



Snippets

Saudi Arabia

Major investments within Saudi Arabia

- **Samsung Engineering to build Ammonia Plant** : Saudi Arabia has awarded a US\$960 million contract to South Korean Samsung Engineering Co. to build an ammonia plant. The project is for Saudi Arabian Mining Company (Maaden) and will be completed by December 2010. It will have an annual production capacity of 3300 tons per day. The contract with Samsung Engineering covers the engineering, procurement, construction, commissioning and start-up of the plant to be located at the Minerals Industrial City at Ras Az-Zour.
- **Six International Consortiums qualify for Makkah-Madinah rail project** : Six international consortiums have been prequalified to bid for the right to build the US\$6 billion Makkah-Medina rail link. Just one of the seven groups which had applied to the client, Saudi Railways Organisation (SRO), in March failed to make the list. A group that included the Japanese conglomerate Mitsui & Company has been eliminated. The project is to construct the 444-kilometre-long high-speed line between the two holy cities in the west of the country. The SRO and its advisory company, UBS, are now in discussions to establish a bid timetable for the design-build-operate-transfer contract. The six consortiums will be invited to submit their bids in the coming months.

Major investments outside Saudi Arabia

- **National Titanium Dioxide Company (Cristal) buys Lyondell's for US\$1.2 billion** : Saudi Arabian Cristal has bought US based Lyondell's for US\$1.2 billion. This will facilitate Cristal to acquire eight factories of Lyondell's in Europe, the Americas and Australia. Cristal is owned jointly by Tasnee, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal and a Kuwait-based investment house. Cristal is a global producer of titanium dioxide exporting to more than 70 countries. Lyondell's is the world's second largest producer of titanium dioxide with an annual capacity of 670,000 metric tons.



India's Investment Interests

- **New sectors opened to foreign investors** : Saudi Arabia will allow foreign investment in some vital sectors such as Insurance Services, Wholesale and Retail Trade, Air and Train Transport and Communication Services. The negative list of investment was also revised to comply with Saudi Arabia's commitments to WTO. The new list excluded Distribution Services, Wholesale and Retail Trade including Medical Retail Services. Other sectors open to foreign investment are – Distribution of Cinema Films and Video Cassettes, Transportation of passengers inside cities by Train and Satellite Transmission Services. Sectors still out of bounds for foreign investors include Recruitment and Employment Services including Local Recruitment Offices, Real Estate Brokerage, Audiovisual and Media Services, Land Transport except transportation by Train within cities, Services rendered by Midwives, Nurses, Physiotherapists and Paramedics, Fisheries Blood Banks and Quarantines.

(Source : Embassy of India, Riyadh)