the certificate by Mr. Greg Fenton who is the Regional HSE Manager for Nass Scafform and an IOSH trainer.

Nass Scafform Services (NSS) are an IOSH Training Provider and have been delivering courses in house to its staff over the past two years. In line with the directive for all divisions within the corporation to obtain ISO 18001 by April 2018, NSS extended this IOSH training to all division on request.

The "IOSH Managing Safely" course is for managers and supervisors in any sector, and any organisation. It's designed to get managers up-to-speed on the practical actions they need to take to handle safety and health in their teams. Recipients of this certificate are ideally positioned to further their "Health and Safety" training by attending a "NEBOSH" training course, which is suitable for personnel who are directly responsible for managing "Health and Safety" within an organization.

NSS will continue to support other divisions within the corporation and will be presenting another Nass Food employee with a certificate in January, 2018 following successful completion of the course.



RECOGNISING LOYALTY AND DEDICATION





Mr. Mathew cutting his celebration cake with his management and colleagues

WELCOME ABOARD

Mr. Shereef Mohammed Hamed has recently joined Allied Car Rental team as Airport Branch Supervisor.

Mr. Shereef will be managing airport branch operations to ensure provision of the best service to all customers who rent their favourite cars from that

Mr. Shereef expressed his excitement for his new role and said: "Joining Allied Car Rental is a big leap in my career. As for being part of Nass Group; one of the biggest corporations in the region; it shifts the scope of my ongoing work experience into a wider and brighter horizon".



A FOND FAREWELL

Nass Contracting management and employees said their goodbyes to their long serving colleague; Mr. Roy Mathew on 31st August, 2017.

Mr. Mathew, who worked as a Chief Estimator with Nass Contracting since 1992, celebrated his retirement in the head office with a cake and gifts.

On this occasion, Mr. Mathew thanked his management and colleagues by saying: "My time with Nass Contracting was the best time of my life. I enjoyed working with my other family, which respected me, loved me and stood by me, even in the darkest hours. For this, I am eternally grateful."

And on this occasion, Mr. David Anthony, General Manager of Nass Contracting said: "It was a pleasure working with Mr. Mathew, he was dedicated, loyal and efficient. Nass Contracting will miss you".



Updates



DEDICATION, AWARDED

A mega event commemorating Labour Day 2017 was organised by 4PM news at the Indian Club in Manama wherein an employee from Sarens Nass Middle East was shortlisted by the newspaper to be honoured on the night of the event.

The initiative was to dignify and honour all labourers across the kingdom for their relentless effort and undying spirit towards building our beloved kingdom. Representatives from Ministry of Labour, and other leading organisations attended the event.

The celebration also aimed at nominating top performing employees with an "Excellence Award" and the Senior Crane Operator of Sarens Nass, Mr. Mcshane Auguster Parker was nominated for his long service, loyalty, consistent high performance, and attitude towards his job, colleagues and senior managers.



CELEBRATING WORKFORCE Nass Asphalt has celebrated Labour Day on 1st May, 2017 where admin, management and staff visited all sites and presented their employees with Casey cooler bags, string bags, snacks, water and juices. This interve comes as an appreciation from the management of Nass Asphalt to the entire workforce that forms the solid pillar of the organisation.

LONG SERVING LOYALTY

Nass Asphalt employees bid farewell to Mr. Vunchai Dawloy who worked in Nass Group for over 40 years. He started his career with Nass Central Garage on 6th October, 1977. Apart from his long service in Bahrain, he was also sent to various Nass Projects in Kuwait, and Oman. Vunchai joined Nass Asphalt on 27th August, 2004. In his farewell speech, Mr. Gerard Hutton mentioned that Vunchai was an excellent Welder and Fabricator and completed the jobs assigned to him to the full satisfaction of the management.

When asked to comment about his long years of service with Nass Group, Vunchai said, "I am very happy and proud to have worked with NASS. During my 40 years of service, many other companies asked me to join them, but I refused such offers because I did not consider any other company better than NASS in Bahrain. I will greatly miss my colleagues and the management team of Nass Asphalt".



NASS RAMADAN GHABGA

Nass Commercial, Nass Marine Services, and Nass Procurement and Logistics, joined hands with Nass Corporation Marketing Department to organise a unified Ramadan Ghabga for the divisions management and employees.

The action-filled night started with a welcoming speech from Ms. Asha Anish Mathew, Head of Corporate Communications and Marketing of Nass Corporation, welcoming all divisions and wishing them a lovely evening.



Fun started when divisions employees interacted with quizzes which allowed them to win fantastic gifts which included; home appliances, smart gadgets and electronics. Children also had a great share winning many gifts while interacting with games and quizzes. The night was concluded by draws on mega gifts which included tablets and laptops.

