

Work starts on new \$600m hospital in Abu Dhabi

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An artist's impression of the new Mafraq Hospital in Abu Dhabi.

The Al Habtoor Leighton Group, in a joint venture with Murray and Roberts, has started work on a AED2.2bn (\$600m) hospital for SEHA, the Abu Dhabi Health Services Company.

The new Mafraq hospital is being built next to the old hospital, which will continue to provide healthcare services until the new facility is operational, SEHA said in a statement on Tuesday.

Construction is slated for completion in mid-2014, it added

The new Mafraq Hospital will eventually contain 739 beds and provide 139 outpatient clinics and will serve as a centre of excellence in thoracic and orthopedic surgery and burns treatment.

Saif Al Qubaisi, chairman and managing director of SEHA, said the new Mafraq Hospital would "contribute to achieving greater levels of comprehensive medical care" in Abu Dhabi and was in response to the UAE president's call for quality healthcare for all citizens.

He added: "We are pleased to announce that construction works have commenced...This is a major undertaking that is scheduled for completion by mid 2014.

"The new Mafraq hospital will be equipped with excellent modern facilities and the latest equipment to ensure world class specialised healthcare."

The new facility will triple the examination and treatment rooms of the existing hospital - up to 60 from 19. The outpatient clinic's capacity will also be increased 58 percent, to 139 rooms from the current 88.

Saif Fadhel Al Hameli, Facilities and Construction Chief for SEHA, said: "The piling and excavation works have been completed on schedule, and we are very much on track."

He said the hospital would initially have a capacity of 529 beds, with a total of 739 beds coming online after 2018.

Laurie Voyer, CEO and managing director of the Al Habtoor Leighton Group, said: "We are very proud to have secured the contract and be able to contribute to Abu Dhabi's healthcare infrastructure improvements for a better future. We will deploy over 250 permanent staff and 6,000 workers at the peak of project development."