

largest block — 50,000 shares.

The remaining shares are available from branches of The Industrial Bank; subscribers must pay 50 per cent on application. As an incentive — and in an attempt to attract the largest possible number of private investors — 4 per cent of the paid-up value of each share bought by private investors is to be paid out annually until the company starts up.

Irrigation Ministry restructured

Fourteen state companies are being set up as a result of the reorganisation of the Irrigation Ministry. The restructuring — outlined in Law 43 of 1987 — embodies President Saddam Hussain's directives to ministries earlier this year. Irrigation Minister Abdel-Wahab Mahmoud Abdullah said on 1 June. These emphasised the importance of restructuring government offices, to help to increase productivity and reduce consumption.

The 14 ventures include:

- the **Rafidain Company for Building Dams**, which will work at home and abroad
- five land reclamation companies, which will compete among themselves — and with private-sector ventures — for drainage and irrigation contracts at home and abroad
- three companies to maintain irrigation systems, rivers, canals and drains
- two companies for soil conservation
- one company for digging artesian wells
- one company for repair and maintenance of machinery and equipment.

The firms will provide fresh incentives to their workers, including profit-sharing schemes. The new law aims to give more power to departments directly involved in carrying out projects. "It is widely believed that turning irrigation authorities into companies will not only improve productivity, but also increase the potential of the ministry's workers and experts," Abdullah said.

The ministry's head office has also been completely restructured. Two commissions have been set up to replace the previous directorates — the Commission for Dams & Water Resources and the Commission for Irrigation & Land Reclamation. They will be responsible for providing the minister with technical and administrative support, as well as for following up projects.

Three research centres have been set up: Baghdad-based Al-Furat (Euphrates) Centre for Studies & Designs of Irrigation Projects; Nineveh's Al-Dijla (Tigris) Centre for Studies & Designs of Irrigation Projects, and the Baghdad-based Water & Soil Studies Centre.

The five ministry organisations that have disappeared are the State Organisation for Dams, the State Organisation for Land

Reclamation, the Rafidain State Organisation for Irrigation Projects, the General Establishment for Maintenance of Main Rivers & Drains and the State Organisation for Groundwater Administration.

IN BRIEF

● An architectural competition has been announced for the Hammourabi tourism village. The winner will be asked by the **State Organisation for Tourism (SOFT)** to prepare designs for a small housing complex next to the Babylon archaeological site. The competition is open to state and private offices. Private companies must be registered with the local architects' union, and categorised as consultants with experience in at least one project worth ID 5 million (\$16 million) or more. Details are available from SOFT's tender committee. Local press reports suggest the village will comprise about 100 homes; it was originally for completion by the end of 1987. The area is now the subject of a ID 10.5 million (\$34 million) restoration and construction programme, in preparation for the Babylon international festival. The month-long cultural celebration, which starts on 22 September, is expected to attract participants from 70 countries.

● The US' **Carey Agri-International** has a contract to supply 170 dairy cattle as part of the US' export enhancement programme (EEP). All are for delivery by 15 June. A further 5,065 cattle are available in the EEP. Bonuses are likely to enable Baghdad to buy more frozen chicken (MEED 6:6:87). The US Department of Agriculture has made available \$40 million worth of protein concentrate in the EEP: most has yet to be taken up. Baghdad's purchases in the programme include \$13.1 million worth of vegetable oil and \$5.9 million worth of tallow — in both cases, just above half its allocation — and \$600,000 worth of wool, of a \$2.5 million allocation.

● The closing date for a contract to build a detergents factory in Baiji is reported to have been extended again, until the end of June (MEED 25:4:87).

● The Irrigation Ministry has installed automatic equipment to monitor water levels in the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

JORDAN

Canada asked for more aid

Ottawa was asked for a further \$Can 20 million (\$14.9 million) in technical aid and a \$Can 100 million (\$74.4 million) loan, during a Canadian visit by Crown Prince Hassan in the first week of June. The request followed the announcement of the first allocation from the \$Can 10 million (\$7.4 million) grant already approved for 1987/88.

The sum of \$Can 2.5 million (\$1.9 million) is to be spent on design and construction supervision of a multi-purpose jetty for Aqaba Regional Authority. Tenders for the designs are to be issued in Canada; work

is for completion by September. The balance of the grant will be allotted for the procurement of Canadian goods and services for electricity, water supply and other projects. The money is on top of the \$Can 18 million (\$13.4 million) provided in March for seismic survey work (MEED 7:3:87).

Crown Prince Hassan's trip was mainly to encourage Canadian investment in Jordan; a group of Canadian businessmen will pay a return visit in the third week of June. A foreign investors' insurance agreement was signed with Canada during Hassan's visit.

Hospital schemes move ahead

The local **Ace Consultants** and the US' **Page & Southern** are about to sign a contract to redesign the 550-bed Prince Hamzeh hospital in Amman, one of three hospital schemes to proceed in June.

The two firms had prepared the hospital's original designs, in co-operation with the local **Hakim Consultants** and the US' **Herman Smith** working on behalf of the Health Ministry. But the JD 24 million (\$72.3 million) construction costs were considered too high, and the designers have been asked to modify the designs to bring down the cost to about JD 16 million (\$48.2 million). This is expected to take eight months.

Tenders are due at the end of June for a 9,000-square-metre, 100-bed hospital at Tafileh, in the south. The local **Muhammad Jardaneh** and the UK's **Paul James** are preparing designs.

The Italian government is granting \$5 million for an estimated JD 3 million (\$9 million), 100-bed referral hospital to be built in Kerak to complement the services of the existing hospital. A joint local/Italian team is preparing the designs; it is hoped construction can begin by July.

IN BRIEF

● Tenders for the first two of five units for the Jordan Co-operative Organisation (JCO) sheep fattening project will be issued by the end of June. The two units, in Mafraq and Irbid, will together cost around JD 250,000 (\$750,000). Work has been subdivided to encourage participation by local companies. Units at Kerak, Tafileh and a third, as yet undecided location, will be built in 1988. The project is funded by a European Investment Bank loan of ECU 3.3 million (\$3.8 million), with matching funding from the government through a loan to the JCO. Total capacity of the five units will be about 35,000 sheep a year.

● Bids are invited by 15 August for design, manufacture, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of two outdoor industrial gas turbine power stations. Client is the **Jordan Electricity Authority**.

● Production at the country's first chemical fertilisers plant is expected to begin in October. The JD 300,000 (\$900,000) unit will use local phosphates and potash to produce an initial 5,000 tonnes of fertiliser blends a year, rising gradually to 12,000 tonnes annually. It should be