Mr. David McKay, General Manager of Nass Marine Services, inaugurated the mega draw session by calling in winning numbers followed by Mr. Ahmed Saber El Fawal, General Manager of Nass Commercial. Draw gifts included tablets and laptops. Lucky winners were handed their gifts and photographed in the photo booth designated for the purpose.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Nass Procurement welcomed 12 Logistics and Distribution Management students from University of Bahrain as part of their academic studies. The students went under a 15-day training course in various departments to provide them with practical work field. The training course aimed to develop the students' skills at a professional level with efficiency and effectiveness. During their training, the

students were constantly supervised, guided and evaluated based on their accomplishments. NASS Procurement supervisors were advised to submit a detailed report about the students' performance on a day-to-day basis, which added value and support to the course. Certificates of appreciation were handed to successful students at the end of the training course by their direct supervisors.



COVER STORY

Hitting big for NASS.

The acquisition of UDC

Nass Corporation, the versatile industrial leader, finds it only natural to have the desire to expand and acquire new businesses in order to become a self-sufficient one-source supplier in the market.





Mr. Lawrence Du Preez, General Manager of

In the last quarter of 2017, Nass Corporation has signed a memorandum of understanding after obtaining an approval from the Annual General Meeting in Nass Corporation to acquire 60% of the marine sand dredging company, United Dredging Company (UDC), a full acquisition of assets of the sandwashing company, Dream Sandwashing, and a full acquisition of assets of Dream Readymix. In addition to the acquisition, the deal included an enforcement of closure to both Dream Sandwashing and Dream Readymix.

Marine sand, a volatile commodity

The fluctuating prices of marine dredged sand, shortage of supply and constant increase of market demand, were Nass Corporation's main motive to acquire shares in UDC when presented with the opportunity. UDC, located in RasZuwaid, can provide Nass Corporation with its marine dredged sand requirement, not only to secure marine sand for its own operations, but also to become a significant supplier of marine sand on the market, which has become an increasingly volatile commodity to the construction industry in

After conducting a thorough due diligence of which an initial evaluation of the company was conducted, Nass Corporation

reached the decision to acquire 60% shares and management of UDC. The timeframe to change the operating name from UDC to Nass Dredging Company (NDC) is scheduled to take effect by 1st March 2018, however, operations until then will continue as is.

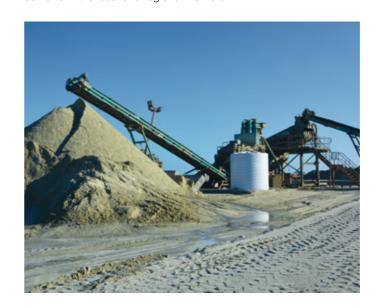
Nass Corporation has also announced the arrival of Mr. Lawrence Du Preez as a General Manager of NDC. Mr. Du Preez joined NDC in December and has effectively taken over the running of the company's day-to-day operations.



Fulfilling market demand of washed sand!

Nass Sand Processing Plant (NSPP) had a fair share in this acquisition, as it was able to fully acquire and operate Dream Sandwashing, effective immediately. The NSPP team took over the operations overnight without causing any disruption to the production, or alteration in systems

This takeover is set to increase NSPP's production, which will help supply the required amount of washed sand to other NASS divisions such as Delmon Readymix. It will also cater to the increasing sand demand in the local and regional markets.





Readymix production hike-up

As part of the acquisition, Delmon Readymix was also able to acquire the assets of its competitor Dream Readymix. Dream Readymix was initially established in late 2008 to supply concrete to its sister pool company, Dream Pools, but had been unable to gain a significant foothold in the Bahrain market since then.

Jon Mottram, General Manager of Delmon Readymix, declared that, "This is an excellent deal and a great fit for Delmon. It comes at an opportune time, enabling the Company to capitalise on the further growth in the ready mixed concrete market expected in the second half of 2017 and into 2018. We welcome the new employees from Dream Readymix and hope they enjoy their new roles with the Company."

IN THE **COMMUNITY**

NASS is committed to adding value to the communities through the corporate social



AFRIDI VISITS NASS LABOUR CAMP

An event of commitment to a charitable cause.

Mr. Shahid Afridi (popularly known as Shahid "Boom Boom" Afridi), the former Pakistani cricketer and former captain of the Pakistan national cricket team, and Mr. Harbhajan Singh, the Indian international specialist spin bowler, owner of second-highest number of test wickets by an off spinner, and former captain of IPL team; Mumbai Indians, have joined hands for a good cause.

Both legendary cricketers have visited one of NASS's labour camps on 27th October, 2017 as part of Mr. Shahid's world tour, which aims to spread awareness about his charity foundation; the Shahid Afridi Foundation, an NGO that helps the underprivileged sections of the society in Pakistan.



Mr. Afridi, Left and Mr. Singh sharing words of love and peace with the crowd.

