

# Big on education

The Big 5 2017 is set to open its doors this month in Dubai, offering professionals a chance to learn from more than 90 hours of free, CDP sessions and see thousands of the latest construction solutions and innovative products.

**T**HE largest construction industry event in the Middle East, The Big 5 is back this year with a new hall dedicated to HVAC-R (heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration) and a strong focus on CPD (Continuing Professional Development)-certified educational sessions.

The fair, being held this month (November 26 to 29) at the Dubai World Trade Centre, has once again drawn more exhibitors to this edition, reflecting a definitive growth in the UAE construction market.

"Today, the exhibition is a point of reference for the entire Mena (Middle East and North Africa) construction industry," says Josine Heijmans, portfolio event director at dmg events, the organiser. "Not only does it bring thousands of innovative products from around the world but the event has continuously increased in its edu-



Last year's edition attracted 78,579 participants from 142 countries.

event has continually invested in its educational offer and attracts the brightest minds from the region and beyond. The Big 5 has now become a renowned hub for knowledge-sharing and professional growth in the Middle East."

Exhibitors at the event will be spread across five dedicated products sectors: MEP (mechanical, electrical and plumbing) Services; Building Interiors and Finishes; Building Envelope and Special Construction; Construction Tools and Building Materials; and Construction Technology and Innovation.

The all-new HVAC-R dedicated hall is in response to the increasing demand for smart, innovative and sustainable cooling solutions in the UAE and GCC region.

"The UAE HVAC market and GCC in general are evolving in terms of new regulations and quest for energy-efficient

products. The Big 5 is the region's biggest and only show in Dubai which caters to HVAC," says Nabil Abouseido, marketing and business development director of SKM Air Conditioning.

SKM will be exhibiting alongside other brands such as Zamil Industrial, King-span Insulation and Fawaz Refrigeration and Air Conditioning.

• **MEP Services:** Key exhibitors such as Mitsubishi, Naffco, Ariston Thermo, Calpeda and Raktherm will be showcasing across the broad MEP services sector.

"The demand is immense for high-tech, high-performance piping solutions to support large-scale MEP projects, and it is our commitment to sustain and support the global piping industry," says Mohammed Habib, sales and marketing manager at Raktherm.

• **Building Interiors & Finishes:** Danube will showcase state-of-the-art and organic products such as water heaters, mixers and tiles in this sector. The brand believes that "regulation and sustainability are being taken extremely seriously in the region". Along with a 10 per cent growth expected for the Dubai sanitary ware market from 2018-2019, the government's green building regulation is calling for more efficient public and private water flow, says Danube.

Other exhibitors in this category include Saudi Ceramics, WaterJet and Delabie.

• **Building Envelopes & Special Construction:** Due to the level of complexity and the different products and resources required, building envelope solutions