

TRANSPORTATION /



BA adds fourth daily flight on London-Dubai route

Transportation

UK carrier says additional service in response to demand, will start on Jan 2, 2009.

Abu Dhabi firm exports buses to Australia

Transportation

Hafilat Industries starts shipping first batch of European buses to city of Melbourne.

Pirates seize Saudi-owned supertanker

Transportation

UPDATE 2: Vessel hijacked has cargo of \$100mn worth of oil on board.

New company set up to run air ambulance service

Transportation

Prestige Flight Ambulance to operate two aircraft dedicated to emergencies in UAE.

Abu Dhabi firm exports buses to Australia

by Andy Sambidge on Tuesday, 18 November 2008

Abu Dhabi-based Hafilat Industries has started shipping its first export batch of European buses to Australia from its factory in Mussafah, which opened earlier this year.

The shipment to Australia will be part of the company's contract to supply Melbourne with Low Floor city-buses on Mercedes Benz chassis.

This contract reverses the usual paradigm in the UAE of importing vehicles to manufacturing and exporting vehicles.



BUS EXPORTS: Hafilat buses will soon be seen on the streets of Melbourne, Australia.

The establishment of Hafilat's factory is seen as a ground-breaking move to establish a local manufacturing industry that serves the region and other global markets, supporting the UAE's move toward economic diversification.

Obaid Sughair Khalaf Al Qubaisi, Hafilat director, said: "The UAE is the first country in the GCC to build European quality buses. With the fast-developing nature of the region, and increasing environmental awareness, demand for high quality, safe public transport vehicles is set to grow exponentially.

"Accordingly, there are major business opportunities for a local bus manufacturer in this region."

Qubaisi added: "We are sourcing some of the aluminium needed from a factory in Abu Dhabi. Our policy of 'buying local' wherever possible will support home-grown companies and reduce our carbon footprint in the long-run."

The order is for a fleet of new generation Low Floor City buses for use in Melbourne, which feature disabled access, kneeling function, multiplexed electrics, sophisticated video surveillance, electronic signage and full aluminium body.