

# Phase 1 of Paris-Sorbonne Uni in Abu Dhabi nears completion

Phase 1 of Paris-Sorbonne Uni in Abu Dhabi nears completion Phase 1 of the Paris-Sorbonne University on Reem Island, Abu Dhabi is to be completed by the end of August 2009, reports Thrasos Thrasyvoulou, MD of MEP contractor Al Habtoor-Specon. Phase 1 is 60% of the total contract, and is valued at about US\$33 million (AED\$120million). It comprises five buildings, including a lecture wing, admin and library and external works, such as medium voltage substations, ELV systems, firefighting and BMS. However, at the current rate of progress, together with deliveries of materials in hand and a workforce of 1800 people, including staff working in two shifts, "the project is on track and within schedule." An international agreement between the Paris-Sorbonne in France, one of the most prestigious tertiary institutions in the world, and the government of Abu Dhabi was signed on 19 February 2006. The Paris-Sorbonne University in Abu Dhabi was officially decreed on 30 May 2006. The university opened its doors on 7 October 2006 in a temporary building. It is planned that it will move to its permanent campus on Reem Island by 2009-2010.

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"Taking into consideration long lead items like transformers, switchgear, pumps and air-con equipment, and the project poses a major challenge," comments Thrasyvoulou. The design development phase took longer than anticipated, with the subcontract works for Phase 1 only commencing in February/March 2009. "This means, in practical terms,

a mere six months for design development, procurement, installation, testing, commissioning and handing over of MEP works," says Thrasyvoulou. However, at the current rate of progress, together with deliveries of materials in hand and a workforce of 1800 people, including staff working in two shifts, "the project is on track and within schedule."

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