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Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 2:10 PM
Subject: DET Monthly News Roundup - January H2 2024



DET Monthly News Roundup

This month's newsletter begins by looking at government and regulatory announcements. We kick off with the news that Dubai continues its economic surge with 3.3% GDP growth in first nine months of 2023, largely driven by the emirates booming accommodation and food services sector. Next, the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology contributed an immense US\$53 billion to UAE GDP in 2023. Dubai South, one of the largest single-urban master developments focused on aviation, logistics, and real estate, highlighted its key achievements over the past year. It was also a busy month for DEWA, with its announcement that it is on track to reach net zero by 2050 and a recap of its infrastructure development in 2023.

Dubai real estate remains a booming industry, as demonstrated by DMCC and Danube partnering to launch a residential project in JLT worth more than US\$545 million and Knight Frank's records showing that Dubai's luxury home sales topped US\$7.6 billion in 2023 – with the sale of properties valued at US\$10 million or more growing by 92% YoY. On the business front, a new 'International Growth Initiative' has been launched to accelerate the global expansion of SME's. Dubai Business Events (DBE) recorded 349 business events in 2023, further consolidating Dubai's status as a core business hub.

Top Stories



Government & Regulatory Announcements

Dubai continues its economic surge with 3.3% GDP growth in the first nine months of 2023

- Dubai's strong economic landscape is a testament to its resilience and robust growth capabilities, illustrating the depth and wide-ranging nature of its diversification.
 - Accommodation and food services activities witnessed an impressive 11.1% growth, solidifying Dubai's position as a global tourism leader.
 - Transportation and storage services followed suit, increasing by 10.9%, highlighting the emirate's role as a prominent international logistics hub.
 - The IT and communications sector followed with a 4.4% increase, underscoring Dubai's commitment to embracing cutting-edge technologies and fostering a thriving knowledge economy.

MolAT contributes projected AED 197 billion to UAE GDP in 2023

- The Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology contributed an immense US\$53 billion to UAE GDP in 2023.
- The contribution was largely driven by providing a business-friendly environment that supports the growth and attractiveness of UAE companies; boosting In-Country Value in the industrial sector; accelerating technological transformation to support productivity and competitiveness; and promoting sustainability.
- Ways in which it promoted sustainability include by driving initiatives such as the Green ICV incentive, which provides an additional 3% bonus score to companies that demonstrate a commitment to the program's sustainability standards.

Dubai South records key achievements during 2023, its best performing year to date

- 2023 was the best performing year to date for the largest single-urban master development which focuses on aviation, logistics, and real estate.
- Dubai South Properties launched and successfully sold the first three phases of its flagship South Bay project featuring over 800 villas, townhouses, and more than 200 waterfront mansions.
- The development also issued 428 new licenses to new companies, and 95% of existing companies were retained, bringing the total number of companies operating from Dubai South to 4,101.
- Its Logistics District signed several agreements including a partnership with dnata, the Dubai National Air and Travel Agency, to enable a digitally driven gate control mechanism for shipments at Dubai South's cargo-handling terminals; an agreement with Beijing New Aerotropolis Holdings China to establish a comprehensive framework for nurturing cooperative relations; and an MoU with Sinotrans, a subsidiary and single logistics platform for China Merchants

Group, to establish its first Middle East logistics and e-commerce hub at the Dubai South Logistics District.

DEWA is on pace to reach Net-Zero by 2050 through pioneering clean and renewable energy projects

- The authority is also on track to achieve the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Dubai Net Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy 2050 to provide 100% of the energy production capacity from clean energy sources by 2050.
- Pioneering projects in clean and renewable energy have supported DEWA's journey to net-zero:
 - Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park → the production capacity of the solar park has reached 2,627MW using the latest global technologies.
- Hydroelectric Power Plant in Hatta → Set to have a production capacity of 250MW, a storage capacity of 1,500 megawatt-hours, equivalent to 6 hours of storage, and a life span of 80 years. The hydroelectric power plant will use water from the Hatta Dam and an upper reservoir that has been built in the mountain.
- Shams Dubai Initiative → initiative encouraging customers to install photovoltaic solar panels on the roofs of their buildings and facilities to meet part of their energy needs as part of the Distributed Renewable Resources Generation programme.
- Pilot Green Hydrogen Project → project at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park and first of its kind in MENA to produce hydrogen using solar energy. Produces 20kg of hydrogen per hour, and the hydrogen gas storage tank can store up to 240kg of hydrogen. The project has been designed and built to accommodate future applications and test platforms for various uses of hydrogen.

