

Protecting the Aviation Jewels of the Middle East



There is currently a boom in new airport construction in the Middle East with major projects underway in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Jeddah. This growth, expected to continue for the next twenty years, is driven by government infrastructure plans and a desire to make sectors of the Middle East a tourism hub, e.g. Emirates activities in Dubai. It's also part of economic stimulation plans post Arab Spring.

AkzoNobel has been supporting this growth with the supply of cellulosic fire protection coatings from the Interchar® range on numerous infrastructure projects. This includes King Abdullah International Airport (KAIA) in Jeddah and Prince Mohammed International Airport in Medinah, Saudi Arabia, and Muscat International Airport and Salalah Airport in Oman.

"Our versatile Interchar product range allows customers to achieve their precise fire protection requirements," says AkzoNobel's Business Development Manager in the Middle East.

"These products have fire resistance levels between 30-180 minutes and are tested to a wide range of global and local standards including BS476 and UL263," says AkzoNobel's Passive Fire Protection (PFP) Business Development Engineer for Middle East North.

"Our Interchar products are also available as solvent or water borne options depending on application methodology and sustainability credentials," adds AkzoNobel's PFP Business Development Engineer for Middle East South.

The new King Abdullah International Airport in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia will become an iconic hub airport for the region. With a 670,000m² (7,211,820ft²) passenger terminal spread over a spectacular twin crescent footprint, around 80 million travellers will use the airport per year by 2035.

Due for completion in 2015, KAIA features Interchar 963 and Interchar 1120 along with Intergard® 475HS and a finish coat of Interthane® 990UHS. Primers used include Intergard 251 and Interzinc® 52. AkzoNobel was chosen by main contractor Saudi Bin Ladin, fabricator Ginggong and the applicators Rameer because of the quality and sustainability credentials of these products, all of which comply with LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) requirements, and strong technical service expertise.

Interchar 963 and Interchar 1120 also feature on 7,000 tonnes of steelwork for the Muscat International Airport; the largest project ever to be undertaken in Oman. The airport opens in 2015 and will initially handle 12 million passengers per year. It was the ability of Interchar 1120 to protect sections of the terminal's structural steelwork for at least two hours which led to Bechtel Enka Bahwan Consortium (BEB) JV (the main contractor), Cimtas (the fabricator) and Hertel (the applicator) choosing AkzoNobel. The airport also features Intergard 251 and Interzinc 52 primers, plus Intergard 475HS and Interthane 870.

Elsewhere, Interchar products have been used on 3,000 tonnes of steelwork for Salalah International Airport, including Interchar 2060, Interchar 963 and Interchar 973. The airport, due for completion 2015, also features Intergard 251, Interzinc 52, Intergard 475HS and Interthane 990UHS.

"It was AkzoNobel's global presence, competitive prices, good technical support and superior range of quality products that were the key factors in them winning the Salalah airport project," says K.V. Nageswara Rao, Construction Manager for fabricator Eversendai.

AkzoNobel has also been specified for the expansion of the Prince Mohammed International Airport in Medinah, Saudi Arabia, due for completion in 2015. This includes Interchar 1190 and Interthane 990SG on 9,000 tonnes of steelwork. Contractors TAV Construction and subcontractors Arabian International Company selected AkzoNobel due to the two hour proven performance characteristics of Interchar 1190 and strong technical service capabilities.

"With a dedicated, best in class fire protection facility in Gateshead, UK and a strong global network of fire protection experts, we continue to work with customers across the contract chain to demonstrate the merit of our fire protection products." says AkzoNobel's Business Development Manager for Worldwide Fire Protection.