



## PRESS RELEASE

### HH Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan inaugurates Hafilat Industries' new 13,000sqm Mussafah factory

*- HH Sheikh Hamed tours the facility and commends Hafilat's contribution to Abu Dhabi's strive towards industrial excellence and facilitation*

**Abu Dhabi: May 27 2008**, - His Highness Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chief of the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court and Chairman of the Higher Corporation of Specialised Economy Zones (ZonesCorp), today inaugurated Hafilat Industries' new factory located in ICAD, Mussafah, Abu Dhabi. The ceremony was attended by the Australian Ambassador His Excellency Jeremy Bruer, and was hosted by Mr Khalaf Soghair Bin Khedaih Al Qubaisi, Hafilat Chairman, and Hafilat Vice Chairman Mr Jawaan Al Khaili.

During the inauguration ceremony, HH Sheikh Hamed praised Hafilat's efforts and latest achievement, and mentioned how this will play an active role in the evolving diversification and industrialisation of the UAE.

Hafilat Industries is the region's only manufacturer of quality aluminium buses and the GCC's first European-quality bus builder. The company invests heavily in the quality of its staff, staff training, manufacturing facilities and, through its partner Volgren, in research and design. "The new factory is a milestone for us. It represents our own growth as well as that of Abu Dhabi's Industrial Zone. With the government's vision of developing the UAE capital as a place of industrial excellence, we have committed ourselves to manufacture products of the highest standards and sourcing aluminium and glass from other UAE based Companies. We are proud to be playing a contributing role in the UAE's trade growth," said Hafilat Director, Obaid Sughair Qubaisi.

With the number of buses in Abu Dhabi and Dubai expected to reach over 500 and 2000 respectively, Hafilat's expansion and new factory has come at the right time. The 13,000sqm built-up state-of-the-art factory has been designed to enable world class flow manufacturing principles to be applied. It features European-sourced tools

and machines enabling the manufacture of high-quality Volgren bus bodies. The factory has been set up to enable production on any of the major chassis brands: MAN, Mercedes Benz, Scania or Volvo.

"For our first stage, we have plans to build 300 buses annually. With demand for public transportation rising the way it is, we have the capacity to increase that amount to 500. Should public demand exceed this, we have the ability to expand the factory size by an additional 10,000 sqm on our adjoining land, thus doubling our annual output to 1000 buses per year," said Bob McCulloch, Hafilat's General Manager.

Hafilat is the first company in both the UAE and the GCC to be building European-quality buses. Our bus bodies are aluminium which is a high-tech material that is also used in aeroplanes and high performance cars. Using aluminium, Swiss technology "Co-Bolt®" and adhering to Volgren's principles, the buses are not only lighter- which is good for the environment, but are stronger and safer for the passengers and the drivers. The use of the bolt system and aluminium also mean that they are also cheaper to operate and maintain.

Hafilat's product range includes: City Buses, Articulated City, Double Deck, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG City), Hybrid (electric) and Trolley Buses. All of Hafilat's buses are handicap-friendly and can be customised as per client requests.

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**Note to Editors:**

**About Hafilat Industries LLC**

Hafilat is a UAE 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 – more environmentally friendly, stronger - safer for passengers and drivers, repairable – which provide a lower cost of ownership for operators.

Our vision is to deliver a better method of transportation for passengers and operators.

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

For more information, please contact:

Iyad Ansari, Director, Hafilat

+971 50 642 6400

Or

Robert McCulloch, General Manager, Hafilat

+971 50 526 5793

Email [info@hafilatme.com](mailto:info@hafilatme.com)

Website: [www.hafilatme.com](http://www.hafilatme.com)