DEWA extended over 364 kilometres of fibre optic ducts in 2023

- The extension reflects DEWA's efforts to build a world class infrastructure that intensively uses the disruptive technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and digital transformation.
- The increased length of the fibre optic ducts to a total of 3,998km is a 10% growth YoY.
- The total gross value of the project exceeds US\$58 billion.



Real Estate

Industry News

DMCC and Danube properties partner to launch USD 545 million residential project in thriving JLT district

- The partnership will bring 65-storey twin towers to Jumeirah Lake Towers (JLT) District, creating 1,200 brand new residential units.
- This collaboration follows on from another DMCC-Danube project, Viewz, launched in January 2024, which sits in Cluster K and has a development value of US\$381 million.
 - The two high-rise towers of the development have been fully sold, demonstrating the continued demand for premium property offerings across JLT.

New record for Dubai as luxury home sales hit US\$7.6 bn in 2023

- Global property consultancy, Knight Frank, reports that the total number of US\$10 million properties sold in Dubai last year, grew 92% YoY, with 431 sales.
- Knight Frank's also revealed that during the first nine months of 2023, Dubai had already sold more than twice as many homes priced over US\$10 million than its nearest competitor – New York, which recorded 159 deals, against 323 in Dubai.
- Dubai's US\$10 million+ residential property market registered sales totaling US\$5.8 billion between Q1-Q3 2023, nearly double the level of second-placed London (US\$3.2 billion).

Azizi starts work on \$1.5bn Dubai tower that could be the world's second tallest

- Azizi Developments starts construction on Burj Azizi, aiming to be the world's second tallest tower, featuring luxury amenities and a four-year completion timeline.
- Burj Azizi's exact height remains undisclosed as it awaits final approval, but Azizi commits to surpassing Dubai's current second tallest building.
- Azizi Developments, with ongoing ambitious projects, actively contributes to Dubai's real estate landscape, including a multibillion-dollar investment plan and the recently launched Azizi Venice development.

Business

Hamdan bin Mohammed launches 'Dubai International Growth Initiative'

- Allocating US\$136 million to accelerate the expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) established in Dubai into global markets.
- The initiative was launched by the Government of Dubai in partnership with Emirates National Bank of Dubai (Emirates NBD).
- The Dubai International Growth Initiative further strengthens Dubai's leading position as a global business hub and facilitates the sustainable global expansion of SMEs is a priority for the Dubai Government in line with the D33 Agenda.

Dubai to benefit from record 349 business event wins in 2023

- Driven by Dubai Business Events (DBE), the record number of wins further consolidate its status as a central international business hub.
- The bids reflected a 49% increase in events YoY and attracted over 191,000 international delegates.
- Positioning Dubai as the foremost destination for international business events and increasing appetite among associations and corporations to conduct meetings in the city, DBE worked closely with stakeholders across the public and private sectors to convert interest in confirmed events.



What To Look Out For

Arab Health 2024

- Dubai is to host Arab Health 2024 29 January – 1st February, welcoming over 3,450 exhibitors and more than 110,000 healthcare professionals.
- The summit theme is ‘Connecting Minds, Transforming Healthcare’ and will focus on the future of healthcare, the intersection of tech and medicine, and putting the game-changing technologies utilized in the UAE, on the global stage.
- GITEX Global will gather for world’s most advanced companies and best minds to elevate business, economy, society, and culture through the power of innovation.
- Exhibition and conference will feature 5,000 companies, 1,400 industry expert speakers, and 170,000 attendees from 176 countries.

Gulfood 2024

- The largest annual F&B sourcing event in the world is set to take place 19-23 February 2024.
- Gulfood aspires to revolutionize the food and beverage landscape. by unveiling cutting-edge innovations, promoting industry partnerships, and tackling pressing challenges within the food sector.
- Bringing together influential decision-makers and experts, Gulfood 2024 will serve as a pivotal forum to deliberate on sustainable practices, steering the course for the future of the food industry.

Breakbulk Middle East

- The MENA region’s largest exhibition for the cargo and breakbulk industry, taking place 12-13 February 2024. This

edition will host more than 2,000 companies from over 55 countries.

- This year's themes will be the sustainable development of the sector, the need to adopt advanced digital solutions, and the opportunities for growth that lie in markets such as UAE, Saudi Arabia, and East Africa.
- Attendees and exhibitors include top industrial manufacturers, EPCs, project owners, and related service providers.

Dubai Association Centre Conference

- The industry defining conference is set to return for its fourth edition 27-28 February 2024 under the theme, 'Value amplified: Associations empowering change'.
- It will provide a platform for global sector leaders and experts to come together and consolidate the pivotal role associations play in serving the needs and aspirations of their members and as agents of positive change within their communities and wider societies.
- The event will also aid Dubai's strategy to attract more businesses and foreign direct investments as part of the Dubai Economic Agenda – D33.

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