

# UPDATE: Dewa To Invite Bids For First IWPP In March - CEO

**Dubai Electricity and Water Authority**, or **Dewa**, plans to float in March the tender for its planned large-scale Hassyan power and seawater desalination complex, which will be developed by the private sector, the state utility's top executive said Sunday.

"We will float a tender in March and we expect to commission it (the plant) in three years by 2014. There has been good interest shown from local and regional developers," **Dewa's** managing director and chief executive officer, Saeed Al Tayer, told Zawya Dow Jones in Dubai.

The Hassyan complex will be implemented on an independent water and power project, or IWPP, basis. The project will help **Dewa** meet rising electricity and water requirements in Dubai and, through the involvement of the private sector, reduce its capital expenditure requirements.

The 1,500-megawatt power station and 120-million-imperial-gallons-a-day desalination complex will be built near the Abu Dhabi border and use natural gas as feedstock.

The IWPP model has already been introduced elsewhere in the Gulf, including in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman and Abu Dhabi, where some of the world's largest private power developers are involved in running power and desalination plants.

Al Tayer said an initial public offering in **Dewa** wasn't planned at the moment.

**Dewa** has "no plans for an IPO right now. We haven't thought of an IPO. We are running the company well," he said.

Dubai's government said in November it was considering selling some of its most prized assets, including a stake in flagship carrier Emirates, in a bid to manage the emirate's debt pile but added at the time that it "is reluctant to sell assets at the current time given current market conditions."

Al Tayer added that **Dewa** had no imminent plans for conventional or Islamic bond issues and that **Dewa's** loans due in 2011 amounted to around 5.4 billion U.A.E. dirhams (\$1.47 billion), with "AED2.7 billion due in April and AED2.7 billion due in October."

"We might pay them ahead of time," Al Tayer said.