

"Saudi Arabia construction market to be robust in next five years"

EXCLUSIVE: Hill International's Raouf Ghali talks to Construction Week about his expectations from the KSA market in the next five years



Hill International has been quite optimistic about its presence in the kingdom and about the Saudi construction market. [representational]

by [Ranju Warriar \(/author/ranju-warrier\)](/author/ranju-warrier) 09 Feb 2021

Saudi Arabia's construction sector has been witnessing good times with the development of multi-billion dollar gigaprojects that are supporting the Kingdom's Vision 2030 mandate, which focuses on diversifying from the nation's oil-based revenues.

New York Stock Exchange-listed Hill International, which has been working on several projects including Riyadh Metro and King Abdullah Financial District, King Faisal Medical City and Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Medical City, in addition to the King Salman Park and Sports Boulevard, has been bidding on opportunities on The Red Sea project.

The construction consulting firm has been quite optimistic about its presence in the kingdom and about the Saudi construction market.

Talking to Construction Week, CEO Raouf Ghali said: "We see that the Saudi Arabia market in the next five years is going to be robust. There is a lot to do, with the Vision 2030 and beyond."

"We believe that Saudi Arabia is really going to be a market for us, and will continue to be a market for us in the long-term."

Ghali added that, while there has been a slowdown due to COVID-19, the arrival of vaccines will curve down the spike in the latter part of the year.

Hill International has also been working on several projects in the UAE, where its foundation trace back to, Oman, Qatar, as well as Bahrain.

"We started our entire business in the UAE and we are committed to the UAE just like we're committed to the Middle East. Our foundation has been in the UAE, and it's still one of the pillars of our Middle East organisation and it will continue to be one," said Ghali.

While the company has been working on many projects across the aviation, oil and gas, and construction among other sectors, Ghali strongly feels that with the region having calmed down concerning geopolitical situation, there will be stabilisation, which will lead to the creation of more opportunities, further attracting new investments and creating jobs.