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ATM Rides Dubai Real Estate and Tourism Wave

GAINESVILLE, FL — One of the hottest real estate markets in the world is in the Arabian Gulf Emirate of Dubai. Sometimes called the “Hong Kong of the Middle East,” this booming regional hub is known for its giant skyscrapers and multiple artificial-resort islands anchored in the Gulf. To date, most of the media attention has been focused on upland development in Dubai, but the future of waterfront development is just beginning.

Since October 2005, the Florida-based, environmental and engineering consulting firm Applied Technology & Management, Inc. (ATM) has been providing coastal, environmental, marine, and water resources engineering services in this dynamic state. ATM provided engineering and planning services for Anchor Marina, currently being constructed on The Palm Jumeirah, the first of three palm-tree shaped islands that is more than one-and-a-half times the size of New York’s Central Park. This 30 square-km island took five years to construct from millions of tons of Arabian Gulf sand and quarried rock. Dozens of hotels, restaurants, and resort complexes are under construction on this “Eighth Wonder of the World.”

Developed by Nakheel, a Dubai World company, The Palm Jumeirah is part of Dubai’s rush to become a global business center and tourism powerhouse. The developer has lavish plans for marinas, shopping malls, water theme parks, sports facilities, health spas, cinemas, boardwalks, a monorail, and several dive sites.

“What Dubai is creating on the waterfront is a key driver for much of the Emirate’s staggering pace of development,” says Sam Phlegar, Senior Vice President and Director of ATM’s Marine Division. “With the vast numbers of new residential housing, hotels, and destination resorts, the demand for access to the water is overwhelming. ATM’s strong presence in this market makes us well-poised to serve our Dubai clients and others throughout the Middle East. We are applying our unique marina development approach that focuses on market and economic analyses, guides marina design, and enables marinas to achieve financial success.”

ATM provided multiple services for The Palm Jumeirah project, including:

- Marina Master Planning and Concept Design
- Financial Projection Modeling
- Detailed Marina Design
- Contract Administration and Construction Oversight
- Structural Design and Design Standards and Specifications Development

ATM started its Dubai operations as Island Global Yachting’s (IGY) marina consulting engineers. IGY is the exclusive planner, designer, and operator of Nakheel’s marina properties in Dubai. Anchor Marina is one in a series of marinas and yachting lifestyle destinations to be developed in Dubai by IGY. In the coming years, IGY is contracted to design, develop, and manage up to 40,000 berths for Nakheel in Dubai.

ATM has quickly ramped up its Dubai-based staff since January 2006, a move that brought its coastal, environmental, and water resources engineering services to the region, highlighting ATM’s strategic commitment to Dubai, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. ATM’s US staff also contributes to projects in these areas.

“The true opportunity for ATM is to provide our full suite of engineering and environmental services to Dubai and the region,” Phlegar says. “Recently, we have been awarded contracts in Abu Dhabi, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, and the Maldives; and look forward to expanding our client base in the region.”

About ATM

ATM (ATM, www.appliedtm.com) is a coastal, environmental, marine, and water resources engineering firm specializing in marina and waterfront planning and development, coastal engineering, beach restoration, environmental permitting, hydrological modeling, and wetland permitting. The company has multiple offices in Florida and South Carolina, and offices in Georgia, Rhode Island, and Dubai.