

32/30

Italiana (Italy) and tank manufacturer **Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries (IHI)** — Japan)

□ **Gaz de France** with **Alarko** (Turkey) and tank manufacturer **SCNMP** (France)

□ **Dragados & Construcciones** (Spain) with **Tokar Yapi** (Turkey)

□ **Saipem** (Italy) with **Gama** (Turkey)

□ **CTIP** (Italy) with **Atila Dogan** (Turkey)

□ **Mannesmann** (West Germany) with **Yukse** (Turkey) and tank manufacturers **Noel** and **CBI** (both West Germany)

□ **Chiyoda** (Japan) with **Kutlutas** (Turkey) and tank manufacturer **CBI** (West Germany)

□ **Enka** (Turkey) with **Spie Capag** (France) and tank maker **TKK** (Japan).

British airport proposal approved

The Transport & Communications Ministry has approved a UK-led proposal for a build-operate airport scheme in Bodrum-Gulluk. This is close to the Bodrum resort area, a favourite destination for UK tourists. The scheme's proposers are the British Airports Authority and the UK's **Ganmount** with two local firms, **Indel** and **Nurul Insaat**.

Feasibility studies have started on the scheme, first proposed in 1987. These will be completed in the first half of 1989. Construction is expected to begin later in 1989.

The project will be drawn up on a conventional basis, with a three-kilometre runway. Its 2,000-square-metre terminal will be similar to that at Dalaman airport to the south, which mainly caters for tourists.

Around 500,000 UK tourists are expected to visit in 1988. Many will head for Bodrum, reputedly booked up by Britons before the season even started.

Economic agreements underpin Gandhi visit

Agreements to establish greater economic co-operation were signed during a 17-20 July visit by India's Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi. The visit apparently sought to seal friendly relations, rather than establish new diplomatic alliances (see page 2).

A railway co-operation agreement was the most tangible result. A \$25 million contract was provisionally awarded to state-owned **Indian Railway Construction Company (Irrcon)** to electrify the last Sincan to Eskisehir section of the Arifiye to Eskisehir line. A maritime co-operation agreement was signed, as were two deals covering mutual assistance in judicial and legal matters.

On the broad economic and diplomatic front, the two sides agreed to step up ministerial and official visits, and to promote better relations in industry, trade, banking and agriculture. Trade is already weighted in Turkey's favour, but it wants to penetrate Indian export markets further. Two-way trade totalled \$140 million between April 1986 and March 1987, up from almost nothing in 1980.

Gandhi's visit was the first by an Indian premier since 1960, and in some ways balances Turkey's traditionally close ties with Pakistan. Before leaving Ankara for Istanbul, Gandhi said he welcomed Turkey's decision to halt the export to Pakistan of nuclear inverters, which could be used in making nuclear weapons. Pakistan's ambassador to Ankara left for Islamabad for the duration of Gandhi's visit.

IN BRIEF

● Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has convened an extraordinary session of parliament during the summer recess to amend the constitution and allow early local elections to be held in October. This follows a constitutional court ruling that local elections must be held in March 1989, as laid down in the constitution.

● **Iktisat Bankasi** plans to open a London representative office, a senior bank official says. It has permission from the Bank of England (central bank authority) to open the office after 20 July.

● The central bank is planning to market commercial paper valued at about \$300 million on European stock exchanges in the second half of August. It will start with a tranche valued at \$100 million. The issues will be further evidence of Turkey's increasingly sophisticated use of different funding instruments to meet its heavy debt servicing commitments in 1988. Agent for the deal will be **Saudi International Bank**.

UAE

Etisalat invites bids for Dubai head office

The federal telecommunications authority is inviting bids for the second of two new head office buildings. The bid call from **Emirates Telecommunications Corporation (Etisalat)** is for a headquarters in Dubai. Offers are due for the new complex by 29 August; 11 companies prequalified for the award.

The tender follows the start of work on Etisalat's new Abu Dhabi centre, let to West Germany's **Coutinho, Caro & Company** for Dh 129 million (\$35 million) in November 1987 (MEED 12:12:87).

The Dubai contract is estimated at about the same value and the buildings — on the site of the old electricity company headquarters — are of similar design. The complex is in three sections and will be dominated by a 16-storey office tower, topped by a 20-metre radome. A public facility building will have three storeys. Parking and garages are included.

Contractors expect bidding for the project to be intense, as it was for the 24-month Abu Dhabi contract, which attracted six offers from international firms (MEED 24:11:87). A construction contract could be let before the end of 1988, observers say.

Design of the building is by Canada's **Arthur Erickson Architects**, which will help

with tender evaluation. Project manager is the US' **Bechtel Corporation** (MEED 18:7:87).

Two sewerage contracts let in Al-Ain

Two contracts with a combined value of Dh 64.3 million (\$17.6 million) have been awarded to the local **Development Enterprises** for the latest phase of the Al-Ain sewerage scheme.

The larger — M28B — is valued at Dh 46.7 million (\$12.7 million) and calls for the laying of main drains in a new neighbourhood of Al-Ain. Development Enterprises emerged as the second lowest bidder, after **Dhabi Sogex**, when offers were submitted in November 1987 (MEED 21:11:87).

The second award, for contract M28D, covers the relatively small district of Markhania. The firm was the original low bidder for the order at Dh 17.6 million (\$4.8 million). The contract is the fourth to be let in a scheme to link new neighbourhoods to the town's main drainage network (MEED 19:3:88).

Work on the largest element in the scheme — a sewage collection and treatment system — is being undertaken by the local **Admak General Contracting Company** in a Dh 137.7 million (\$37.5 million) contract (MEED 9:4:88).

Bids for the Zakher district — contract M28E — have been evaluated by the project consultant, the UK's **D Balfour & Sons**, but a contractor has yet to be named. Low bidder for the scheme is the local **Orient Contracting Company** at Dh 52.9 million (\$14.4 million — MEED 6:5:88).

Tender documents have been released for the next contract — M28F — which covers the Miriefia district. Bids for the work are due in the first week of September. Development Enterprises was to begin work on its two contracts by 1 August.

Local firm to erect Al-Ain signs

The first phase of a three-part scheme to number plots, name streets and signpost routes in Al-Ain has been let to Abu Dhabi-based **Giffin Traffiks**. The firm's Dh 9 million (\$2.5 million) turnkey contract covers the fabrication, supply and erection of direction signs throughout the city. The contractor will provide advance direction signs on major routes and highways in the urban area.

Bids have been submitted for the second phase of the scheme, which will involve street naming and numbering of plots. Apparent low bidder is a joint venture of the local **Super Sign** and Sharjah-based **P I Group** at Dh 12.5 million (\$3.4 million).

The joint venture submitted three alternative offers. The two other bidders were Giffin Traffiks at Dh 13.9 million (\$3.8 million) and the local **Al-Mohannad Traffic Signs** at Dh 14.6 million (\$4 million). P I Group recently won a Dh 36.5 million (\$9.9 million) contract for a similar project in Abu Dhabi (MEED 8:7:88).

Giffin's contract is for completion in 18 months; the firm began mobilising in mid-