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 conditions are met, rather than the previous 77 per cent. On receipt of the LC, exporters will get 40 per cent of the value, instead of the previous 20 per cent. The remaining 2 per cent will go to a government fund.

UAE

Taweelah seals main pipeline deal

A local/Czechoslovak joint venture has a Dh 212 million (\$57.7 million) contract to build a water transmission line. It will link the new Taweelah power and desalination plant with the Bani Yas pumping station, west of Abu Dhabi international airport.

The award went to the local **Al-Mohairbi Pan Arabian Pipelines Construction** and Czechoslovakia's **Strojexport** against stiff competition from 10 other firms or joint ventures. Bids ranged up to Dh 370 million (\$100.8 million) and included 47 alternative offers (MEED 31:10:87).

The pipeline is the biggest contract so far let on the transmission side of the Taweelah scheme. Work calls for the laying of 59 kilometres of twin line. The larger section is 36 kilometres of 1,200-millimetre-diameter line; the second section consists of 23 kilometres of 900-millimetre-diameter line.

The Bani Yas pumping station is being expanded to handle the increased flow of desalinated water from Taweelah. The local **Al-Aweidah/Polimex** has a Dh 41.9 million (\$11.4 million) contract to enlarge two 7.5 million-gallon-a-day concrete reservoirs (MEED 19:3:88).

Work on Unit 3 pumping station, midway between Taweelah and Bani Yas, is likely to suffer further delays following a decision to retender the contract. The authorities have changed the tender specification and opted for concrete rather than steel reservoirs, as originally specified. Low bidder in the first round was the US' **Pittsburg-Des Moines** at Dh 75.6 million (\$20.6 million — MEED 7:11:87).

Bids were opened in early May for electrical and mechanical work on the pumping station. The low bid of Dh 37 million (\$10.7 million) came from Zurich-based **ABB Asea Brown Boveri** (MEED 6:5:88).

Consultant for the transmission work on the Taweelah scheme's first phase is the UK's **Pencol International** with **Pencol International Engineering Consultants**.

Bids in for Tarif police station

Nine local firms have offered up to Dh 41.1 million (\$11.2 million) for a new police complex at Tarif, about 120 kilometres west of Abu Dhabi. The low bidder is **Consent**, at Dh 26.3 million (\$7.1 million) with an alternative offer of Dh 23.9 million (\$6.5 million).

The rival bidders include:

- **Bin Brook General Contracting** — Dh 28.9 million (\$7.9 million)
- **Atiq Engineering General Contractors** — Dh 29.2 million (\$7.9 million)
- **Abu Dhabi Engineering** — Dh 29.5 million (\$8 million)
- **Shelter Contracting** — Dh 31.7 million (\$8.6 million).

All the bidders included an alternative offer. On average, these were Dh 2 million-3 million (\$500,000-800,000) lower than the principal bid.

Contractors say the order calls for construction of conventional concrete buildings. The scheme was first tendered in 1987. It is now expected to go ahead following the retender.

The station will be strategically located at the entrance to the Liwa Oasis and on the main road to Jebel Dhanna and Sila. The Sila route is carrying a growing volume of re-export traffic to Saudi Arabia. A 120-kilometre section of the road is to be upgraded at a cost of about \$40 million, and work has started on a new customs and border post at Sila (MEED 19:12:87).

IN BRIEF

● A contract to repair defective concrete at the Umm al-Nar power and desalination plant has gone to Lebanese-owned **Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)**. The Athens-based firm won the Dh 14.3 million (\$3.9 million) order against competition from several international and local firms, including **Wolff & Mueller** and **Ed Zueblin** — both of West Germany — and the UK's **Kier International**. Work calls for the repair, reinforcing and general maintenance of concrete at the site over the next two years. CCC has undertaken similar work at the **Abu Dhabi Gas Liquefaction Company (Adgas)** petrochemical complex on Das island (MEED 5:3:88).

