

MEP MIDDLE EAST

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Essential information for mechanical, electrical, plumbing and HVAC professionals

An ITP Business Publication | June 2015 Vol. 10 Issue 06

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TOP 25 CONSULTANTS

US\$2.756bn
2014 group revenue

US\$350mn
2014 revenue

2,400
employees

US\$141mn
2014 revenue

US\$106mn
2014 revenue

THE DROP IN OIL PRICE HASN'T EFFECTED THE LOCAL CONSULTING COMMUNITY, WHICH GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH DRIVEN BY MASSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND A LACK OF SPECIALISED SKILLS IN THE REGION

CHILL IN, NOT OUT
CHILLER INDUSTRY RACES
TO KEEP UP WITH DEMAND

TERMINAL VELOCITY
TURNER & TOWNSEND
FOCUSES ON AIRPORTS



ATKINS | KHATIB & ALAMI | CH2M | WSP | PARSON BRINCKERHOFF | HYDER CONSULTING | AECOM
| KEO INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS | SSH DESIGN | ARAB ENGINEERING BUREAU | ARUP | RAMBOLL
| BUROHAPPOLD ENGINEERING | TED JACOB ENGINEERING | WME CONSULTANTS | HOARE LEA | BLACK
& WHITE | ME ENGINEERS | P&T ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS | DC PRO ENGINEERING | HILSON MORAN
| CKR CONSULTING | BLUEHAUS ENGINEERING | MOTT MACDONALD | DAR AL HANDASAH | IHCC

ALSO: THE NEED FOR PARTNERSHIP ON PROJECTS

P&T Architects and Engineers

Projects completed last year include the 70-storey Burj Rafal, including Kempinski Hotel and Residences, in Riyadh, for which P&T was lead consultant providing architecture, structure and MEP engineering services. In 2015 the firm is handling major projects in Dubai as lead consultant, including the Viceroy Hotel Palm Jumeirah, Hameni Residential Tower in JVC and Kensington Krystal Tower in Dubai Maritime City; as well as four luxury hotels in Jordan, the Solis Hotel in Qatar and a 1,500-bed hospital in Riyadh.

With 2,135 staff globally, of which 153 are based in the UAE, P&T's key markets within the region are UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, Oman and Bahrain.

www.constructionweekonline.com



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Sustainable BUSINESS

P&T Architects and Engineers (Dubai) is embracing sustainable design to its core as it expands its regional business

Are you seeing a growing awareness from clients about sustainability issues?

Rehan Shahid, director, P&T Architect and Engineers (Dubai): The lifecycle cost analysis is the main driving factor; if the consultant can convince the client that the payback will be within an attractive time period, then there is no reason why today's developers (more so in the UAE) will not consider sustainable design solutions.

Ten odd years ago the heat recovery systems were considered to be an expensive option but over the years it has been realised that they save you a lot of money in the long run. Public awareness is growing day by day...the wheel has begun to turn, it is just matter of time [before] it [gains] momentum.

What new skills is P&T equipping itself with to meet the demand for sustainable designs?

Shahid: We have team members with degrees in sustainability related fields and LEED professionals in all disciplines; regular seminars are conducted in house to keep abreast with the current developments.

P&T Group has a sustainability experts team, which includes individuals from all offices: Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Bangkok and the Middle East.

Conference calls are held quarterly and once a year, a face to face meeting is held to exchange ideas and innovative solutions.

Is P&T integrating MEP systems with sophisticated building management software?

Shahid: Most of our recent hotel projects employ BEMS (building energy management system). BEMS can provide an integrated computerised control and monitoring system of energy-related plant and equipment, such as HVAC, lighting, domestic hot water, electrical supply/distribution, energy consumption [and] vertical transportation. Increased energy efficiency, improved environmental conditions, improved fire, security and other emergency procedures are just some of the advantages – but all this comes with a higher first [capital] cost.

We are also looking into the next generation of building energy management systems that can automatically create and adapt daily, weekly and monthly profiles of water and energy consumption, based on real time data. If employed successfully such systems would bring the unnecessary waste of energy to absolute minimum and allow the owner to reap maximum return on investment (ROI).



Rehan Shahid,
director, P&T Architect
and Engineers (Dubai).

“Until such time as the installation of large photovoltaic systems is subsidised, I [don't] see many developers seriously considering this option as the payback period is too long to justify the investment.”

What new technologies is P&T looking at to help reduce the environmental footprint of its buildings?

Shahid: A well-insulated building envelope, better than average or recommended glazing and high-efficiency plant equipment are considered mandatory in our design.

Apart from the solar water heating and grey water treatment systems we find use of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and wind energy systems to produce electricity quite promising. Already we are using solar lighting for the landscape areas and external walkways in our projects.

For the future projects, we intend to use solar powered pumping systems for the external water features.

In our Lagos hotel project, we are considering sun pipes (day-light pipes) to deliver natural light to selected back-of-house areas.

As for larger PV systems, with

the present kWh unit price, and until such time as the installation of larger solar photovoltaic systems is subsidised by the state, I [don't] see many developers seriously considering this option as the payback period is too long to justify investment.

Are you seeing a change with more building owners interested in talking about operational expenditure?

Shahid: Absolutely, in recent years we have realised that operational expenditure is on the mind of the stakeholders, especially for large developments and also within the hotel industry.

For hotel operators, O&M [operation and management] takes a considerable chunk off their revenues; so yes, we see a lot of serious interest and one good indicator would be the growing demand for facilities management firms and professionals. ■