

NEWS

## Mina al Arab \$9m completion

Gulf Landscape and Irrigation Systems has announced the completion of a \$9m landscaping project at Precinct 5 of the Mina al Arab waterfront project in Ras Al Khaimah. Work done on Precinct 5, a major component of the Mina Al Arab waterfront master community built on the theme of nature, included road works, street lighting, hard and soft landscaping, irrigation systems, landscape lighting, street furniture, water features, swimming pools and play area equipment.

## Kuwait FM firm named excellent

Tom Gilmartin, GM, EcovertFM Kuwait, has been awarded a certificate of excellence by the British Business Forum (BBF) at the British Excellence Awards Gala. Gilmartin joined EcovertFM Kuwait in 2008 and has taken the company to a total of 700 staff from 32 initially, and a total value of contracts worth over \$11m. Projects include the Al Kout Waterfront, KPC HQ, Bayet Abdullah Children's Hospice and Al Hamra Tower.

## MAF Dalkia top of the class

MAF Dalkia has become the first energy and FM company to receive four 'best in class' industry recognitions with ISO and OHSAS certifications. The ISO 14001 for environmental management, ISO 50001 for energy management and the OHSAS 18001 for occupational health and safety. The company also also renewed its ISO 9001 quality management certification.

## Dubai zero waste by 2030 goal set

Waste management master plan developed to cut waste to landfill by 90%

Dubai Municipality has set a goal for zero waste diversion to landfill by 2030.

An integrated waste management master plan is under development and involves bringing the percentage of rubbish being sent to landfills, currently between 80%-90%, down to zero within the next 20 years.

Each person contributes to about 2.7kg waste per day. Abdul Majeed Abdul Aziz Saifaie, director of Dubai Municipality's Waste Management Department, said people need to consider their own contributions to waste build-up.

"Efforts are needed at all stages. You can help minimise waste generation by being careful about your consumption along with the way you dispose of the waste. [Separating rubbish] will have a significant impact in reducing the quantity that goes to disposal sites," he said.

Rukhsana Kauser, founding partner of Liquid of Life, a supplier of fresh water filtration dispensers, said though ambitious, the plan could work, but many questions still need answering.

"The real issue is how the waste will actually be dealt with



Plastic waste reduction in landfills is not incentive enough for many companies to engage.

and where it will end up instead. Some plastic is shipped to recycling facilities [elsewhere] as there isn't a facility [capable] of recycling all grades of plastic here. Significant investment is needed to create facilities to deal with different waste streams.

"Waste-to-energy plants [...] can increase carbon footprint [according to studies]. Moreover, [any] initiative [must] be coupled with a strong campaign raising awareness on how to limit waste [generation]."

Khidmah has implemented Liquid of Life's products on a number of projects across Al Ain and Abu Dhabi.

"This initiative has enabled us in not only saving cost for our

clients but [...] also in bringing sustainability to the environment to some extent," said Abdulla Al Qanzi, MD, Khidmah.

But for businesses, says Kauser, the gain has to be financial as well as moral.

"It doesn't matter how 'clean' or 'green' something is, if it doesn't save businesses money then they are unlikely to switch. The return on investment on the capital expenditure of our units is normally within 12 months for most companies with ongoing savings of up to 80% against their current bottled water costs.

"There is a financial incentive for making a switch and the fact that less plastic waste ends up in the landfill is an added bonus."

## Oman Industrial estates FM contract awarded

Como United Facilities Management Services has won the operations and maintenance contract for a string of industrial estates in Oman.

The company, a JV between Shumookh Investment and Services SAOC, Takamul Investment Company SAOC and Shaqab Abela Catering Services LLC, was awarded the contract through the Public Establish-

ment for Industrial Estates (PEIE) and sees the provision of FM services including MEP and civil maintenance, landscaping, cleaning and pest control for Knowledge Oasis Muscat, Al Mazunah Free Zone, Rusayl, Nizwa, Sur, Raysut, Buraimi and Sohar industrial estates.

"It's a great honour for Como to carry out the maintenance and FM for the PEIE," said

Ayad Tassabehji, GM, Como. "We will provide our [...] experience and services to make sure that the facilities are run to the highest standards and will share our commitment to excellence and superior service delivery."

Como will also provide all the estates with a Computer Managed Maintenance Service which will include a call centre and 24/7 maintenance number.