

Work on world's largest water reservoirs begins in Dubai

Construction has begun here on what are to become the world's largest pre-stressed-concrete drinking-water reservoirs.

'On completion, the three reservoirs will contain a total of 180 million gallons of drinking water, marking a major milestone in Dubai's expansion of its utility infrastructure,' Behzad Ferdows, chairman and chief executive of the Dubai-headquartered Mammut Group, said in a company statement here Sunday.

The Mammut Group is undertaking the construction work under a \$168.6-million contract at the Mushrif area of this west Asian metropolis.

'With rapid population growth and economic development driving an exponential increase in the demand for water, governments throughout the region are continuously boosting supply to keep pace.'

According to Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) statistics, Dubai currently has a water capacity of 262 million gallons a day and this will rise to nearly 800 million gallons a day by 2015.

Dubai's current population is around 1.6 million and this is growing at a rapid pace.

The Mushrif reservoirs will expand DEWA's current water storage capacity from 235 million gallons to 415 million gallons.

The three giant Mushrif reservoirs will cover a total area of approximately 165,000 square metres, measure 372 metres in length, 169 metres in width and 5.6 metres in depth, consume 270,000 cubic metres of concrete and use 27,000 tonnes of reinforcing steel, according to the statement.

According to DEWA managing director and chief executive Saeed Mohammad Al Tayer, the three reservoirs would 'satisfy the unprecedented growth in demand for DEWA's services for the ambitious projects in progress'.

Construction of the reservoirs will take 15 months.

The Earl Thomas Reservoir serving San Diego in California is currently the world's largest pre-stressed-concrete drinking-water reservoir with a capacity of 35 million gallons.

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