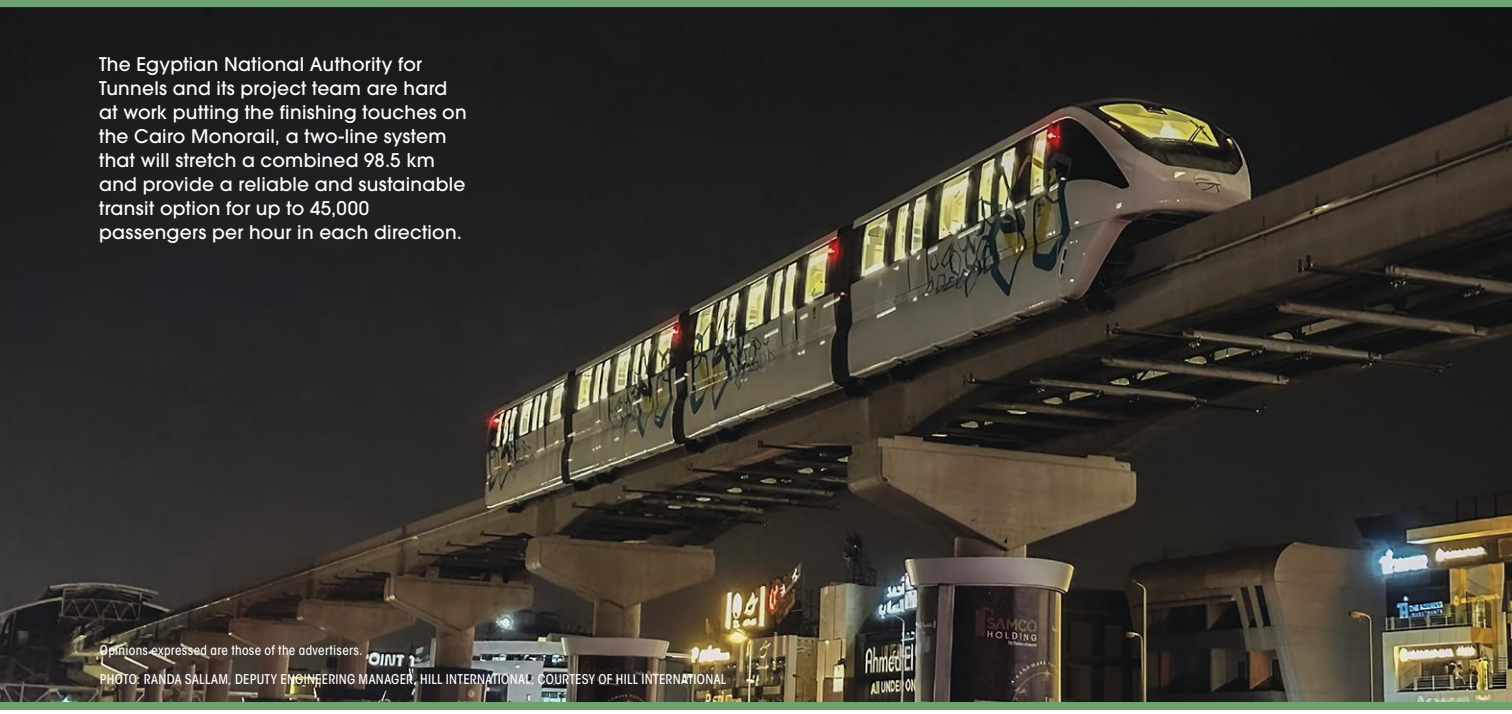

The Egyptian National Authority for Tunnels and its project team are hard at work putting the finishing touches on the Cairo Monorail, a two-line system that will stretch a combined 98.5 km and provide a reliable and sustainable transit option for up to 45,000 passengers per hour in each direction.

Opinions expressed are those of the advertisers.

PHOTO: RANDA SALLAM, DEPUTY ENGINEERING MANAGER, HILL INTERNATIONAL. COURTESY OF HILL INTERNATIONAL

Future Forward

A global blueprint for a smarter future

By Branwyn Rhodes

Across the globe and even out into space, megaprojects and smart cities are transforming skylines with cutting-edge technology and sustainable methods, showing us a better way forward. Through the use of technology to collect data and manage services, such as transportation, energy and public safety, smart cities and megaprojects can optimize resources, promote sustainability and create more livable and responsive environments.