● Talks with Oman to arrange terms for bringing the offshore Bukha field on stream have broken down. Joint rights to the field are claimed by Oman and Ras al-Khaimah, obliging the field's operator — Geneva-based **International Petroleum Corporation (IPC)** — to consult both parties about production plans. IPC had planned to bring the field into production in 1989 at 12,000 barrels of condensate and 130 million cubic feet of gas a day. The initial production plan, based on output from three wells, was to precede a comprehensive development programme. IPC says the project is now indefinitely delayed. The firm spudded a new well, the fifth in the Bukha field, in late April. The firm is the leading partner in Ras al-Khaimah's offshore Saleh field, operated by **Ras al-Khaimah Offshore Petroleum**, a joint venture with West Germany's **Wintershall**. IPC expects to spud a new well onshore Ras al-Khaimah by the end of June (MEED 6:5:88).

● The local branches of the US' **Citibank** showed losses of Dh 43 million (\$11.7 million) in 1987, almost the same as in 1986. The bank managed to reduce further the level of provisions for loan losses, cut to Dh 26.8 million (\$7.3 million) from Dh 38.6 million (\$10.5 million) the previous year. Customer deposits dropped slightly, to Dh 619.2 million (\$168.6 million) from

Dh 645.8 million (\$175.8 million). Total assets declined sharply from Dh 4,110 million (\$1,119 million) to Dh 1,110 million (\$302 million), with the effective transfer of main treasury operations to Bahrain. The bank says first-quarter results for 1988 are promising and a return to profitability is expected.

● Abu Dhabi's Al-Jazira hospital project is to be retendered, following the suspension of work there 18 months ago. The emirate's public works department is taking over responsibility for the project from the federal Public Works Ministry, local contractors say. The scheme was originally let in July 1985 to a joint venture of the local **Al-Masaood Engineering & Contracting Company** and West Germany's **Ed Zueblin** for Dh 141 million (\$38.4 million). The contractors stopped work after 10 months on site in October 1986, because of the lack of payments (MEED 15:11:86). Construction was understood to have been 15 per cent complete. Consultant for the original scheme was a joint venture of **Jordan Consult** and the UK's **Hospital Design Partnership**.

● The local **Bin Brook General Contracting** has begun work on a Dh 15.8 million (\$4.3 million) hospital project in Abu Dhabi. The award calls for construction of a four-ward hospital for elderly and handicapped patients on a site next to the central emergency hospital. The contract includes all electrical and mechanical work, as well as civils. A physiotherapy unit is to be provided. Bin Brook has undertaken some demolition work to clear the site; completion is in 15 months. Client is Abu Dhabi's public works department. **Al-Jazeera Engineering Consulting** is the consultant.

● The two local branches of Cairo-based **Arab African International Bank** earned Dh 1.8 million (\$490,000) in 1987 after making provisions of Dh 16 million (\$4.4 million) for loan losses and interest in suspense. Total assets stood at Dh 816 million (\$222 million). Customer deposits fell to Dh 276 million (\$75 million), from Dh 360 million (\$98 million) in 1986. Loans and advances grew to Dh 247 million (\$67.2 million) from Dh 233 million (\$63.4 million). Arab African is majority owned by Kuwait's Finance Ministry and the Central Bank of Egypt. Iraq's **Rafidain Bank** has a 10 per cent holding.

● Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah al-Nuaymi visited Egypt and Libya from 5-7 May in an attempt to reconcile the two states. The mediation effort follows the visit to Egypt earlier this year of President Shaikh Zayed. Tripoli severed diplomatic relations with Cairo after the signing of the peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

YEMEN (ADEN)

Unity project spelled out

Publication of documents signed in Sanaa on 4 May show the unity plans to be far-reaching. They involve a joint constitution, a joint oil project on disputed territory that is to be demilitarised and the virtual abolition of travel restrictions between the two states. The two texts published in the wake of the Sanaa talks evoke integration plans agreed in Tripoli in July 1986 and at a summit in January 1985.