

# Construction industry giants at Big 5

Showcase thousands of innovative, sustainable products to support Dubai Plan 2021

BY OUR BUSINESS BUREAU

**DUBAI:** Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum on Sunday officially inaugurated Middle East's largest construction event, The Big 5, and the co-located Big 5 Solar on Sunday.

The President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, CEO and Chairman of the Emirates Group also took a tour of the exhibition that covers the entire Dubai World Trade Centre area, hosting over 2,500 exhibitors from 60 countries this year.

With 4,627 active projects in Dubai, and over 11,700 projects worth \$818.2 billion across the UAE, the construction sector is strengthening its position as a key pillar of the national economy. Running until November 29, The Big 5 features a programme that is expected to support and advance the local construction industry, committed to building new state-of-the-art facilities, infrastructures, and residential areas as part of mega projects like the much-anticipated Expo 2020.

Josine Heijmans, Portfolio Event Director of The Big 5, said: "The Big 5 has been at the fore-

front of construction innovation for the past 38 years, and our mission to support and advance the construction industry is now stronger than ever. Our Summits, educational sessions and the thousands of innovative solutions on display this year are all geared towards facilitating the Dubai Plan 2021 and the UAE Vision 2021 by building fully connected and integrated infrastructures, as well as a sustainable, safe and resilient built environment."

Endorsed by the Dubai Municipality and held under the patronage of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, The Big 5 kicked off with two high level conferences, The Excellence in Construction Summit and The Big 5 Innovation in Precast Summit. Bringing together some of the most forward-thinking leaders from across the globe, the conferences presented revolutionary ideas and projects that are at the forefront of excellence in construction, including the latest developments in 3D printing discussed by Benjamin Piper, Principal and Partner with Killa Design, and Nick Bilotti, Head of Special Projects at E.construct.

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Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, flanked by top officials, inaugurates the Middle East's largest construction event, The Big 5, at Dubai World Trade Centre on Sunday.