

TechnoPark extends full support to R and D initiatives in alternative energy sector

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Demand for energy throughout the Middle East has risen sharply over the decade as the region has witnessed an economic boom.

According to the World Energy Council, GCC countries alone will require a total of 100,000MW of power over the next decade in the Middle East.

Commenting on the sharp growth in the region's energy needs, Economic Zones World's Senior Vice President of Sales, Ibrahim Al Janahi stated that while Arab Governments across the board are re-examining the region's energy policies and looking into sustainable solutions for the future, there are plenty of untapped opportunities and potential for development. He was talking with industry leaders at TechnoPark stand in the recently held World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi. TechnoPark is Economic Zones World's major technology initiative, which focuses on water, alternate energy and knowledge sectors.

'The Middle East compared to other developing regions, is slower in adopting environmentally-friendly technologies and renewable energy resources including wind, solar, nuclear, and thermal and hydrogen fusion as a serious alternative to meet demand and as a combative measure against global warming. These solutions have become increasingly relevant to attain energy sustainability in the region,'

Al Janahi said.

Arab countries will need to invest \$345bn in their energy sectors over the next few years, as they develop their infrastructure to meet local and international demand, according to a 2007 report by Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (ApiCorp).

As an exhibitor at the World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2009, TechnoPark, the science and technology facilitator of Economic Zones World, a Dubai World company presented to visitors and other participants, its concept of creating clusters of high-tech industries and R&D activity bases in the energy sector.

'As one of the leading purpose-built technology incubators in the region, TechnoPark prioritises innovation, research and development in the country's core sectors. By providing the right environment, infrastructure, facilities and synergies, TechnoPark aims to increase production efficiencies of various targeted industries and create viable business solutions. We expect that our dedicated clusters for the energy sector will boost the region's renewable energy industry' said, Al Janahi.

Dubai-based TechnoPark, the principal technology park in the Middle East, is currently focused on research, development and studies in the field of the country's core economic sectors viz. energy, desalination and water resource management, environmental resource management and technology-driven knowledge-based industrial development.

The World Future Energy Summit held its inaugural event on 21-23 January 2008 in Abu Dhabi under the patronage of H.H. General Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. The first summit in January brought together 11,272 attendees from 77 countries, 213 exhibitors from 23 countries, over 80 speakers and 423 international and regional media.

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