

Total exports in 1987 reached £re 30.1 million (\$46.3 million), against £re 26.5 million (\$40.8 million) the previous year. The main exports are beef and veal, followed by powdered milk and other food.

IN BRIEF

● Italy's **Icomsa Engineering Costruzioni & Impianti** has won a \$2.4 million order to supply steel angle processing lines for **Nasr State Enterprise for Mechanical Industries**.

Payment is by irrevocable letter of credit with cover deposit. Work will include supply, transport, supervision and installation of a production line to process 25,000 tonnes of angle iron a year. This will be used to feed a plant which will produce 15,000 tonnes a year of galvanised metal for electricity pylons and roofing girders. Icomsa's contract is an extension to a \$53.7 million order won in 1981 to build a steel structures plant in Taji to produce prefabricated panels and frames for civil and industrial building programmes. Since the factory was commissioned, Icomsa has supplied tools and raw materials worth more than \$20 million.

JORDAN

EIB lends for industry and agriculture

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and Jordan's **Industrial Development Bank (IDB)** are to co-operate in a joint-venture capital scheme for local industry. The EIB is providing a 25-year, 2 per cent interest loan of ECU 1 million (\$1.2 million) for the IDB, which will relend the money for industrial or tourism projects or take part in schemes itself. The loans, for ECU 50,000-300,000 (\$60,000-360,000), will favour joint ventures with EEC companies.

The IDB is also to receive a ECU 10 million (\$12 million) loan for more traditional lending to industrial and tourism schemes. It will be available for 12 years, with four years' grace, at 5.35 per cent interest. Allocations will range from ECU 100,000-3 million (\$120,000-3.6 million).

The third part of the EIB package is an ECU 8 million (\$9.6 million) loan to the **Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC)**. This is for agricultural projects, including irrigation and land improvement, intended to diversify production and reduce dependence on imports. It is for 15 years at 5½ per cent interest.

The loans are the second package provided in the EEC's third financial protocol,

signed in February 1988. It made available ECU 100 million (\$120 million) in financial aid, of which ECU 65 million (\$78 million) comes from the EIB (MEED 13:2:88). In the first package, extended in August, the bank lent ECU 15 million (\$18 million) for extending and improving the Amman and Zarqa electricity distribution system (MEED 9:9:88).

Consultancy bids to be invited for Dead Sea complex

The **Jordanian Industrial Consortium Engineering Company (Jiceco)** expects to invite offers for consultancy work on its planned Dead Sea industrial complex next year. Consultants, which have already been shortlisted, will be asked to bid for technical, economic and marketing studies for the three groups of plants in the estimated \$1,000 million project.

The scheme aims to exploit residual salts — mainly sodium chloride, magnesium chloride and magnesium bromide — returned to the sea as waste from the **Arab Potash Company** plant.

Sixteen possible plants have been identified. Three groups, to be built in four phases, are now being considered. **Fluor Corporation** and **Daniel Industries**, both of the US, completed a general study of the project, and Jiceco expects all detailed studies to be finished by the end of 1989.

The company has funds of about \$35 million for the studies. These have been provided by the Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Islamic Development Bank.

IN BRIEF

● Agriculture Minister Marwan al-Hamoud has asked for international help to avoid a locust invasion. He says \$2.3 million will be needed for equipment and technical specialists, of which the government can provide only \$842,000 from its own resources. Swarms have been reported 65 kilometres north of Jeddah and officials fear they may reach Jordan by next spring, when the winter cereal crops are ripening.

● **The Royal Scientific Society (RSS)** has signed an agreement with the Cities & Villages Development Bank to carry out a social and economic study of Maan governorate. It will assess prospects for small and medium-size investments. The RSS has already completed similar studies in Tafileh governorate and the Baqaa refugee camp; Muta university staff have done a study of Kerak governorate.

● The Popular Committee for the Intifada has collected JD 1.2 million (\$2.2 million) from local

institutions and individuals to support Palestinians in the occupied territories. The committee says money has been given to the families of 226 people killed in the uprising and 2,568 wounded. Recipients must travel to Amman to receive payments.

KUWAIT

Bids submitted for Riqqa sewerage work

Seven offers have been placed for a contract to provide operations and maintenance (O&M) services for Riqqa sewage treatment works. The incumbent contractor, the UK's **Water Engineering** — formerly Hawker Siddeley Water Engineering — has a two-month extension to its two-year contract until the end of March 1989. Water Engineering's order was worth just over \$3 million. The bidders for the latest contract are:

- the US' **Operation Management International** — KD 1,038,830 (\$3.7 million)
- West Germany's **Davy Bamag** — KD 1,297,198 (\$4.6 million)
- the local **Mohamed Abdulmohsin Kharafi** — KD 1,376,000 (\$4.9 million)
- France's **GTM International** — KD 1,870,995 (\$6.7 million)
- Water Engineering** — KD 1,938,458 (\$6.9 million)
- the UK's **Biwater International** — KD 2,198,028 (\$7.8 million)
- the local **Yathreb Trading Establishment** — KD 2,470,079 (\$8.8 million).

The contract is expected to encompass more work, including an expected increase in flow and odour control at seven pumping stations; running the data monitoring centre, which controls the use of treated effluent for irrigation; and setting up pre-fabricated offices on site for the ministry.

A similar O&M contract for the Ardiya treatment works is now expected to be tendered in early 1989, following a six-month extension to the present contractor — a joint venture of the local **Al-Hani Construction & Trading Bureau** and **Esmil** of the Netherlands. The previous contractor at both Riqqa and Ardiya was Davy Bamag. Reports suggest that O&M for the Jahra treatment works may be added to the Ardiya contract.

There are also expected to be additional construction works at Ardiya. A second expansion of the plant's 150,000-cubic-metre-a-day capacity is being designed by

42nd
year

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