

**ANALYSIS** HOW CAN YOU WIN MORE BUSINESS IN ABU DHABI?

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**TIMBER  
SECTOR**

Challenges  
and opportunities  
p40

# TOP INVENTIONS

Essential construction products and services  
that save money, time and manpower

# UAE, Qatar lead the way

The UAE and Qatar are ranked in the top 40 of the Global Innovation Index for 2011

**T**he UAE and Qatar rank the highest in the Middle East region on the Global Innovation Index (GII), according to the latest findings by the Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires (Insead), a leading international business school. The GII includes 16 economies from MENA, of which two – Qatar (26) and the UAE (34) – are ranked among the top 40.

Other GCC economies are ranked in the top 60: Bahrain (46), Kuwait (52), Saudi Arabia (54) and Oman (57, gaining eight places). Three countries from the region are within the bottom 15, including Syria (115), Yemen (123) and Algeria (125). Switzerland topped this year's GII ranking, with Sweden second and Singapore third. China (29) is the top-ranked emerging economy, while India is ranked 62, Sri Lanka 82, Bangladesh 97 and Pakistan 105.

"Innovation is critical to driving growth in developed and emerging economies, especially during a time when the global economy is still recovering," said Soumitra Dutta, Roland Berger Professor of Business and Technology at Insead, and study editor.

"After the recent slowdown, the focus has shifted towards developing regions, not only in terms of the potential market, but also as a hot spot for frugal innovations," said Dr. Naushad Forbes, Chairman of the CII Innovation Council 2011-12 and Director of Forbes Marshall.

The GII index clearly reflects that the global economic recovery is strengthening in most parts of the world. With the global economy forecast to grow at more than 4% in 2011, innovation is coming into its

own as an essential element of resilience as economies aim to sustain their growth while creating new jobs.

"The Middle East is a particular focus for innovation and benchmarking, representing an amalgam of international standards, with the majority of global OEMs being well-established in the region. The specific climatic conditions, combined with rapid growth and the prevalence of iconic structures, have combined to push the envelope in terms of what is achievable and deliverable," says Mapei's Laith Haboubi.

"The region is well open to new technologies. We witnessed that when WAGO introduced its spring-type (screw-less) technology into the market. We found very good acceptance in different sectors, and many engineers and technicians were interested to learn more about this technology," comments WAGO's Faisal Salem.

"Also it is clear that many of the big clients in the region are paying major attention in maintaining the leading international standards. They are always keen on high-quality products, which means long life for their investment and guaranteed results."

"What drives the innovative force is the adherence to ecological and economic sustainability criteria.

"Maintaining the natural environment and the essential foundations for future generations is, as far as GEZE is concerned, part of our social responsibility," says Middle East MD Charles Constantin.

CW herewith presents a collection of leading inventions from major suppliers and manufacturers aimed at keeping the construction industry at the forefront of development. **ew**



Thanks to Ace Hardware, Festival City Dubai for equipment loan



### VSL POST-TENSIONING

A key inventor in the post-tensioning sector is specialist company VSL. "Our key strength is our ability to provide continuous innovation and quality solutions to an increasingly competitive market," says newly-appointed Middle East GM Dominique Droniou.

Such a proactive approach is key to the company's new focus on Saudi Arabia and Qatar as growth markets, where value engineering and quality are paramount criteria.

VSL's experience in post-tensioning and related value engineering goes back more than 50 years. It is an acknowledged leader in the construction of bridges and special structures. As part of the Bouygues construction group, VSL brings innovative solutions and a wealth of experience from around the world to the region.

This includes technical expertise, resources, and equipment. Its products and services range from post-tensioning works in buildings, civil and infrastructure projects to special equipment and engineering for bridge construction, that is, pre-cast segmental, stay cables.

In addition, VSL is a leader in ground engineering, MSE walls, heavy lifting and bar systems. As a reliable partner, VSL is committed to offering an innovative contracting approach that enables the client to focus on what is best for the project.

Reference projects include the Dubai Metro (casting and erection of Red and Green line viaducts), and lifting of the Burj Khalifa spire and Ski Dubai dome at Mall of the Emirates.



The Dubai Metro is one of VSL Middle East's key reference projects.



Emac hangers are revolutionising suspended-ceiling installation.

### SAS INTERNATIONAL CEILINGS & PARTITIONINGS

The new pre-formed Emac hanger from SAS International is a cost-effective alternative to galvanised angle and wire used in suspended ceilings.

This simple yet highly effective invention is a major improvement on a tried-and-tested installation method.

The Emac hanger allows for reduced installation time as the product removes the need to snip, punch, fold or apply angle cleats. This, in turn, provides additional health and safety benefits, as the products are supplied ready-to-use, with no cutting required on-site.

Pre-formed and available in a number of different lengths, Emac hangers also reduce on-site wastage. The hanger provides quick fixing to grids or channels, offering improved accuracy on installation.

"In this current climate of rising material costs, it is important to invent products that respond to contractors' needs for greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness," comments Malcolm Stamper from SAS International.

By investing in new machinery and technological, SAS International is able to produce over 40 Emac hangers a minute, equating to 2,500 an hour.

In addition, these crucial fixtures are available direct from its Dubai Investment Park depot, allowing for competitive prices to be passed directly to the contractor.

"We have launched this product in the Middle East following great success in the UK, where the solution has proved popular with helping cut installation time and ultimately improving working practice," says Stamper.

# 2,500

Number of Emac hangers produced in an hour