

CONSULTANCY HELPS DELIVER EXPO 2020 DUBAI EMERGENCY SERVICES

MAJOR EVENT CASE STUDY | MAY 2019

One of the first contracts tendered for Expo 2020 Dubai was for the design and construction of five Emergency Services posts. Australia's professional consultancy, GHD, won the contract and will now showcase its sustainable-design skills to a global audience.

GHD is a global professional services consultancy that is proudly Australian. From architecture and engineering to project management and environmental audit, the company's 10,000 employees serve clients from 200 offices around the world, including in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where GHD has been operating continuously for nearly 20 years.

When Dubai Expo began tendering for works on its 438-hectare site in late 2016, GHD spotted an opportunity to showcase its expertise on a global stage. Country Manager for GHD in the UAE, Malcolm Dixon, explains:

'Expo 2020 Dubai is a big development and we wanted to be a part of it,' he says. 'The Expo will be a catalyst for the further development of Dubai as an advanced-technology city.'

Dixon explains that the Dubai Expo, set to open on 20 October 2020, will have a more international focus compared to previous exhibitions. It aims to attract a high proportion of visitors from around the world – both commercial and tourist.

'The city will showcase itself; and as part of the construction team for Expo Dubai 2020, we will showcase ourselves,' he says.



Expo 2020 Dubai: Fire Station

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A swift, transparent tendering process

In late 2016, GHD tendered for the role of design and construction-supervision consultant on five Emergency Services posts. Designed for police, fire and ambulance services, the posts had to be built to global standards of energy efficiency and sustainability.

'The tendering process was clear, thorough and technical,' says Dixon. 'We bid for the role of consultant, which involved designing the stations and supervising construction. The actual tendering process moved along swiftly and there were no serious delays.'



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From early 2016 to July 2017, approximately 25 UAE-based staff and 20 employees in Australia and UK executed a range of advisory services. These included architectural design, the detailed design, energy design, geo-tech and lighting. GHD staff also supervised construction.

All five posts are on track to be completed on time, to the equivalent of a six-star Australian energy rating.

Global connections

According to Dixon, Expo Dubai 2020 has proved an excellent client. Working on the Expo site – located between Dubai and Abu Dhabi – has proven a great opportunity to connect with professionals from around the world.

‘The personnel responsible for delivering Expo Dubai are thorough, consultative and very professional,’ he says. ‘They have clear processes and are easy to work with.’

Dixon says that Expo has secured the input of world-class companies. As a result, GHD employees have made valuable connections with companies from around the world.

‘Expo are looking far and wide for innovation and expertise,’ says Dixon. ‘They value smart ideas and smart ways of doing things. The Expo construction site has a very international feeling – and it’s a real opportunity to shine.’

Fast and efficient construction

Dixon recommends the Expo to Australian companies looking to expand construction activities in the Gulf region. In particular, he commends a work culture that Australians will find familiar.

‘We have a really great relationship with the local contractor, Al Naboodah Construction Group,’ he says. ‘One of the best aspects to our work on Expo 2020 is that the client really is open to design innovation – and that’s where Australian companies can excel.’

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