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## POLLUTEC PRESS INFO

Pollutec  
HORIZONS

## Success in sight for Pollutec Horizons

A month before it opens, Pollutec Horizons is looking set for success. The show already numbers 1,410 exhibitors (+1%) from all over the world (34 countries represented), occupying significantly more space (3% or 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> up on 2005) and it expects more than 40,000 visitors.

Besides a particularly packed programme of conferences, nearly 190 product launches will be showcased

This growth reflects the interest of those involved in the environment in the all-embracing and horizontal approach offered by the new sector divisions of the show, which has set aside a considerable amount of space for environmental challenges such as optimizing resources, fighting climate change, preserving human health, sustainable development



Eyeofdubai.com recognised as  
UAE's best portal of the year



*Hat-trick success as company wins 'Diamond Web Award' - Best website of the year-, 'Gold award for best travel & tourism website', and 'Golden Award for Directories and Info Services'*

Eyeofdubai.com, one of the largest and most visited tourism and investment websites in the UAE, been recognised as the UAE's best portal of the year, securing the coveted 'Diamond Web Award' -Best website of the year-, during recent the UAE Web Awards 2007, held at the Jumeirah Beach Hotel in Dubai on Thursday, November 15, 2007. It was an evening of hat-trick success for the company, which was also honoured with a Golden Award for 'Best Travel & Tourism Website', and a Golden Award for 'Directories & Info Services'.

As one of the top award programs recognized by the industry, the UAE Web Awards is a platform for companies to showcase their creative online work and attain market recognition. The objectives of the Awards include promoting the spirit of innovation and creativity, raising the standards of web design and websites, advocating growth and development of local talents, promoting intellectual property awareness and encouraging all sectors to become involved in the digital economy.

The accolades come only seven months after eyeofdubai.com won three Golden Awards for 'Best Travel and Tourism Website', 'Best Strategic Website for Travel and Tourism' and 'International Standards Web Technology award', during the prestigious Pan Arab Web Awards in April 2007

**Eye of dubai.com also won Best Strategic Travel and Tourism Website' at 2006 UAE Web Awards.**

"As a relatively young company, we are very honored with this industry recognition, and we would like to thank the organizers and our excellent team for their ongoing commitment to strengthening the standards of online excellence in the UAE. By continuing to make enhancements to our comprehensive website, we are hopeful to be similarly successful at the Pan Arab Web Awards 2008," said Abdullah Al Harbi, CEO, Eye of Dubai

The Eye of Dubai website, [www.eyeofdubai.com](http://www.eyeofdubai.com), is a bi-lingual portal that provides interactive services and information relating to business, social, lifestyle and financial news. The website also provides access to e-government and general services.

Eye Of Dubai is also available as a guide-book, and is supported by the Dubai Department of Civil Aviation, Road and Transport Authority, Dubai Summer Surprises 2007, Dubai Municipality, Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and other leading companies in UAE including Emaar, Etisalat, Du, , Tanniyat, Axiom, Al Ghurair , AL Habtoor, and many more.

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# ADNEC

شركة أبوظبي الوطنية للمعارض  
Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company



## ADIJEX 2007 and International Fine Arts and Antiques Fair open at ADNEC

*Millions of Dirhams of jewellery, fine art and antiques on display*

Millions of Dirhams of jewellery, fine art and antiques will be on display at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) this week, as two exclusive exhibitions open today (Wednesday, November 21, 2007) at the Middle East's premier exhibition centre

The first ever International Fine Arts and Antiques Fair, runs from November 21-24, 2007, and will showcase more than 20,000 individual exhibits, with each piece available for purchase at prices ranging from USD 25,000 (AED 91,712) to USD 5 million (AED 18.34 million). More than 100 of the world's most prestigious galleries and dealers will be presenting exclusive collections of art and antiques during the Fair, ranging from contemporary and traditional art through to 19th and 20th century antiques.

The Abu Dhabi International Jewellery and Watch Exhibition (ADIJEX), will be running concurrently from November 21-25, 2007;

the exhibition will showcase a superior collection of jewellery and precious stones from across the world. The event, which is considered as one of the foremost jewellery and watch exhibitions in the Gulf region, is open to the public and is expected to attract buyers and visitors from across the Middle East.

