



## The ICM – *keeping you informed* News

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### February 2019

#### Red Sea Mega tourist Project



A Saudi Arabian development company has approved a masterplan produced by WATG and Buro Happold for a major tourism project that includes marinas, 14 hotels and an airport. The masterplan for the Red Sea Development Company (TRSDC) project includes design concepts from some of the world's most prominent architectural firms.

The project will be developed over an area of 28,000km<sup>2</sup> on Saudi Arabia's west coast and includes an archipelago of more than 90 islands and lagoons. The site also features mountain canyons, dormant volcanoes, desert areas and ancient cultural and heritage sites.

The first phase of the project, scheduled for completion in 2022, includes 14 luxury and 'hyper-luxury' hotels providing 3,000 rooms across five islands and two inland resorts. Phase One will also include yacht marinas, leisure and lifestyle amenities and an airport to serve the destination, as well as the necessary supporting logistics and utilities infrastructure.

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### Safe lifting next to railways

When operating mobile cranes next to railway lines make use of the new official safety guide prepared by the Construction Plant Hirers Association (CPHA) The good practice guide focuses on the risks of operating in close proximity to rail tracks. It includes topics such as: a hierarchy of risk elimination and reduction; requirements for crane configuration

and setting up; and lift planning. It also includes sample documents such as a foundation pre-rigging inspection report form.



*The 29-page document, Good practice guide: Requirements for mobile cranes alongside railways controlled by Network Rail, has been produced by the Construction Plant-hire Association's (CPA) crane interest group in co-operation with Network Rail.*

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## Marriott announces plan for 30 new European hotels

Marriott International plans to accelerate its European expansion by opening almost 30 new hotels by the end of 2020. Its Courtyard by Marriott brand has announced it expects to expand its European footprint of 63 hotels by almost 50% over the next two years. In addition to strengthening its portfolio in its established markets of Germany,



France and the UK, Courtyard will open in seven other destinations including Armenia, Finland, and Iceland. It has also recently opened a new hotel in Paris and one in Hamburg is scheduled to open in spring 2019. Courtyard Paris Gare de Lyon is a 19-storey tower with 249 guest rooms and Courtyard Hamburg City will have 276 rooms and be equipped to host a range of business and conference events. The UK market already has seven Courtyard hotels and is slated to further expand its portfolio with the addition of five cities such as London, Glasgow and Oxford. Following the opening of Courtyard Paris Gare de Lyon, the footprint in France is expected to grow to 10 hotels with eight in Paris. The upcoming opening of Courtyard Munich Garching will be followed by a further three properties anticipated to open in Hamburg, Munich and Darmstadt.

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### Ethiopia

#### Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway

Ethiopia just unveiled the even more ambitious USD4 billion Chinese-built-and-financed 756km Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway.

It connects the country's heartland capital of Addis Ababa (elevation: 2,355m) to the nearest natural sea port in neighbouring Djibouti on the Red Sea.

Essentially the same route as the original French-built line—completed in 1917 but inoperable as of 2009—it is the first electrified cross-border rail system in Africa, not to mention a vital access point to the sea for the landlocked country.

After all, 90% of goods entering Ethiopia pass through the ex-French colony of Djibouti, all of which have come by road since the rail's closure in 2009.

However important the new rail, it represents but a fraction of Chinese projects in the country and its immediate hinterland.

In addition to building Addis Ababa's USD475 million light-rail system and the African Union's new Ethiopia-based headquarters for USD200 million, the Addis-Djibouti line comes just in time for what is arguably Beijing's most significant post-Vietnam foreign adventure to date: the June 2017 opening of its first foreign military base, a 90-acre naval facility that will house up to 10,000 Chinese soldiers in Djibouti, just down the road from the new train terminus.

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**We would like to hear about any projects that you have been working on, or about your carrier, if you can help please contact me.**

**I myself started as an apprentice carpenter and Joiner, did 2 years National service, back as a Carpenter to get back in the swing of things. Worked my way to foreman, site agent, manager, on Housing sites etc, contracts Manager, Clerk of works, Building Surveyor, Chief Building Surveyor. I really enjoyed my time in the industry.**

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