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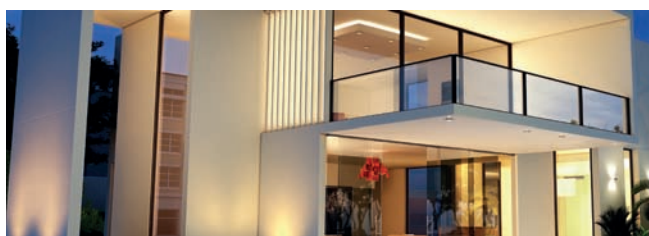
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North Field Expansion Project to reinforce Qatar leadership in global LNG market: McDermott Qatar head

By Pratap John
Business Editor

Gulf Times Exclusive

The North Field Development is a "massive" expansion project that will reinforce Qatar's leadership in the global LNG market at a critical time both from an energy transition and an energy security perspective, says Neil Gunnion, McDermott country head and vice-president (Operations - Qatar).

Early this year, QatarEnergy announced the awarding of a major Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Installation (EPCI) contract for the offshore scope of its North Field Expansion Project to McDermott Middle East Inc.

According to QatarEnergy, the scope for the awarded contract includes 13 normally unmanned wellhead platforms topsides (eight for NFE and five for NFS), in addition to various connecting pipelines and the shore approaches for the NFE pipelines, beach valve stations and buildings.

"It is clearly a very significant award and is in fact the largest single award for McDermott in Middle East, and as such the largest award for us in the Qatar market. It further solidifies our long-term relationship with both QatarEnergy and Qatargas, for whom we have been doing offshore projects to support the development of the country's critical energy infrastructure for several decades.

"To be involved in this flagship project, a project which as McDermott we have been working on for several years via the FEED, makes us all very proud," Gunnion said in an interview in Doha.

Providing an overview of McDermott operations in Qatar, he said, "We continue with our clearly stated goal to become the largest standalone EPCI delivery organisation here in Qatar, starting with the very earliest stages of project development (concept + Pre-FEED) via our IO (a joint venture between McDermott + Baker Hughes) team here in Doha through to full EPCI delivery, including

fabrication of offshore infrastructure in Qatar at our fabrication facility in Ras Laffan Industrial Complex - QFAB.

"QFAB is a joint venture between Nakilat and McDermott. We continue to grow all the necessary project team and support organisations to materialise this vision. This now includes the ability to fully execute large complex offshore projects entirely from Qatar - from start to finish. This has required growth in our Burj Doha execution office, for which we continue to recruit candidates locally mainly in the engineering field, but we are looking at supply chain and business candidates as we stabilise and focus on execution excellence for our customers."

Operationally, Gunnion noted: "We are ramping up QFAB to start various projects during 2022 and will be up and running in a few months, which is exciting to see. It truly is a first class facility and we look forward to fully harnessing her potential."

On the benefits of establishing QFAB, Gunnion said: "The benefits are many as we work to broaden and strengthen the local supply chain to support energy projects in Qatar. Over and above, the recruitment and training of several hundreds of skilled workers at various levels of expertise, we are also heavily engaged with the local supply chain to support our operations.

"The ability to locally source support, materials, and services is crucial to the successful operation of the yard. As these in-country services grow, the ability to support more and more local development in the energy sector is a natural by-product. We are working hard to develop this long-term capability in Qatar."

Gunnion also highlighted McDermott's focus on reducing emissions and managing the carbon footprint.



Neil Gunnion, McDermott country head and vice-president (Operations - Qatar). Early this year, QatarEnergy awarded a major Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Installation (EPCI) contract for the offshore scope of its North Field Expansion Project to McDermott Middle East Inc. **PICTURE:** Thajuddin

emissions across 10 key categories, we are actively engaged with key suppliers, such as steel suppliers, in identifying opportunities to lower the carbon intensity of their manufacturing process through sustainable solutions."

In January, McDermott launched 'ArborXD', which gives the project the capability to estimate the lifecycle emissions of the operating facility and identify low emissions pathways through engineering design.

