

## NDA G L O B A L MARCH 2021 ISSUE



## NDA NEWS

## Saudi Arabia's \$500 Dollar Mega City

Saudi Arabia is once again reaching new heights as the building of its \$500 Billion-dollar mega city nears completion of phase one. 33 times the size of New York city, the blueprints detail incredible futuristic details such as artificial rain, a fake moon, robotic maids and holographic teachers

Neom, an acronym for "New Future", is the name of the planned \$500 billion megacity, expected to cover 10,230 square miles in northwestern Saudi Arabia abutting the Gulf of Aqaba. HRH Mohammed bin Salman announced the plans for the megacity Neom in October 2017, just 4 months after his appointment as crown prince. The government aims for it to diversify the economy by promoting new economic high-tech areas. The city's geographical location is close to



international markets and it will be run by 100 percent renewable wind and solar energy.

Neom is part of Vision 2030; the ambitious plan to revolutionize Saudi society, reduce dependence on oil, and make the country a technology hub. Billed as humanity's next Chapter, it is the brain child of the Crown Prince, and is being built on virgin land ready to be conquered with futuristic technology. Here are just some of the incredible features of



this high-tech city that are expected.

Neom is supposed to draw on "cloud seeding" technology to make artificial clouds which will produce more rainfall than naturally possible in the desert. will also have the "leading education system on the planet," with classes taught by holographic teachers, officials say. Another idea for the city is a 'Jurassic Park'-like island for tourists with robotic dinosaurs, whilst at night Neom is supposed to be illuminated by a giant artificial moon.

Aiming to completely revolutionize transportation, Neom is working on the notion that, in the future, driving cars will just be for fun, and no longer a method of transportation. Along with the notion of flying taxis, the Crown

Prince also recently unveiled plans for "The Line" – a 170km long transportation system running through a city without roads. An airport,



Neom Bay airport, has also already been constructed, and welcomed its first inaugural Saudi Arabian Airlines flight with 130 passengers on board in 2019. There are further plans to establish a network of airports in NEOM that will include an international airport with world-class standards.

Along with reaching new heights in the transportation industry, Neom's construction will include a bold plan to rule the \$700 Billion hydrogen market. The kingdom is building a \$5 billion plant to make green fuel for export and lessen the country's dependence petrodollars, in the hopes it will become a global hub for green hydrogen. Powered entirely by sun and wind, it will be among the world's biggest green hydrogen makers when it opens in the planned megacity of Neom in 2025. The climate also provides un-rivalled complementary solar and wind potential through competitively priced renewable energy. Leveraging these low-cost clean energy and a carbon-free energy ecosystems from scratch, NEOM plans on developing energy-intensive industries with the potential to lead on a global scale.

To build this future, Neom targets a wide range of sectors. The city aims to rely 100% on renewable energy, create a zero waste and fully circular system for water management, and transform traditional food systems. It wants to use biotechnology and genetics to create a next-generation healthcare system. It envisions an environment where the gap between humans and machines blends, robots come to life, and artificial intelligence and the internet of things shape the world.

All this should turn it into the most advanced and livable urban environment in the world. The project as a whole is slated to create 380,000 jobs and contribute 180 billion riyals (\$48 billion) to the kingdom's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030. The planned 16-borough city is geographically rich as it includes mountains, coasts and deserts, and promises the residents and the investors with a lifestyle and livability that would be better than the world.

"This place is not for conventional people or conventional companies, this will be a place for the dreamers for the world," bin Salman said on





a panel at the conference. "The strong political will and the desire of a nation. All the success factors are there to create something big in Saudi Arabia." The first part of the project is nearing its completion as stated by the Saudi authorities with the airport and the resorts already been built at the NEOM bay. The next step for the Saudi

Government is holding an investors summits in order to attract investments in this futuristic city. NEOM is a bold and audacious dream; a vision of what a new future might look. t's an attempt to do something that's never been done before, and it will be a place where entrepreneurship and innovation will chart the course for this 'new future'.

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