

## UAE's Hafilat Industries wins contract to manufacture buses for export

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UAE. Hafilat Industries, the region's leading manufacturer of quality aluminium buses licensed by Australia's Volgren, has won an AED30million (US\$8.6 million) contract to produce and export European-quality buses to Australia.

Production will commence this month at Hafilat's 10,000 square metre factory located in ICAD, Mussafah, Abu Dhabi, and will take approximately four months to complete before the buses are exported to Australia.

Hafilat Director, Obaid Sughair Qubaisi said: "This agreement is a major milestone in the bus manufacturing industry of the UAE. It will also benefit the UAE's basic industries through the purchase of locally-manufactured glass and aluminium and materials from small to medium businesses."

"We have won this contract because of our commitment to the highest standards of manufacturing, a commitment which will continue to benefit the country as the UAE develops its own intensive public bus network."

The contract states that Hafilat will build Volgren's 'New Generation City Bus' on a Euro IV Mercedes Benz chassis originating from Spain, all of which will feature multiplexed electrics, sophisticated video surveillance, electronic signage, and a full aluminium body.

Hafilat's General Manager, Bob McCulloch stated: "We will manufacture state-of-the-art public transport buses designed for the rugged environment of the City of Melbourne, Australia. They will be top-quality high-tech buses with kneeling function for disabled access and will meet the latest environmental standards such as Europe's Euro IV emission standard."

UAE is the first country in the GCC to be building European-quality buses. Hafilat uses Swiss technology which is further enhanced by its Australian partner Volgren. The buses are not only lighter - which is good for the environment - but are stronger and safer for the passengers and the driver. Additionally, they do not rust, which makes them cheaper to operate and maintain.

Apart from City Buses, Hafilat has a full range of public transport buses, including the articulated city model, double decker, compressed natural gas (CNG), hybrid (electric) and trolley buses.

Note: Hafilat is a UAE company and the first GCC-based European quality bus builder. The buses are made from aluminium, similar to aircraft, heavy duty trucks and high performance cars. The extrusions which are stronger and lighter than steel are bolted together using the Swiss Co-Bolt manufacturing system. This provides buses which are lighter, safer and more repairable, which provides a lower cost of ownership for operators.

Hafilat Industries is a joint venture between Specialised Investment Group, Emirates Link Group and Volgren.