COOLING THE SUMMER

Nass Contracting in cooperation with Ministry of Labour and Social Development have organised an Ice Cream distribution event. This event targeted all Nass Contracting onsite labourers and workers within Sitra area on August, 2017.

Worth mentioning; this event was organised as part of the ministry's "Cooling The Summer" campaign, which launched from July to September, 2017.

Ministry of Labour representatives visited various work sites with the Ice Cream van and distributed chocolate, strawberry, mango and vanila flavoured ice cream cones and took memorable photographs with the workers.

Mr. Afridi, got the chance to meet more than three thousand workers from different countries who were extremely excited to meet the

Mr. Afridi who has become Pakistan's legendary big-hitting cricketer, premier spin bowler and Captain of Pakistan T20 cricket team introduced his foundation with a few emotional words during his visit to the camp and said: "Since first established in 2014, SAF has symbolized the importance of making a difference in Pakistan and

He added: "SAF has a vision to create an ocean of love, happiness and peace for the needy and destitute in Pakistan through the support and encouragement off its followers and donors. The objective is to establish a healthy, stable and secure life for the underprivileged people of Pakistan, especially children. We aspire to transform the lives of our people by generating rays of hopes through our services and programs".

Mr. Singh who shares the same passion for philanthropy work, expressed his extreme gratitude for getting the chance to meet the workers, and in a short message, he said: "Let us join hands, and try to make a difference in this world. Let us not be divided by politics, religion and hate, but joined by acceptance, love, and peace for one

Mr. Bashar Nass. Director in Nass Corporation commented on this event by saying: "We are delighted with Mr. Afridi's and Mr. Singh's visit, it means a lot to us that they chose our company and our camps to visit. We wish them all the best in their quest."

NASS CORPORATION CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

Our employees' inner wellness is equally important.



Mr. Sameer Nass. Chairman of Nass Corporation, H.E. Mr. Kumar Sinha, Indian Ambassador and Mr. Hemant Joshi.

Nass Corporation in association with the Indian Embassy, celebrated International Day of Yoga on 19th June, 2017 at their Mina Salman Headquarters. Mr. Sameer A. Nass, Chairman of Nass Corporation, welcomed H.E. Mr. Alok Kumar Sinha, the Indian Ambassador to Bahrain, on this occasion and thanked him for his kind gesture in attending the event.

Mr. Hemant Joshi, Director of Nass Corporation, inaugurated the event by thanking the Indian Ambassador, and the Indian Embassy for facilitating the event. He said: "The ancient practice of Yoga has helped millions of individuals across the world in achieving holistic well-being. In addition to the positive health benefits, Yoga has mental and spiritual core".

He added: "Nass Corporation has, over the years, conducted itself in a manner that corporate social responsibility, community development and employees' well-being have been accorded highest priority and its celebration of this Yoga event is a manifestation of that culture".

H.E. the Indian Ambassador, highlighted the immense benefits of Yoga and appealed to all to continue practicing and promote it such that its benefits are reaped by all. The event was a great success with more than 120 attendees, employees, and their family members participating in the event.



Shk. Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa honouring Mr. Sameer Nass. Chairman of NASS Corporation for supporting Nasser 10.

NASSER 10 SPONSORSHIP

Nass Corporation has supported the Nasser bin Hamad Ramadan Sports Game "Nasser 10".

This tournament occurrence was unique, as it marked its 10th anniversary and was celebrated by giving away 10 cars in the final game on 9th June, 2017.

Prince Nasser bin Hamad, President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, expressed his great appreciation to Nass Corporation for generously sponsoring his event.

Mr. Sameer Nass, Chairman of Nass Corporation was honoured in a special ceremony that took place last August with a trophy to mark his constant support of activities, which benefit the community and youth.

SPONSORING THE 10TH KHT

Nass Contracting Annual Golf sponsorship, appraised.

Nass Contracting supported the 10th King Hamad Trophy Golf Championship (KHT), which was organised by The Bahrain Golf

The championship was held at The Royal Golf Club, between 16th to 19th November, 2017 and was open to professional and amateur golfers to get the chance to defeat the defending champion, former European Tour player Andrew Marshall.

Mr. David Anthony, General Manager of Nass Contracting expressed his enthusiasm to be part of this event by saying: "We extend our gratitude to His Majesty for this great initiative which puts the Kingdom on the international Golf sports map. We are delighted to be part of this achievement as a Gold Sponsor, and look forward to this

Worth mentioning, The King Hamad Trophy Golf Championship offers prizes worth over USD 23,000 and attracts many talented amateurs and professional regional and international golfers. More than 100 golfers representing their countries from all over the world competed in this prestigious annual event.



Mr. David Anthony, General Manager of Nass Contracting handing sponsorship cheque to Mr. Adel Al Fayyadh, representative of The Bahrain Golf Association.

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