His Excellency Ahmad Humaid Al Mazrouie, Managing Director of ADNEC, said, "These world-class exhibitions will provide an opportunity for distinguished visitors to enjoy and appreciate a unique assembly of some of the world's best jewellery, art and treasured artefacts right on their doorstep. These two leading shows are certainly some of the most illustrious events to be held at our new venue, we believe these events will become key attractions in the emirate's social calendar in the future."

"Prestigious events such as these are helping to brand Abu Dhabi as the cultural capital of the Middle East, which is in line with the vision of the leadership of Abu Dhabi" Mazrouie added.

The Fine Art and Antiques Fair is held under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage and ADNEC; and is being organised by Turret Middle East one of ADNEC's foundation partners. All exhibits at the event have had their authenticity guaranteed by a panel of experts prior to the show.

ADIJEX is being organised by REED Exhibitions another of ADNEC's foundation partners. Both exhibitions will be open from 4pm until 10pm daily.



## Asia Luxury Travel Market 2008 to be held in Shanghai from June 16-19

*Now in its second year, ALTM is firmly established as the choice of the leading brands in the luxury travel industry*

Shanghai, November 21, 2007 Asia Luxury Travel Market (ALTM), the region's only event exclusively for the luxury travel industry, will be held in Shanghai from June 16-19, 2008 at the Shanghai Exhibition Centre, following the resounding success of its inaugural event in June this year.

"ALTM 2008 promises to be an event that will exceed our expectations. The enthusiasm expressed by all the delegates for the second year of the event, is proof of this. To date 65% of the space has been booked and confirmed and a third of our targeted buyers have signed up for the 2008 event," said Event Director Jay Martens

"We have built a great foundation from which to establish ALTM as "THE" annual event on the luxury travel calendar for those who target the Asia Pacific buyers market," said Event Co-founder Serge Dive. "Several new exhibitors will be joining us next summer, including Monaco Tourism Authority, One &

Only Resorts, Cap Estel, Regent Hotels & Resorts, Conde Nast Johansens and Silversea Cruises among others."

Most of the world's top sellers of luxury travel who attended the three-day invitation-only gathering have already signed-up for ALTM 2008 and another 1,000 sq m of exhibition space has been added to fulfill demand.

"The tremendous support for ALTM shown by our exhibitors could not be demonstrated better than in the bookings we have received; leading the way are the Government of Dubai, The Leading Hotels of the World and Hyatt Hotels & Resorts, all of which are doubling their stands, and Relais & Chateaux who are tripling their presence," said Event Co-founder David Hammond.

Among returning exhibitors, Sonu Shivdasani, founder, chairman and CEO of Six Senses Resorts & Spas said of the show: "ALTM answers a need for luxury hoteliers to be able to meet small niche travel agents that plan

unique holidays for all their clients."

Organised like a private club, the unique invitation-only event showcases leading luxury travel suppliers to fully hosted VIP travel buyers. ALTM now intends to double the number of hosted buyers attending the event in 2008.

In India, glamour and excitement characterized the first regional World Travel Awards (WTA) Ceremony at The Leela Palace Kempinski in Bangalore, where the winners of the Asia, Australasia & Indian Ocean Awards were announced. It was a marvellous celebration of the region's contribution and dedication to the tourism industry ([www.worldtravelawards.com](http://www.worldtravelawards.com)).

The event took place on 2 November where ALTM sponsored the event and presented the award for "Asia's Leading Luxury Hotel Brand" which was won by Oberoi Hotels & Resorts and accepted by Vikram Oberoi. Over 200 travel professionals, VIPs and media from 16 countries across the region enjoyed the event.

# Realty Capital receives Islamic Finance AED 340 million financing facility from Islamic Banking Department in Union National Bank



Dubai, November 28, 2007 - Realty Capital Middle East FZ LLC, a leading real estate developer based in Dubai, has announced that it has recently obtained a AED 340 million Sharia financing facility from the Islamic Banking Department of the Union National Bank (UNB) for the construction of its 37-storey 'i-Rise' Office Tower located in TECOM site C, Dubai.

"We are pleased to have UNB as the financing bank for this landmark project. We have been working closely with UNB for several months to structure a financing facility that complies with Shari'a principles and ensures that end users are well protected through the use of an Escrow account structure", commented Marwan Mansour, CEO, Realty Capital Middle East FZ LLC.

