



Oman Airports Management Company (OAMC) yesterday signed an agreement to construct a multi-storey car park on an area of 19 thousand square meters at Muscat International Airport. The project costs RO 3 million, and is the largest of its kind in the world, according to the company executing the project.

Said Zadjali, acting CEO of OAMC, and Anthony El Helou, CEO of United Global Energy Company, signed the agreement for the construction of a one-floor building of 650 parking spaces on the land of the existing airport with a period of 6 months. The company is expected to finalize the designs and maps within the next two months, and work on the project will start immediately thereafter.

Said Zadjali, acting CEO of the company said: the establishment of this project comes within the company's efforts to provide various basic services to passengers and other users of Muscat International Airport, most notably car parks which are the one of the company's concerns in light of the rise in passenger numbers. 9.5 million passengers used the airport by the end of last year, and the number is likely to increase in the future with the growing economic and tourist movement in the Sultanate.

Zadjali pointed out that OAMC is keen to keep up with the growing movement at Muscat International Airport and is therefore considering all available options to provide various services, from passenger gates and check-in counters to coffee-shops, restaurants and other services that witnessed great expansion and development over the past years.

He said: the project of a one-floor parking lot for 650 vehicles constitutes a new strategy for the company, especially with the lack of adequate space to expand into new parking lots on the airport land. Therefore, the company has opted for new technologies to set up the car park and entered into a contract with a leading specialized company that has a wide experience in implementing such projects, taking into account the easy flow of traffic to and from the airport.

Anthony El Helou, CEO of Global United Energy said: The agreement comes within the framework of the existing cooperation between OAMC and United Global Energy Company. It provides for the construction of a building of 650 car spaces within a maximum of six months, which is a short period compared with many projects previously implemented by the Company.

El Helou also said that the French company with which we are cooperating for the implementation of this project is renowned for such projects. Both companies studied the site of the project and chose the design that best suits the allocated place and space. Then, we created many designs based on the final design adopted by OAMC.

El Helou also stated that the intended car park project takes into account all security and safety requirements, along with easy entry to and exit from the airport through the new car parks. The technology to be used in implementing the project allows for the transfer of parking lots from one area to another, since a significant part of the project is made of metal molds locally manufactured by 100% Omani companies. These molds can be transported to the site and fixed into the ground, which allows their easy transfer to another site in case the company later considers it more useful to utilise them in a new location. He also noted that the technique has many positive features, including the ease of transport and installation in short periods of time.

Regarding the easy entry to and exit from the airport, Anthony El Helou said that the French company has a wide international experience in this field, and it has executed nearly 50 projects of this kind in Europe. The company studied the site of Muscat International Airport from all aspects, as well as the proposed location of the project, and ensured in its design that the car parks will be easily and promptly used by passengers without causing any delay.