

Etihad Rail Signs MoU with JBC EXPRESS FREIGHT LLC

- Etihad Rail to Support JBC's Logistics Services Across GCC -

Abu Dhabi, UAE, 10 October, 2013: Etihad Rail, the developer and operator of the UAE's national railway network, today announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JBC EXPRESS FREIGHT LLC (JBC), a leader in freight-forwarding, warehousing and value-added logistics services in the region.

The understanding paves the way for a long-term partnership that facilitates the delivery of containers and other cargo throughout the UAE and across the border into other GCC countries, via Etihad Rail's connection to the wider GCC railway network. The integration of JBC's existing transport options with rail will enhance the company's supply chain capabilities, allowing it to better meet the requirements of regional and global customers.

H.E. Dr. Nasser Al Mansoori, CEO of Etihad Rail, said: "Etihad Rail is an integral part of UAE Vision 2021 - strengthening the UAE's position as a logistics hub in the region and beyond - while JBC has also established itself as a contributor to the growing regional logistics sector. As such, the MoU with JBC is in line with Etihad Rail's strategy to build relationships with key industry players as part of its commitment towards the economic growth and development of the UAE. This will not only allow JBC to experience the benefits of a modern, efficient and integrated mode of transport, but also facilitate their expansion plans in the GCC."

Mr. P.K. Ayyappan, Managing Director of JBC, further added: "JBC has been operating in the region for decades, and rail is an ideal means for us to meet customer requirements in line with our major expansion plans for the future. The MoU with Etihad Rail allows us to appropriately allocate our needs for other modes of transport in the long-run, and we are confident that

integrating rail into our existing logistics network will help us to take our company to the next level.”

Founded in 1992, JBC has been growing its full-fledged operation with terminals equipped with modern loading and storage facilities in Dubai, Jebel Ali Free Zone, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Muscat and Doha. The company’s success spans across a wide range of lean supply chain services, including cargo movement, project logistics, courier service, customs clearing and forwarding, as well as infrastructure facilities that include modern office automation and communication systems, conveyance facilities and material-handling equipment. JBC boasts a fleet of 130 vehicles, including light and heavy duty trucks, to support the handling of more than over 100 metric tonnes of cargo daily.

The MoU comes at a time of rapid progress as Etihad Rail prepares to launch its first rail service on the Habshan-Ruwais route as part of Stage One by year-end, and gearing up for Stage Two, which will connect the railway to Mussafah, the Gulf ports of Khalifa and Jebel Ali, as well as the Saudi and Omani borders. Preliminary engineering is also well underway for Stage Three, which will connect the rest of the Northern Emirates.

Upon completion, the Etihad Rail network, which will cater to both freight and passengers, will span approximately 1,200 kilometres across the Emirates. It will connect urban and peripheral communities, facilitate trade, open up communication channels and foster economic development across all Emirates in the UAE. The network will also form a vital part of the GCC railway network, linking the UAE to Saudi Arabia via Ghweifat in the west and Oman via Al Ain in the east.

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Editor's Notes:

About Etihad Rail

Etihad Rail was established in June 2009 under Federal Law no. 2, with a mandate to manage the development, construction and operation of the UAE's national freight and passenger railway network. Being built in three stages, the railway network will link the principal centres of population and industry of the UAE, and will form a vital part of the planned GCC railway network across the six countries of the GCC.

Construction on Stage One is well underway and on schedule for the first trains to run from Habshan to Ruwais by the end of 2013; the sleeper factory in Mirfa is fully functional, and wagons and locomotives have arrived on site. Tendering is in progress for Stage Two, which will connect the railway to Mussafah, Khalifa and Jebel Ali ports and will see the railway extend to the Saudi and Omani borders. To date, Etihad Rail has signed 15 Memorandums of Understanding with a number of customers throughout the Emirates – in industries ranging from petrochemicals and agriculture to aggregates and waste – all of whom recognise rail as the preferred mode of transport for their goods.

Built to international standards, Etihad Rail's state-of-the-art network will span approximately 1,200 km, acting as a catalyst for economic growth and sustained social development. Upon completion, the railway will redefine logistics and transport in the region, providing a modern, safe, efficient and sustainable mode of transport that will connect all regions of the UAE to its neighbouring GCC countries.

For more information, please visit the Etihad Rail website at: www.etihadrail.ae

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About JBC EXPRESS FREIGHT LLC

JBC Express Freight LLC was established in 1992 with a vision to be the most reliable global logistics solutions provider. Recognising the potential of growth in the GCC, with its outstanding infrastructure developments of roads, sea ports, airports, free zones, economic zones, telecommunications – JBC began developing a state-of-the-art logistics network in the region.

Serving more than 1,500 customers, JBC has offices and vehicles deployed throughout the GCC with a dedicated team offering freight forwarding, consolidated cargo movement, customs clearing, forwarding and related activities. With a fleet of 130 vehicles handling over 100 metric tonnes of cargo and covering 20,000 km per day, JBC has set a new standard in quality and value-added service in the logistics sector.

For more information about JBC, please contact:

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