"As one of the leading banks in the UAE, we are proud to work with a prominent developer such as Realty Capital and finance projects that assist the country's development into an iconic destination of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the Islamic Banking Department, we are keen to provide leading and innovative products that enrich this prosperous industry. Moreover, the Islamic banking transaction effectively contributes to the local and international banking system. Both the UAE and GCC have witnessed a remarkable growth in this field during the recent five years," said Irshad Shirazi, Senior Vice President and Head of Islamic Banking Department, UNB.

The tie-up with UNB comes only weeks after Realty Capital announced that it has awarded an AED 555 million contract to Al Naboodah Contracting, a well known UAE based contracting firm. Al Naboodah has recently commenced construction following the completion of enabling works.

Upon completion by December 2009, Rise Office Tower will offer office modules starting from 700 square feet, providing

investors a free zone location and freehold title in a highly visible location. i-Rise Office Tower is uniquely designed to incorporate both corporate and executive offices, 18 high-speed elevators, restaurants, coffee shops, retail space, a fitness centre, a helipad and an extensive multi-storey car park. The identifiable wave-like profile of the tower reflects the advanced infrastructure and technology-focused vision of the development.

Realty Capital Middle East FZ LLC is a strategic partnership between Rasmala Investments, a regional investment bank head quartered in Dubai International Financial Center (DIFC) with subsidiaries in Riyadh, Cairo, Muscat and London; and Khayyat Investments a prominent company with wide range of activities in the UAE and the region.

UNB is one of the UAE's leading domestic banks, offering a variety of products and services that address both consumer and corporate needs. Headquartered in Abu Dhabi, the Bank is supported by an extensive network of banking centres spread across the emirates.



## Rakeen India joins hands with Lotus Hotel Investment Fund to develop hotels in Asia

Both parties sign MoU to create joint venture company that will utilise combined financial resources and expertise

The Rakeen India Operations Company (Rakindo), a joint venture company with Vishwateja Projects Private Limited, India, today (Wednesday, November 28, 2007) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lotus Hotel Investment Fund (Lotus) - a private equity fund which is in the process of being launched and will invest in business hotels in Asia - to jointly develop business hotel properties in high growth centres in India.

The MoU was signed by Arun Amarsi, CEO and Founder of Lotus Hotel Investment Fund and Mr. Kishore Kothapalli, Director of Rakindo, during a ceremony held at the Al Hamra Fort Hotel in Ras Al Khaimah. According to the MoU, Lotus will form a joint venture company to invest in several three and four-star hotel properties across Asia in general and India in particular, with six major cities in South India being the initial focus. Dr. Khater Massaad, Chariman of the Board of Directors of RAKINDO and CEO of RAKIA commented, "This joint venture will generate substantial value to the partnership projects as it will combine the financial resources and property development expertise of Rakindo with the financial strength, and hotel development and

management capabilities of Lotus. This partnership will jointly develop world-class business hotels in key cities across India, at a time when the country is witnessing unprecedented economic boom." Arun Amarsi said, "We are pleased to partner with a highly reputed company like Rakindo that have an excellent track record of being involved in several major real estate projects in India. Lotus and Rakindo have a common goal of leveraging our mutual strengths to capitalise on exciting business opportunities in the rapidly growing Indian market. We believe this alliance will efficiently address the rising demand for high quality hotels in India."

According to the latest global economic watch, the demand for hotel rooms is soaring in India, with its growing status as a premier holiday and business destination in Asia. Moreover, the sharp increase in domestic travel in India is adding to the demand for hotel rooms. Yet, for all those travellers, India offers only around 110,000 hotel rooms; China has 10 times more, and the United States 40 times more. The New York metropolitan region alone has about as many hotel rooms as all of India. India needs another 125,000 hotel rooms by 2010 to meet the surging demand, particularly in the upper and middle ranges making this partnership all the more significant.

## European Business Group

The European Business Group has prepared the seventh edition of their Position Paper on Doing Business in India ,

The paper has been compiled from the views of members of the European Business Group, who conduct business in India for and on behalf of organisations that have business interests in the EU. The paper seeks to outline their views on aspects of the business environment in India that affect the relationship between India and the European Union, and by doing so, hopes to facilitate discussion on the points raised with the relevant Indian authorities at the highest level, in order for both Indian and European partners in business to realise their full potential.

We think this is an excellent opportunity for our members to participate in decision making , by sending us your very valuable inputs. Your comments from your own experiences will make a major contribution towards updating the paper and lobbying activities. If you are involved in sectors that are not included in the paper, please feel free to comment also , as it would be well worth drawing the EBG's attention to your areas of interest.

