

# Bahrain accelerates towards electric future, leaving fossil fuels behind

Deloitte & Touche Middle East awarded contract to develop Bahrain's Electric Vehicle Strategy

● **EWA says shifting to greener transport is crucial for meeting climate targets**

● **On the way is EV charging policies, regulations and infrastructure**

● **Bahrain aims to achieve Net Zero by 2060**

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Bahrain has set the wheels rolling for plugging in vehicles and cutting down on its dependency on fossil fuels to complete its Net Zero journey by 2060.

For this, the Kingdom needs an appropriate Electric Vehicle Strategy that would help increase the uptake of EVs, reduce emissions and improve the quality of life for all.

Helping authorities achieve this electric dream will be Deloitte & Touche Middle East.

According to Tender Board, the Electricity and Water Affairs has awarded Deloitte & Touche a BD112,722,000 contract to set a suitable strategy in three months.

The strategy should help Bahrain drive its EV penetration journey in a controlled and sustainable way, for this is also crucial for Bahrain to meet climate targets.

It's worth noting that Bahrain targets the reduction of carbon emissions by 30% through decarbonisation and energy efficiency initiatives, in addition to reaching Net Zero by 2060.

Deloitte & Touche LLP (DME) is the affiliate for the Middle East and Cyprus of Deloitte NSE LLP (NSE), a UK limited liability partnership and a member firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, a

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private company limited by guarantee (DTTL).

As per tender board documents, the plan is to increase the usage of renewable energy sources, including solar power as an upstream source of electricity, reducing overall dependency on fossil fuels and lower pollution levels.

The strategy will also focus on reducing the overall EV ownership costs for all stakeholders, including the government, industries, and private citizens.

A nationwide EV charging infrastructure is also crucial, as the availability of charging points can still be a limiting factor for some EV owners.

## Electric cars

Reportedly, Bahrain has already started works for developing electric cars, for which Marson Group, a Bahraini business and project development company has formed a partnership with Gauss Auto, an

American manufacturing corporation.

The new plant in Salman Industrial City in the American Trade Zone will operate under the name Gauss Auto Bahrain.

The plan is to produce a range of electric vehicles (EVs), including two-wheelers, three-wheel electric tricycles, and passenger vehicles.

## Six bidders

The tender requesting proposals opened by EWA in February this year had disclosed bids from six players around the globe.

McKinsey & Company (BHD 562.800), Egis International (BHD 174,685.720), PriceWaterhouseCoopers Bahrain (BHD 159,500.000), Arthur D Little (Bahrain) (BHD 435,158.000), Oliver Wyman FZ-LLC (BHD 517,000.000) and Deloitte & Touche (BHD 112,772.000) were the bidding companies.

## Reduction of fossil fuel

## use 'inevitable': Emirati COP28 chief

Meanwhile, in a related development, the head of the upcoming COP28 climate summit, who also is the chief executive of the UAE's national oil company, acknowledged yesterday that a reduction in the use of fossil fuels is inescapable.

"The phase down of fossil fuels is inevitable," Sultan al-Jaber said on the sidelines of technical climate talks six months ahead of the summit.

"The speed at which this happens depends on how quickly we can phase up zero carbon alternatives, while ensuring energy security, accessibility and affordability," added Al Jaber, who runs the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc).

Al-Jaber defended a COP28 roadmap that includes a "global goal to triple renew-

able energy, double energy efficiency, and double clean hydrogen, all by 2030."

His comments came as numerous participants and observers in the UN climate negotiations have called on al-Jaber to explicitly acknowledge the importance of ending the use of fossil fuels, an objective no COP summit to date has been able to put down in writing.

On Wednesday, al-Jaber signed a statement with European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen calling for "a transition towards energy systems free of unabated fossil fuels," meaning fossil fuels without carbon capture systems, hinting at a possible compromise in the coming months between different camps in the negotiations.

"We must be laser-focused on phasing out fossil fuel emissions, while phasing up viable, affordable zero carbon alternatives," al-Jaber said at an event in Germany last month.



A General Motors Hummer EV chassis sits outside of an event where General Motors CEO Mary Barra announced that GM is making a \$7 billion investment, the largest in the company's history, in electric vehicle and battery production in Michigan on January 25, 2022 in Lansing, Michigan.



The network of roads and highways in Bahrain has a total length of 4,122 km, according to world data. For each of the country's 1.75 million inhabitants, this corresponds to 2.36 meters. This puts Bahrain in 165th place in the global ranking.

- The first electric vehicle was developed in the 1830s by Robert Anderson, a Scottish inventor.
- In the early 20th century, electric vehicles were more popular than gasoline vehicles, especially in urban areas.
- The introduction of the Ford Model T in 1908 led to a decline in the popularity of electric vehicles.
- Interest in electric vehicles began to grow again in the 1990s and 2000s due to concerns about climate change and air pollution.

As of July 2019, a new EU regulation made it a legal requirement for all new electric and hybrid automobiles to make an artificial noise so that bicycles and pedestrians may more easily hear them. At speeds of 13 mph or below, the noise becomes audible.

## Poullaides Construction awarded BD2.3m deal for Reef Mall renovation

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Renovation works of Reef Mall in Malkiya has been awarded to Poullaides Construction for BD2,305,000,000.

The tender, initiated by Bahrain Real Estate Investment (Edamah), attracted the interest of seven companies, with bids ranging from BHD 1,777,000.000 to BHD 2,527,877.160.

The project involves a comprehensive refurbishment of the mall, including the upgrade of MEP (Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing) systems and civil works.

According to an earlier report, the Arab Architects had secured a contract to provide



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consultancy services, as well as technical and design assessments for the project.

Reef Mall primarily caters to residents of Hamad Town, Sadad, and the Lawzi area.

## Why passengers prefer travelling via BIA?

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The Bahrain Airport Company has launched a tender for initiating a passenger Market Research Survey, seeking to understand why travellers choose Bahrain International Airport (BIA) as their preferred airport for travel.

This inquiry aims to gain insights into the factors and considerations that influence passengers' decision-making process, says the tender seeking request for proposals launched by Bahrain Airport Company.

The tender specifically targets bidders who can uncover the reasons why passengers, including both Saudis and non-Saudis from the BIA catchment area, prefer traveling via



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BIA. Among the requirements, bidders must present a proposal consisting of a minimum of 50% primary research and 50% secondary research.

Interested parties can purchase the Tender Documents online through the e-tendering platform at <https://e-tendering.tenderboard.gov.bh>, with availability starting from June 7, 2023. Bidders should submit their proposals with a BD500 bond, valid for 180 days, before the deadline of July 11, 2023.

## MOIC seeks guard force for headquarters, BIIP

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The Ministry of Industry and Commerce is looking forward to hiring security personnel to safeguard its headquarters in Bahrain Financial Harbour and Bahrain International Investment Park (BIIP) in Hidd Area.

In a tender released for request for proposals, the ministry is seeking a reputable security company to provide a qualified, well-equipped, and experienced registered guard force.

The selected security personnel will be responsible for implementing necessary security measures in accordance with the laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain to ensure the safety and protection of the minis-



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try's headquarters and BIIP.

The ministry plans to enter into a 24-month contract with the successful bidder who meets the requirements.

Interested companies are invited to submit their bids before the deadline of June 14, 2023, along with a BD1,000 bond that will remain valid for 180 days.