

UAE starts to export buses



By Staff Writer on Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Hafilat Industries has started shipping its first batch of buses to Australia from their Musaffah-based factory in Icad-1, 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.

"The UAE is the first country in the GCC to build European-style 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," said Director Obaid Sughair Khalaf Al Qubaisi.

"One of the advantages of building buses in the UAE for both the local and export market is the boost it provides to the UAE economy. For example, we are sourcing some of the aluminium needed from a factory in Abu Dhabi. Our policy of "buying local" wherever possible will support homegrown companies and reduce our carbon footprint in the long run."

General Manage, Bob McCulloch said aluminium buses are stronger and lighter than the current imported steel buses used in the UAE.

He said: "Aluminium buses do not rust, thus reducing customers' operational and maintenance costs. The technology we are using combined with European best practices as our quality standard also means that Hafilat-produced buses are among the safest and most environmentally-friendly in the world today."

Apart from the city buses, Hafilat also has the facilities to manufacture a full range of public transport buses, including articulated city, double deck, compressed natural gas (CNG), hybrid (electric) and trolley buses. The operation is expected to boost UAE-based companies.



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