## Dubai Maritime City conducts aerial tour to show scope of development of mega project



Dubai Maritime City, the world's first purpose-built maritime centre and a member of the Dubai World Group of companies, has announced that it has today (Thursday, November 29, 2007) taken a UAE media delegation on an aerial tour of the world's largest marine development, which is currently progressing ahead of schedule in its third and final phase of construction

The activity was organised by Dubai Maritime City to provide journalists with a glimpse into the scale and intricacies of the landmark project's construction, which has generated widespread interest because of its first-of-its-kind integrated maritime concept. The aerial tour covered the entire length and width of the project, and highlighted the rapid progress of the Maritime City's key infrastructure facilities.

"Dubai Maritime City is now certainly taking shape as we have moved ahead with the final phase of construction, and from an aerial perspective it is clear to see the integration of all the project's components. As the project progresses, it is clear that this will be one of the region's most important maritime developments, and has the potential to transform

Dubai into one of the world's top maritime clusters," said Amer Ali, CEO, Dubai Maritime City

The project is currently in its final development phase, which involves the expansion of the services network such as electricity, fire, water and telecommunication facilities.

The six-lane causeway connecting the mega project to Dubai is also fully complete, while the Industrial precinct is now 50 per cent complete and operational.

*UAE media delegation gains birds-eye-view of scale and intricacies of world's largest marine development*

Dubai Maritime City has also recently finalized a number of projects within its different precincts. For instance plans were recently announced to construct the UAE's first National Maritime Museum in the Academic Quarter, which is primed to be one of the largest and most comprehensive maritime museums in the Middle East.

A memorandum of understanding has also been signed with the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) to construct the Maritime Education University; a centre for maritime science that will also be located also in the Academic Quarter. The Gulf region's largest computerised ship lift has also been recently installed in the Industrial precinct, which will allow ships of up 6,000 tonnes to be docked in Dubai for repair and maintenance

Moreover, the project's Master Plan also mandates all developers to obtain green building certification, ensuring Dubai Maritime City's strict environmental compliance and long-term sustainability.

On completion, DMC will encompass Harbor Offices, Harbour Residences, the Maritime Centre, an Academic Quarter, a Marina District, and the industrial quarter managed by Jadaf Dubai. DMC will also showcase the UAE's first National Maritime Museum, a range of iconic infrastructure, and the Gulf region's largest ship lift for ship repair and maintenance. Moreover, DMC offers investors attractive incentives such as free-zone benefits, responsive government support, a tax-free business environment and an effective port structure.



## Najd Rent A Car boosts fleet of luxury cars as Dubai's car rental market grows by 20 per cent

*Newly acquired warehouse and business center enable greater flexibility to implement expansion initiatives in other market segments*

Najd Rent A Car, one of the UAE's leading car rental companies targeting the high-end market, has announced that it has recently acquired a new warehouse facility to accommodate its newly expanded fleet of top-of-the-line cars that cater to high-profile dignitaries and other VIP clients.

The move is part of a new strategy implemented by Najd Rent A Car to intensify its expansion initiatives and upgrade its programs to meet the growing number of elite clients in the UAE. According to recent statistics, the car rental market in Dubai has increased 20 per cent in 2007 as most business visitors prefer to rent rather than buy a car, while the number of corporations opting for car rental solutions has also increased



"The car rental industry within the UAE is witnessing exponential growth, mainly as a result of the country's booming tourism sector and the prevalence of short business visits. We have been able to capitalise on these favourable conditions as our company offers luxurious high-end cars that fit the requirements of businessmen, VIPs and royalties visiting the country," said Omar Al Kasem, Operations Manager, Najd Rent A Car.

"Furthermore, we are poised to add 30 new luxurious cars to our fleet within the year as we expect a further surge in demand," Al Kasem added. The arrival of the new

luxury cars, which include Maybach, Mercedes, BMW, Audi and Range Rover models, is predicted to improve Najd Rent A Car's penetration in the high-end market, especially as a larger warehouse has also recently been acquired, which has given Najd Rent A Car more flexibility to implement future expansion initiatives in other high-growth segments.

Najd Rent A Car's expansion program has been boosted by the addition of a new business centre and a new investment partner, which helped the company recently become a limited liability company. Najd Rent A Car, which was established in 2000, has also initiated a number of complementary initiatives, including a new website ([www.albaselgroup.com](http://www.albaselgroup.com)), to improve its market visibility