Gunnion said: "The introduction of these monitoring and assessment tools at the earliest stages of projects allow us to be aware of our environmental im-

and work to select solutions with long term gain. Of particular focus during the EPC lifecycle is the main GHG emitting phases of projects, which are fabrication and offshore installation.

"As we operate our own fabrication yards, we are working to significantly reduce the GHG impact of our operations. McDermott has short term targets set around renewable energy, as we actively work towards increasing our renewable energy usage through installation of on-site solar and accessing offshore renewable energy through energy attribute certificates (EACs) or power purchasing agreements (PPAs) where available."

McDermott supports Qatar's National Graduate Programme

McDermott supports Qatar's National Graduate Programme by taking national graduates, incorporating them into its teams and giving them full exposure of every aspect of complex energy projects across the full EPCI phases.

"We are very much used to working with our customers including Qatar Energy, Qatargas in hosting their world class National Graduate Programme," noted Neil Gunnion, McDermott country head and vice-president (Operations - Qatar).

"This is a programme whereby we take Qatari national graduates and incorporate them 100% into our McDermott teams, give them full exposure of every aspect of these complex energy projects across the full engineering, procurement, construction and installation phases," Gunnion told *Gulf Times* in an interview.

These graduates, he said are fully integrated and trained in every aspect of execution, often attending fabrication facilities and offshore vessels to support key tasks.

He said: "In addition to strongly supporting this programme, we are also working with local Qatar universities to source locally educated talent to support our growth here in Qatar and the Middle East generally.

"The country has made a massive effort to bring world class tertiary education establishments to Qatar, which works perfectly to support our local growth strategy. We believe there is a strong future here in Qatar; hence we are working to plant the seeds today that we can harvest over time."

Ramadan night markets offer brisk business to entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs and owners of small businesses are making brisk sales from their participation in different night markets happening in a variety of venues across Doha during the holy month of Ramadan.

The holy month of Ramadan provides a wide range of opportunities and venues for many small business owners from the retail and food and beverage (F&B) sectors to showcase their products and services.

The Bedaya Centre for Entrepreneurship and Career Development, in collaboration with United Development Company (UDC) and Snoonu, launched a 'Ramadan Market' in the Qanat Quarter area at The Pearl-Qatar Island. According to Bedaya, the Ramadan Market aims to support local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) founded by a group of ambitious and creative Qatari entrepreneurs by providing them with the opportunity and platform to showcase their products during the holy month.

From 7.30pm-1am, the market promises to be a unique shopping opportunity for families and people looking for various Ramadan products, such as abayas, jalabiyas, Ramadan gift packages, stationery, accessories, perfumes, and incense, in addition to a variety of other Ramadan-related designs.

Also, the Mahaseel Souq, held in the southern part of Katara, is open daily from 8pm until midnight during the holy month. Visitors can select from different products like fresh local vegetables, milk, poultry, meat, eggs, honey, and dates.

The 'Torba Market Ramadan Edition', which concluded yesterday at the Ceremonial Court Education City, was held on April 9, 15, 16, and 23. Participating entrepreneurs offered products and services in wellness and lifestyle, gardening and flowers, crafts and artisan, and F&B, among others.

Msheireb Downtown Doha, which recently hosted the Smart City Expo Doha 2022, has

also been providing brisk business for a variety of entrepreneurs via its popular 'Ramadan Corner'.

Msheireb's Ramadan Corner is located at the historic Al Kahraba Street and runs until April 28 from early evenings onwards. The area is home to several food stalls and local brands, offering a variety of local food vendors, as well as entertainment options.

Earlier, Msheireb Downtown Doha was put under the international spotlight for hosting the Smart City Expo Doha, which was inaugurated by HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohamed bin Ali bin Mohamed al-Mannai.

Msheireb Properties CEO Nasser Matar al-Kawari said: "Msheireb Downtown Doha became one of the world's smartest and most sustainable city districts, and an ideal example of what modern urban planning should be, to meet the demands of the future with resilience and flexibility."



Some of the stalls participating in the Ramadan Market along the Qanat Quarter area at The Pearl-Qatar Island.