For example, the Dholera Solar Power Plant is a planned large-scale solar project in Gujarat, India. With a target capacity of 5,000 MW (5 GW) by 2030, according to Indian and Gujarat government sources, this exciting project is key to India's renewable energy goals.

In Saudi Arabia, NEOM is a planned futuristic city aiming to diversify the economy beyond oil dependence. Focused on sustainability and advanced technologies, this multi-billion-dollar construction project includes the development of "The Line," a linear city, and regions such as Trojena, a mountain tourism destination.

There are also several significant transportation projects underway around the world. In Europe, the Crossrail Project in London is a 100+ kilometer rail route that will travel through 40 stations, while the Grand Paris Express in France will provide daily services to three million people. In Egypt, the Cairo Monorail, the first monorail in North Africa and the longest monorail system in the world, will stretch a combined 98.5 km. In the U.S., the California High-Speed Rail project will connect major cities, significantly reducing travel times between major metro areas like Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Another life-changing megaproject is underway in China: the South-to-North Water Diversion Project was developed to manage water resources across the vast country. The largest project of its kind, and 50 years in development, the project will move water from the south, where it's plentiful, to the drier north to address water scarcity in that area.

And finally, with a surface area the size of a football field and weighing about 400 tonnes, the International Space Station, a partnership of European nations (represented by ESA), the United States (NASA), Japan (JAXA), Canada (CSA) and Russia (Roscosmos), is the greatest cooperative venture in science and technology to date. Piece by piece, the Space Station was transported into orbit, 400 km above the Earth's surface, and assembled over time. ◆

Local Leadership, Global Reach: An Important Model for Infrastructure Delivery

By **Derek Amidon**, P.E., CEO, GISI Consulting Group, and **Raouf Ghali**, CEO, Hill International

Transit projects for the L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Southeast Gateway Line face challenges such as technical complexity, regulatory pressure and public scrutiny. As a subconsultant on the Authority's Program Management Support Services team, Hill International is providing construction management services for the Line's initial phase.

Infrastructure delivery today for large, complex projects requires more than execution—it demands precise coordination between local knowledge and global capacity. Projects in mass transit, water and energy increasingly face technical complexity, regulatory pressure and public scrutiny. Success hinges on a model that combines regional insight with scalable, technology-enabled collaboration.

Local teams play a critical role. Their understanding of permitting processes, political landscapes and community priorities can prevent costly delays and missteps. Local involvement is essential from the earliest phases, especially where trust and credibility are key to stakeholder alignment.

But no single team can address every challenge alone. Access to global expertise, proven methods and specialized support often determines whether a project stays on track.

Technology is changing how these resources connect. Digital Twin Collaboration Spaces provide shared visual environments, enabling geographically dispersed teams to review models, coordinate changes and resolve issues in real time. Follow-the-Sun handoffs allow work to progress around the clock, reducing idle time and accelerating delivery. AI-supported analytics give teams predictive insights, surfacing risks and trends that support faster, more informed decisions.

This approach doesn't replace local leadership. It strengthens it.

Across the industry, this model is being applied to projects of national significance—from major transit corridors in U.S. metro areas to water infrastructure and energy transition programs in Canada. Organizations are using global collaboration to enhance delivery while staying responsive to regional needs.

A number of leading firms have already embraced this model, applying it to complex, high-stakes projects that require both global coordination and local accountability. One such example is GISI Consulting Group, which has demonstrated how a carefully balanced structure—combining regional leadership with scalable global support—can meet the increasing demands of modern infrastructure. It's an approach designed not just for delivery, but for resilience, precision and sustainable long-term impact.

Please visit GISI Consulting Group at www.gisiconsulting.com or Hill International at www.hillintl.com for more information. ◆

The Natural Gas Infrastructure Company of Cyprus is undertaking a project to convert a former liquified natural gas carrier into a floating storage and regasification unit off the island's coast. As the leader of an international consortium, Hill's global energy specialists and local experts are using the latest in project management technology to deliver solutions for the complex energy project.

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