

## **Ferry Dubai Phase-1-A part of it to be Completed by Oct. '09**

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DUBAI - The Marine Agency at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) will soon begin construction of the stations for the Ferry Dubai service, officials said on Sunday.

The stations for the service will be located at the Al Gubaiba, Gold Souq, Union Square and City Centre areas.

The end of 2009 will also see the completion of the automated fare collection system for the marine transit modes.

A part of Phase-1 of the Ferry Dubai project, is scheduled to be complete by October next year.

RTA had awarded the contract of designing the ferries to the Netherlands based Damen Company.

Khalid Al Zahid, the acting Chief Executive Officer of the Marine Agency said the completion rate had reached 10 per cent.

These ferries will have the capacity to carry 100 passengers at one time. The first phase of the project will see 10 ferries getting fully operational by March 2010.

As part of Phase-1, six ferries will start to ply on a trial run from October covering four key stations. The remaining four ferries will arrive by March 2010.

Phase-2 of the project will cover the Dubai creek extensions following the completion of the new bridges. The third phase will see an extension of the service covering Dubai Maritime City, Sharjah, Palms, The World and The Waterfront.

The entire project is slated to get completed by June 2010.

Al Zahid said Ferry Dubai has been introduced with specifications that will have no negative effects on the environment.

"Due attention was assigned to ensure that boat traffic will not generate waves that negatively impact marine habitat.

"An emergency plan is in place to ensure that there will be no leakage of any material harming the environment," the official said.

The Marine Agency had announced the Water Taxi project earlier this year.

According to the plan, 10 water taxis, all available on 'on call' basis, will be plying across the creek by mid 2009. At present, 20 stations for these water taxis have been approved.

{Zawya}