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Al Sufouh Tram in Dubai floored by Italian brand Nesite

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The Al Sufouh Tram system was designed to be an integral part of the Dubai transport network, linking the Dubai Metro and the Palm Monorail and running along Al Sufouh Road and Jumeirah Beach Road from Mall of the Emirates at one end to the Dubai Marina at the other end.



The Italian brand Nesite was chosen as the supplier of the raised access floors in the various stations where a specific fire resistance and mechanical performance of the floors was required due to the high traffic areas and passenger flow.

The planning and construction of the Al Sufouh Tram is being undertaken by a consortium of Alstom, Besix and Parsons. Construction has been divided into two phases: the first one is expected to be completed in the first half of 2014 and it will have 11 trams and 13 stations running 10 km. In the second phase will be added 14 more trams and six more stations along an additional 4 km of track. Each tram will have the capacity to carry 400 passengers and will cater to 5,000 passengers per hour.

The tram will provide a link to three Metro stations: the Mall of the Emirates, Dubai Marina and Jumeirah Lakes Towers. It will also be linked to the Palm Jumeirah monorail.

The tram system will be the first in the world to be fully powered by an electric system installed in the ground. Power is fed to the tram as it passes overhead, but stops when it moves away, allowing pedestrians to walk in the area safely. The technology has been in use in France for the past seven years, but is making its debut in the MENA region with the new Al Sufouh tram.

It is also the world's first tramway that uses platform screen doors in passenger stations fully aligned with the tram's doors opening and shutting mechanism, providing maximum convenience, safety and security for passengers, and at the same time protecting the efficiency of the air-conditioning quality in the interior of both stations and carriages from the external climatic effects.

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"At this moment in time there is a strong growth in the public transport sector within the UAE and the Middle East," according to Mr. Augusto Di Pietro, Regional Manager of Nesite. "In fact, two more Metro lines will be constructed in Dubai approximately 150 km in length. Furthermore there are under design the metro lines of Riyadh and Jeddah, without missing out on the whole railway system that will cross the Arabian Peninsula and will end in proximity of the Red Sea. The transport sector could be an important market for Nesite. With this view - concludes Di Pietro - Nesite is now in the frontline for all future projects in the UAE Area."