

Interview



BOSCH

Invented for life

Hamed Bin Lahej is the Chief Operating Officer of Drydocks World in Dubai. As general manager of the Jadaf shipyard, which now also belongs to the Drydocks World Group, he commissioned Bosch Rexroth with the construction of ship lifting equipment at the end of 2005.

Mr. Bin Lahej, the Dubai Drydock Authority grew its sales by 41 percent in fiscal 2006 and boosted its net profit by just under 80 percent – what are the reasons behind this development?

The main reason is Dubai. The region's enormous growth is increasing the number of ships in the Arabian Gulf and thus fuelling demand for what we offer. What's more, we have over 30 years' experience in the shipyard business. Our employees are therefore extremely knowledgeable about how ships of all kinds are repaired, maintained, or built from scratch.

And now your site is too small and you're moving...

Yes, our new, ultra-modern facilities in Dubai Maritime City will cover over one million square meters and will be sufficient for the next 20 years at least. We have 42 berths there, all between 100 and 150 meters long, and with the new ship-lifting and rail system from Bosch Rexroth, we can hoist ships out of the water that weigh up to 6,000 metric tons and transport them onward on land. This is more than double the previous figure.

Are there any further benefits?

Our current shipyard is on the Dubai Creek, a bit of a way inland. The new facilities now offer direct access to the open sea, thus making optimum use of Dubai's strategically convenient location. We also expect to see networking benefits through the proximity to the many other companies from the naval sector who will be locating to Maritime City. Furthermore, and this is particularly important for me, the new facilities will make us much more environmentally friendly than previously.

You recently took over a dock site in Singapore – you're evidently looking to expand further then?

That's right. Now that the new facilities have enabled us to secure over 15,000 jobs and the future of the shipping industry in Dubai, we are naturally studying the global market very closely. We're called Drydocks *World* and that's what we mean...