

## Medco eyes dredging boost with new cutter

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**Middle East Dredging Company (Medco), in which United Development Company (UDC) has a stake, has added a new heavy-duty cutter suction dredger, costing more than QR500mn, to its vessel fleet.**

Medco (formerly Qatar Dredging Company) – whose other joint venture partners are Qatar Holding and Belgian Dredging, Environmental and Marine Engineering (DEME) Group – will register the vessel in Qatar with a formal naming ceremony scheduled for commissioning early next year.

“The new cutter dredger will be an additional and powerful competitive tool for Medco in future infrastructure projects in the Gulf region and beyond,” a company spokesman said after its launch at ASL Shipyard in Singapore on Wednesday.

Medco invested more than QR500mn (\$150mn) for ‘Al Jarraf’ and its auxiliary equipment’ to be well prepared for these major projects in Qatar, he said.

The company “is currently involved in the preparation and tendering process for two major, upcoming projects in the Gulf region – the New Doha Port Project Access Channel Dredging & Outer Breakwaters and the Qatar Bahrain Causeway Project, for which ‘Al Jarraf’ will be a major asset,” according to Medco chairman Abdulrahman Abdullah Abdulghani.

The new dredger is self-propelled, allowing it to sail on its own power between various working locations within the Gulf, without requiring the assistance of powerful tugboats. At the same time, it is of the heavy-duty type – featuring no less than 12,860KW of total installed power.

The combination of these two is a Medco trump card for competitive dredging of hard rock formations that are typical in Gulf waters, said the spokesman.

The 102x21m dredger has twin additional advantages. An integrated barge loading facility provides extra flexibility as it will be able to discharge both through the traditional floating pipeline and directly into a barge that would moor alongside the dredger.

The discharge power is significantly on the higher side in comparison to the current Medco flag-dredger, ‘Al Mahaar’, which allows for covering significantly larger distances between the dredging area and the reclamation area when pumping ashore.

‘Al Jarraf’ could dredge the sea bed at depths up to a maximum of 30m. Several high-tech developments on the new dredger have been realised through research and development by Medco’s partner and shareholder DEME, one of the leading dredging and marine groups in the world.

Apart from cutter suction dredgers, Medco’s equipment portfolio include Grab Dredgers (Spud Pontoons - Crane Pontoons), Self-elevating Pontoons, Booster Stations, Flat top Barge, Rock Barges, Auxiliary Equipment, Fuel Barge and Split trailing Suction Hopper Dredger.



Medco officials at the launch of ‘Al Jarraf’ at the ASL Shipyard in Singapore

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