

## UAE buys HR plates from alternate origins



Although HR plates offer prices from China are the lowest, UAE buyers prefer buying the material of alternative origins. Amid rather scarce end-user buying activity local customers are purchasing material mostly back-to-back for specific projects only but not for stocks refilling.

Prices from China have gone down by \$20/t over the fortnight following the decrease in the local market. Nevertheless, local buyers have booked more expensive material from other suppliers.

The deals have been concluded for Ukrainian HR plates at around \$520/t CFR which corresponds to the current offer price level (stable over two weeks).

## ZonesCorp to develop USD435 mln auto hub in Abu Dhabi



ZonesCorp, the largest developer and operator of purpose-built industrial zones in the UAE, is set to develop Rahayel City, a new, world class, integrated autohub in Abu Dhabi at an estimated cost of AED 1.6 bln (USD 435 mln).

Unveiling the plans at the ongoing Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit (GMIS), the company said once completed, Rahayel City will become the focal point for all automotive manufacturers, distributors, service providers and dealers in Abu Dhabi, providing a diverse and attractive range of auto-related investment opportunities.

It was in response to a mandate by the Abu Dhabi government to implement strategic plans to develop the automotive industry in the emirate, it stated.

Designed in collaboration with leading industry specialists and covering an area of

12.3 sq km, the development plan for Rahayel aims to create dynamic environment for all automotive related businesses to thrive while elevating the shopping and service experience for customers, said senior officials of ZonesCorp.

The construction of the infrastructure for the new city got underway at the beginning of the year and Phase I is expected to be completed by the end of 2017, they stated.

The City has been designed to accommodate the full range of auto-related businesses, with 1800 plots in a range of sizes and supporting services such as showrooms, service centres and workshops, auction houses, warehousing, light industry, residential areas and public recreational facilities, all underpinned by world class infrastructure.

The Rahayel City site is strategically located 12 km from the western side of Abu Dhabi island along two major roads that link Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Dubai and the Western Region and Saudi Arabia.

The location was chosen due to its proximity to major transportation networks via major arterial roads and air, sea transport hubs and planned railway stations to provide maximum convenience for both customers and employees alike.

## Algeria moves towards self sufficiency in steel

Algeria is confidently approaching steel market's self-sufficiency provided by the recent inauguration of Tosyali Algeria's new complex.



The country's Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal inaugurated a new rebar mill at Tosyali Algeria's plant in the economic and industrial zone Bethioua. The project will add 2 million tpy of rebar to the existing rolling capacity

Consequently, the producer's growing production provides significant support to the Algeria's government policy, which aims to reduce country's dependence on imports. "We aspire to make Algeria one of the largest steel producers in the Mediterranean. Our goal is to become an emerging country by 2020," Abdelmalek Sellal said

During a press meet he said that in addition, Algeria recently welcomed commissioning of Algerian Qatari Steel's Bellara complex. The mill will increase country's production potential in the long steel segment by some more 2 million tpy (1.5 million tpy of rebar and 500,000 tpy of wire rod).

At the same time, the Algerian government is slowing down the licensing process for rebar and wire rod imports in order to support bold expansion plans announced by local producers. "The situation with licensing is unpredictable. There might not be importation at all since the government aims to avoid importation and increase the domestic production.

It is worth mentioning that Algeria's rebar imports reduced in 2016 due to the government programme for reducing the country's import dependence. Import quotas and insufficient demand were the main reasons for lower imports. Over January-December 2016, the figure decreased by 10.4% to 2.71 million t year-on-year, according to Customs National Center for Computing and Statistics