

# Multi-modal logistics platform to stimulate regional trade

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**Dubai Logistics City (DLC)**, envisioned to be the world's first truly multi-modal integrated logistics platform, found a huge audience at two recent conferences - the International Freight Week (IFW) 2008 held in Abu Dhabi and the 4<sup>th</sup> **Trans Middle East** event in Dubai.

At both events, visitors and exhibitors alike heard of how regional trade would receive an impetus upon **DLC's** completion as it will eventually have a capacity of 12 million tonnes of cargo annually - nearly three times more than the current busiest cargo hub in Memphis, USA.

The IFW is considered one of the region's premier freight shows, while **Trans Middle East** is a prestigious gathering of the world's transport and logistics communities. Both events had a large number of regional participants who were keen to know more about the **DLC** proposition. IFW was held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre on 23-25 November, while Al Bustan Rotana Hotel in Dubai hosted on 25-26 November.

"**DLC** will provide an ideal set-up for the transportation and logistics requirements of traded goods through and within the Middle East, resulting in an accelerated trade flow in the region as well as to nearby markets such as the Indian Sub-continent, Africa and the CIS," said Abdulla Al Qurashi, CEO, **Dubai Logistics City**.

Spread over 21.5 square kilometres, **DLC** will form an integral part of a single-bonded free zone environment within the entire **Dubai World Central (DWC)** development - a 140 square kilometre urban aviation community centred on what is to become the world's largest international airport - the DWC-Al Maktoum International Airport - currently being built 40 kilometres south of the existing Dubai International Airport.

**DLC** consists of several facilities including shared warehouses and plots of land for forwarders; land for logistics business of industry, trade, and distributors; land for dedicated facilities of integrators; office buildings and ancillary services; and up to 16 air cargo terminals with an average of 30,000 square metres each.

"The **DLC** concept is a world's first and one-of-its-kind whereby DWC-Al Maktoum International would be linked with the Jebel Ali Port, one of the busiest international ports in the Middle East," explained Al Qurashi.

"Together with an efficient road network, **DLC's** value proposition for the transport and logistics sector would surely speed-up trade flows within the Middle East and nearby markets.

"Undoubtedly, **DLC** will set a benchmark, not just in the region but even worldwide, specifically for facilities catering to transport and logistics providers."

**DLC's** first phase will be fully operational in mid-2009 when first cargo flights are expected at DWC-Al Maktoum International Airport.

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