

New bus assembly plant to supply local, int'l markets

(By a staff reporter)

28 May 2008

ABU DHABI — The UAE has started assembling buses which will not only meet the growing local needs but will be exported also.

At an opening ceremony, Shaikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chief of the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court and Chairman of the Higher Corporation of Specialised Economic Zones (ZonesCorp), inaugurated Hafilat Industries' new factory located in Industrial City of Abu Dhabi (ICAD-1).

The ceremony was attended by the Australian Ambassador Jeremy Bruer, government officials and businessmen.

In his remarks, Shaikh Hamed praised the leadership of The President His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan for focusing on the UAE's growing industrial profile, while diversifying the economy.

Hafilat Industries, the manufacturer of quality aluminium buses licensed by Australia's Volgren, has won an export order worth Dh30million from Australia. Production will commence this month and it will take four months to complete the export shipments.

The company will build Volgren's 'New Generation City Bus' on a Euro IV Mercedes Benz chasis originating from Spain, all of which will feature multiplexed electrics, sophisticated video surveillance, electronic signage, and a full aluminum body.

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 articulated city, double deck, compressed natural gas (CNG), hybrid (electric) and trolley buses.

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Shaikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the opening ceremony of Hafilat factory at ICAD, Musaffah, on Tuesday.— KT photo by Iftikhar Shaheedi

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