



● An artist's impression of one of the new terminals

27 million passengers!

A massive BD1.8 billion expansion of Bahrain International Airport, planned over the next 30 years, will triple the passenger capacity to 27 million a year.

Two new terminals will be opened in the next four years as part of the expansion.

Terminal Two will be commissioned by 2012 and Terminal 1A will become operational a year later, said Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) chief executive officer Dr Osama Alali.

"The two new terminals will make the BIA one of the most modern and futuristic in the world," he said.

"All modern facilities, including recreation and leisure areas, shopping centres, hotels and anything else that a modern traveller needs, will be incorporated in the new development."

Artist's designs even include a swimming pool.

The present terminal building (Terminal 1) will be demolished in 2014 and replaced with a brand new state-of-the-art structure within a few years, said Dr Alali.

"Piling work on the Terminal 2 construction will

begin early in 2010 and construction will go on at a rapid pace thereafter," he said.

Architects for the expansion are expected to be appointed before the end of this year, while the main contractor is expected to be appointed early next year.

"The expansion will ultimately create 110 (aircraft) stands, including 87 with contact gates. Currently there are 25 stands, including seven air-bridges," said Dr Alali.

He said the development was part of a BD1.8bn plan for the airport, spread over the next 30 years.

"There will always be some kind of a cost escalation as we go along but the BD1.8bn figure is as we see it now," said Dr Alali.

About BD30 million had already been spent on improving and modernising several facilities at the airport.

"This includes 17 new remote (aircraft) parking bays, installation of automatic baggage screening facilities, improved ground handling and overall new passenger handling standards," he said.

BAC is wholly owned by Bahrain Mumtalakat Holdings,

the investment arm of the Bahrain government.

It took over responsibilities for the operation and management of the airport, with Civil Aviation Affairs (CAA) retaining a regulatory role, in January last year.

Dr Alali said the modernisation was being done in collaboration and consultation with the CAA and Bahrain Airport Services (BAS).

"By the time the whole development is completed in 2038, the airport will be able to handle 27 million passengers every year, from the present around 9 million," he said.

"The cargo handling capacity will also increase from the present 350,000 cubic meters to 1.5 million cubic meters."

He said the all ground handling facilities at the airport were being enhanced in collaboration with the company that manages Munich Airport in Germany.

"We have also entered into several other partnerships and joint ventures with international companies to improve people's skills, general cleanliness at the airport and give it an overall 'new' look," said Dr Alali.



● The recreational areas, including a swimming pool

before the high season in December, will mean passengers will not have to get their baggage screened before they go for check-in.

"The baggage will be automatically screened and passengers will be summoned

only if something incriminating is found," said Dr Alali.

The BIA master plan, developed by a leading aviation consultancy, is expected to significantly bolster the airport's standing as a regional hub.

He said the new baggage screening procedures, which will be operational well

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, The Prime Minister
His Royal Highness Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
Deputy Supreme Commander
and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain



● A 'bird's eye' view of the terminal building



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