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Big boost for Oman's aviation sector

MUSCAT — Dr Khamis bin Mubarak al Alawi, Minister of Transport and Communications, signed here yesterday a series of agreements aimed at dramatically modernising the Sultanate's aviation sector. In all 13 agreements, collectively valued at RO 579.520 million, were inked.

The biggest of these contracts, valued at RO 450 million, was signed for the civil works development of the Muscat and Salalah international airport projects. A joint venture of Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC) and TAV Insat of Turkey will carry out the contract.

Strabag Oman has been awarded a contract worth RO 37,544,193 to implement the first stage of the Sohar Airport in the Batinah region. A similar contract for the first phase development of the Duqm Airport in Wusta region has gone to Desert Line Projects at a cost of RO 23,375,000.

Dr Al Alawi also inked a deal worth RO 18,000,025 with Boskalis Westminster for dredging works and soil reclamation at Muscat International Airport. This contract will be undertaken as part of the modernisation of the Muscat and Salalah international airports. Yet another agreement, worth of RO 15,960,000, concluded with Solitanche Pachy for improving and strengthening the soil at Muscat International Airport as part of Muscat International and Salalah airports development project.

Desert Line Projects will also undertake additional works for the construction of channels to discharge wadi water and roadside paving works as part of the Muscat and Salalah airports project at a cost of RO 18,104,801. France ADPi has been named project manager to supervise the regional airports under an agreement valued at RO 6,619,000.

Raytheon has been awarded a contract worth RO 4,959,209 to design, supply, install, inspect and operate a new radar at Muscat International Airport. Strabag Oman will also undertake the additional works annex (1) for the construction of Adam Airport project at the Wilayat of Adam in Al Dakhiliyah region at a cost of RO 3,600,000.

A contract to build a camel race track project parallel to the Adam airport has been awarded to Development and Maintenance Services at a cost of RO 504,930. Another agreement, worth of RO 326,100, was signed with the European Organization for Satellite Investment company covering co-operation between the Transport and Communications Ministry and the European Organization in the field of meteorology.

Microstep of Slovakia has won a contract worth RO 135,821 to supply, install, inspect and operate an automatic meteorology station and marine float for Salalah Airport. Finally, Lotus Modern International has been awarded a contract valued at RO 141,200 to construct an office building for meteorology.

Abdul Rahim bin Salim al Haremi, Director-General of Meteorology and Air Navigation at the Transport and Communications Ministry, said the agreements include the implementation of a number of development projects at Muscat International Airport, Salalah Airport and regional airports.

The agreements related to Muscat International Airport include the construction of the main road for the airport, a new blacktop along the internal corridors, as well as roads that connect all the airport entrances, roundabouts and the main road linking Sultan Qaboos Street. It also includes beautification of these roads with symbols of Omani architecture.

These projects are expected to be completed within two years, he added. Also to be implemented is a second runway to allow for the rehabilitation of the present runway tarmac to handle huge planes. The project specifications meet the international specifications approved by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Al Haremi added that bids for the construction of the Muscat International Airport building have been opened. Bids related to the construction of the building, its annexes, internal specifications and distributions inside the airport will be evaluated soon. Construction works related to Muscat International Airport and the internal projects are expected to be completed before the end of 2012. They will start operations at the beginning of 2013.

Engineer Saif bin Nassir al Hinaie, Assistant Director-General for Safety and Aviation Services for Technical Affairs, said that the agreement related to the domestic airports cover the first package for Sohar and Duqm airports. The works include the first stage covering land reclamation, construction of access roads, beautification of these roads, and provision of water, electricity and communications services.

The second package covers the construction of runways, while the third package is related to the building and other annexes. The capacity of the Sohar and Duqm airports will be 500,000 passengers each. Initially, the airports will receive 50,000 passengers in the first stage. The domestic airports have been designed to receive huge planes with runways that will be 4 km long and 75 metres wide.

(Source: - [Omanet](#))