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EGA to install highly-automated, multi-functional cranes in Jebel Ali, in step towards full crane automation

United Arab Emirates, 6 July 2022: Emirates Global Aluminium, the largest industrial company in the United Arab Emirates outside oil and gas, today announced the company is to install highly-automated, multi-functional overhead cranes in Jebel Ali in a step towards full automation of cranes used for reduction cell tending, and securing operations for decades ahead.

EGA is replacing 16 cranes that have completed their 25-year useful lives with just 14 new models that incorporate auto-positioning and advanced sensing capabilities.

The increased automation capabilities of the new cranes will improve safety, efficiency and reliability. The technology brings closer EGA's future ambition of operating cranes remotely from a central control room and ultimately fully-autonomous crane operation.

EGA has contracted Fives, a French industrial engineering group, to supply the new cranes. The first new crane is expected to be delivered before the end of 2023 with all 14 new cranes in operation by the beginning of 2025.

Reduction cell tending cranes at EGA perform complex tasks including anode replacement and metal tapping in a harsh environment with high heat and magnetism. Each crane weighs over 100 tonnes.

Abdulnasser Bin Kalban, Chief Executive Officer of EGA, and Sébastien Gauguier, Aluminium Division President of Fives Group, visited EGA's potlines in Jebel Ali together to mark the start of the crane replacement project.

Abdulnasser Bin Kalban, CEO of EGA, said: "Pot tending cranes are the workhorses of any aluminium smelter, and driving automation offers significant potential to reduce risks for people and improve efficiency and cost. Our new cranes will boost automation in our potlines from the day they are installed, and we expect to make great progress in further automation during these cranes' working lives. These cranes are an investment in the long-term robustness of our operations, and will help enable us to create value for many decades to come. Using technology to enhance operations is at the heart of EGA's Industry 4.0 strategy."



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Sébastien Gauguier, Aluminium Division President of Fives Group, said: “Fives has worked with EGA since aluminium production began in the UAE in 1979 and we are pleased to continue to earn the trust of the largest ‘premium aluminium’ producer in the world. Through our partnership with EGA we will together lead the industry in crane automation in aluminium smelters.”

EGA has more than 80 reduction cell tending cranes across its Jebel Ali and Al Taweelah sites in total.

ENDS (391 words)

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About EGA

Since 1975, when it was founded as Dubai Aluminium by His Highness Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Emirates Global Aluminium has been innovating aluminium to make modern life possible.

Today EGA is the world’s biggest ‘premium aluminium’ producer and the largest industrial company in the United Arab Emirates outside the oil and gas industry.

EGA is equally-owned by Mubadala Investment Company of Abu Dhabi and the Investment Corporation of Dubai. It is the largest company jointly owned by the two Emirates.

EGA is an integrated aluminium producer, with operations from bauxite mining to the production of cast primary aluminium. EGA operates aluminium smelters in Jebel Ali and Al Taweelah, an alumina refinery in Al Taweelah and a bauxite mine and associated export facilities in the Republic of Guinea.

EGA’s aluminium is the second largest made-in-the UAE export after oil and gas. In 2021, EGA sold 2.54 million tonnes of cast metal. EGA is the only UAE producer and makes the UAE the fifth largest aluminium producing nation in the world.

EGA has more than 400 customers in over 50 countries. In 2021, value-added products accounted for 84 per cent of EGA’s cast metal sales.

EGA’s aluminium is primarily used in the construction, automotive, packaging, aerospace and electronics industries.

Around 10 per cent of EGA’s aluminium production is sold in the UAE to around 26 downstream aluminium companies that make products with EGA’s aluminium. The growing broader aluminium sector in the UAE supports 60,950 jobs. EGA itself employs over 7,000 of these people including almost 1,200 UAE Nationals.

EGA has focused on technology development for over 25 years. EGA has used its own technology for every smelter expansion since the 1990s and has retrofitted all its older production lines. In 2016 EGA became the first UAE industrial company to licence its core industrial process technology internationally.

As a corporate citizen of the UAE, EGA aspires in all its operations to be measured amongst the world’s leading metals and mining companies in meeting its environmental and social responsibilities. In 2017, EGA became the first Middle East headquartered company to join the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative, a global programme to foster greater sustainability and transparency in the aluminium industry. In 2019, EGA’s Al Taweelah site became the first in the Middle East to receive certification from ASI for its sustainability practices and performance. EGA’s Jebel Ali site was certified in 2021. ASI certification is the aluminium industry’s internationally recognised standard for environmental and social performance and governance.



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In 2021, EGA began production of CelestiAL solar aluminium, produced with solar power from the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park on the outskirts of Dubai. EGA is the first company in the world to make aluminium commercially using the power of the sun.

EGA was formed in 2014 through the merger of Dubai Aluminium and Emirates Aluminium.

EGA's Jebel Ali aluminium smelter began production as DUBAL in 1979. At almost five square kilometres, this site is five times bigger than Dubai Mall.

EMAL started production in 2009 and its Al Taweelah aluminium smelter was the largest single-site aluminium smelter in the world when completed. EGA's Al Taweelah site is five times bigger than Al Maryah Island at six square kilometres.

EGA has its own power stations at both sites, producing electricity to meet its needs. EGA's electricity generation capacity is 6,474 megawatts, making EGA the third largest electricity generator in the UAE after the Dubai and Abu Dhabi utilities. EGA also produces water through desalination units at its power plants.

EGA began production at Al Taweelah alumina refinery in April 2019. EGA's alumina refinery is the first in the UAE and only the second in the Middle East. The project reduces the UAE's dependence on imported alumina and supplies over 40 per cent of EGA's needs.

Bauxite exports from Guinea Alumina Corporation, EGA's wholly-owned subsidiary in Guinea, began in August 2019. The GAC project was one of the largest greenfield investments in Guinea in over 40 years.

For more information on EGA please visit www.ega.ae.

About Fives

For over 200 years, the Fives Group has been at the heart of industrial revolutions. From the first railways, to the Eiffel Tower elevators, to the conquest of space, Fives has always been at the forefront of the industry of the future. A pioneer in decarbonization, the group is a key partner in the energy transition of industry. Through digitalization, the promotion of the circular economy, the development of new processes and new sources of energy, Fives puts its technological leadership at the service of its customers.

For more than 200 years, the group has designed breakthrough solutions and technologies that make industry. From the steam engine two centuries ago, to the 4.0 factory of the 21st century, Fives never ceases to innovate for a more efficient and sustainable industry. Present in 30 countries, close to its customers, the group has built its leadership on the regionalization of its expertise. By responding to the specificities of each market locally, Fives combines economic and environmental performance. Spearheading the fourth industrial revolution, the revolution of decarbonization, electromobility and the energy mix, Fives is always one innovation ahead thanks to its ability to anticipate customer needs.

About Fives' Aluminium business

Fives' Aluminium offer covers the design and supply of process equipment and complete installations for the primary aluminium industry.

The Aluminium Division is composed of 8 companies, more than 700 employees, including Fives Solios and Fives ECL in France but also close to customers in the Middle East with Fives Services Gulf, and Canada, South Africa, India and Australia.

For more information on Fives please visit www.fivesgroup.com