

## **Hafilat Industries wins AED30 million contract to manufacture buses for export**

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WAM Abu Dhabi, May 18th, 2008 (WAM) -- Hafilat Industries, the region's leading manufacturer of quality aluminium buses licensed by Australias' Volgren, has won an AED30 million contract to produce and export European-quality buses to Australia.

Production will commence this month at Hafilat's 10,000sqm factory located in ICAD, Mussafah, Abu Dhabi, and will take approximately four months to complete before the buses are exported to Australia, a company press release said Sunday.

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.