

with civil works. Consultant is Athens-based **Gibb Petermueller**.

Two smaller schemes are already under way; finance for these is coming partly from the government, and partly from maintenance and freight handling company **Bahrain Airport Services**. The UK's **Wimpey Asphalt**, with the local **Bahrain Asphalt**, has a BD 3.7 million (\$9.8 million) contract to resurface the runway and install centre lighting. Another local firm, **Ahmad Mansour al-Aali**, has a BD 2.4 million (\$6.4 million) contract for land reclamation at the northern end of the runway. This will provide space for an FF 18 million (\$2.2 million) instrument landing system, being installed by France's **Thomson-CSF**.

Al-Dur desalination plant delayed

The issue of construction tenders for the Al-Dur desalination plant has been delayed by a request for alternative designs. The initial design proposal, from Saudi Arabia's **Al-Bawardy Consulting Engineers**, was for a multi-stage flash process; the possibility of using reverse osmosis is now being studied.

Feasibility studies for the scheme were completed in 1982 by Switzerland's **Elektrowatt**, for a site at Ras Abu Jarjar, on the east coast. Two 10 million-gallon-a-day desalination plants were planned, to be 40 per cent financed by the Saudi government (MEED 7:1:83). The construction contract for the first plant went to a Japanese joint venture of **Sasakura Engineering Company** and **Sumitomo Corporation**. However, it was decided to resite the second plant because of fears about its possible effect on nearby fish breeding grounds.

Saudi Arabia's **Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC)**, acting for the Bahrain government, appointed Al-Bawardy to design the second plant; the contract was officially signed in September.

Designs include 10 small desalination units, roads, offices, a maintenance building and sewage treatment units; environmental controls will be strict. Pure distilled water will be pumped to on-site reserve tanks, and then distributed to a pumping station about 20 kilometres away.

The option of adding a nine to 12-MW power station is also being considered. The project should take two years and cost about \$80 million. Saudi Arabia is now understood to be financing the plant's entire costs.

IN BRIEF

Local architect **Mohammad Salahuddin** is to form a joint venture with the UK's **Abbey & Hanson Rowe International**. It will be called **Salahuddin AHR**.

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EGYPT

European close to telecoms deal

The government has signed a \$1,200 million letter of intent to buy telecommunications and railway signalling equipment from a European consortium. The three companies involved are France's **Thomson-CSF**, West Germany's **Siemens** and its Austrian subsidiary, **Siemens Oesterreich**.

The letter was signed during Prime Minister Fuad Mohieddin's recent four-day visit to Austria.

The move is part of a planned expansion of the telephone network, and upgrading of telecommunications and railway signalling equipment. The government is reported to have shown interest in buying 110,000 telephone subscriber lines and six to eight exchanges.

Mohieddin's visit also saw the signing of a 120 million schilling (\$6.4 million) contract with Austria-based **Voest-Alpine** to build a phosphate plant 70 kilometres south of Cairo. Work on the 1.2 million-ton-a-year plant is expected to start early in 1984, for completion in the last quarter of 1985. The phosphate will be used to meet domestic fertiliser needs.

Air Sinai goes Dutch

The Netherlands' **Fokker** is expected soon to sign a \$50 million-54 million contract to supply three F-27 Mark 500 aircraft. Client is **EgyptAir**, the national carrier.

The turbo-prop F-27s can take 48-52 passengers and will be used on domestic routes by EgyptAir's associate, **Air Sinai**. The deal will be 50 per cent financed by soft loans from the Dutch government.

Two of the aircraft, which are powered by Rolls-Royce Dart engines, are planned to be delivered before the end of 1983; the third is to arrive by March next year. They will replace two F-27s leased by EgyptAir from Fokker and a third which was recently leased from Austria's **Lauda Air Luftfahrts**.

The government loan agreement which enabled the sale to go ahead was signed in Amsterdam on 11 November by Civil Aviation Minister Tawfik Abdou Ismail.

US firm bids low for sewerage work

Sadelmi New York, a subsidiary of the US **General Electric**, is expected to sign a \$18.5 million contract to restore five sewage pumping stations in Cairo. Client is the **Organisation for the Execution of the Greater Cairo Wastewater Project** (MEED 21:10:83).

Sadelmi, the low bidder of eight, received a qualified letter of acceptance in mid-August. It has since responded to

requests for more details and expects to sign the contract imminently.

The contract is part of a larger scheme to upgrade the antiquated sewerage system on the east bank of the Nile. It will be financed by the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The pumps will be replaced and refurbished, and new force mains will be installed. This will enable the sewage to be pumped from a smaller pipe network installed in the early 1900s into a new main sewer which will run north into Cairo.

The 19-month scheme is expected to be completed in 1985.

This is the second pumping station restoration contract to be awarded to US companies. At the end of 1982, a more extensive, £E 45 million (\$64.3 million) contract was awarded to a joint venture of the **Paul N Howard Company**, **Harbert International** and **Sademi** for repairing three main pumping stations, 52 substations and 39 pneumatic injector stations, and replacing four pumps.

IN BRIEF

Austria's **Binder & Company**, a subsidiary of **Voest-Alpine**, has a 74 million schilling (\$3.9 million) contract to install a 5.1-kilometre conveyor belt with a capacity to move 1,800 tonnes of primary materials an hour. Client is the **Egyptian National Cement Company (ENCC)**. The 1.2-metre-wide belt and ancillary equipment, which will be installed at ENCC's Helwan works, should be completed in 1985. Binder is also supplying 1,150 tonnes of mechanical and electrical equipment.

France is expected to supply nearly 400,000 tonnes of wheat flour by the end of the year. This would be a large part of the subsidised wheat sale agreement the EEC expects to sign before the beginning of 1984. The move comes after disputes between the US and the EEC about food sales to Egypt (MEED 28:10:83).

Economy & External Trade Minister **Mustafa Kamal el-Said** is expected to visit Jordan towards the end of November for talks about economic co-operation, according to the official Middle East News Agency (MENA). The four-day visit to Jordan, which with most other Arab states severed diplomatic ties with Egypt after it signed a treaty with Israel in 1979, will start on 25 November.

Foreign Affairs Minister **Kamal Hassan Ali** has paid a two-day visit to Morocco, the first by a cabinet minister since Egypt signed the treaty with Israel in 1979. The talks were to be confined to African affairs, and bilateral relations in the cultural and economic fields.

Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister **Taha Yassin Ramadan** has visited Cairo recently for talks with President Mubarak. Ramadan's visit is the second by a high-ranking Iraqi this year - Foreign Affairs Minister **Tariq Aziz** visited Cairo in July - and follows trips by Egypt's Foreign Affairs Minister **Kamal Hassan Ali** to Iraq and Jordan. An Iraqi trade delegation is expected to arrive in the week beginning 21 November on a short visit to conclude an agreement to import Egyptian products.