

RWI to launch new insulation pipes

RUBBER World Industries (RWI), a leading manufacturer of closed-cell rubber insulation Gulf-O-Flex, and part of the Shaikhani Group of Companies, will launch rubber insulation pipes at The Big 5 show in Dubai later this year.

Mahmood Shaikhani, group director of Shaikhani Group, said RWI has been an exhibitor at The Big 5 for the last 10 years and has showcased new products every year.

"Last year we introduced rubber sheets mainly used in the shipbuilding industry. This year we are introducing rubber insulation pipes. The pipes are large, at 5 inches in diameter and 3-1/2 inches in thickness. Currently, no one else is offering this product in the market," he said.

RWI also plans to invest in a new factory in Ras Al Khaimah to meet the growing demand for its products.

"We have been growing year on year with sales figures last year reaching Dh73 million (\$19.6 million). In order to meet the demand for our products, we are looking at setting up a factory in Ras Al Khaimah," he said.

The company expects growth in the construction sector to further drive the demand for its high-quality rubber insulation products, which Shaikhani said could match the requirements of the developments. It is set to intensify its efforts in order to fulfil the surge in demand through increased production and aggressive expansion initiatives.

RWI was established in 1993 at a 30,000-sq-ft facility. Today, its production unit covers a 130,000-sq-ft area. The company exports to 90 countries

worldwide and is a major shareholder in the Middle East. Around 40 per cent of its production is exported outside the GCC. Besides the UAE, its main markets are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Iran and India. Its current manufacturing capacity is 800 containers a year.

"In terms of quantity, we are producing 40,000 ft daily. However, there is still a gap. Inquiries and orders we receive are double our current capacity. So there is an expansion plan for more production lines to cater to the rising demand. In six to eight months, we will be increasing the capacity with the help of new lines," he said.

Globally, RWI has an office and warehouse in Houston, US, and an office in London, UK, in addition to distributors all over the world. It also recently bought land in Sri Lanka to set up a factory. "We are planning to set up a base there since the cost of labour, power and transport is cheap. The factory will cater to Asian and African countries like India, Nepal and Kenya. Sri Lanka is also a big market for RWI," Shaikhani said.

In addition, RWI has joint ventures in South Africa and Mexico.

Shaikhani said RWI currently had projects worth Dh25 million (\$6.8 million). The projects segment accounted for 30 per cent of its business while 30 per cent came from the air-conditioning market. Exports accounted for the remaining 40 per cent.

The Big 5 will be held from November 21 to 24 at the Dubai World Trade Centre in Dubai.

800-room resort on the way up

NAKHEEL and Spain's RIU Hotels & Resorts (RIU) have appointed Dar Al Handasah to oversee design, engineering and construction of their Dh900-million (\$245 million) joint venture resort and waterpark at Dubai's Deira Islands.

The 800-room resort is RIU's first property in the GCC.

A construction tender is expected to be released by the end of 2016, with anticipated completion in Q3, 2019. Set on a 3.4-million-sq-ft plot on Deira Islands, the resort will have four pools, a kids' club, spa and fitness centre, an all-day restaurant, a speciality restaurant, four beach eateries, a dining area with a stage for live shows and entertainment and a waterpark.

UPDATE

Dubai joins UN energy initiative

DUBAI'S Supreme Council of Energy has joined the Building Efficiency Accelerator (BEA) partnership launched by the United Nations (UN), to double rate of energy efficiency by 2030.

Building efficiency policies can result in 25 to 30 per cent reduction in energy demand from both new and existing buildings, saving money and reducing pollution.

Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, vice chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, said that through the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, the government was working to diversify Dubai's energy mix and increase use of clean energy sources with the goal of transforming Dubai into the city with the lowest carbon footprint on Earth.

Dubai is one of 12 new cities to join the BEA programme, making a total of 23 cities. By joining BEA, Dubai now has access to a global network of businesses, government organisations, and technical experts who specialise in improving building energy efficiency.

Meanwhile, the Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC) has also joined hands with the Supreme Council of Energy for the new initiative following a new partnership between the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) and the BEA to work together on energy efficiency.

ADFG wins real estate award

ABU DHABI Financial Group (ADFG) has named 'Emerging Markets Real Estate Manager of the Year' at the Global Investor/ISF Awards 2016 held in London, UK.

With a portfolio of more than \$4 billion in real estate projects, ADFG manages developments across Europe, the Middle East and the UK.

ADFG chief executive officer Jassim Alseddique said, "To win such a respected international award, that attracts entries from peers across the world, is a tremendous achievement for ADFG. Our portfolio of international developments is at the core of ADFG's business under management and underpins the firm's continued growth."

Perkins+Will appoints design director

GLOBAL architecture and design firm Perkins+Will has appointed Firas Hnoosh as a design director for its office in Dubai.

In his new role, Hnoosh will oversee all architectural work originating from the Dubai practice, help grow its multidisciplinary design portfolio.

Hnoosh has over 17 years of professional design experience, and has held design director roles at Abu Dhabi practices of two large international architectural firms.