

FORD FUSION AUTONOMOUS RESEARCH VEHICLES USE LIDAR SENSOR TECHNOLOGY NO LIGHTS? NO PROBLEM!

DUBAI: Recently, under the cover of night, a Ford Fusion Hybrid autonomous research vehicle with no headlights on navigated along lonely desert roads, performing a task that would be perilous for a human driver.

Driving in pitch black at Ford Arizona Proving Ground marks the next step on the company's journey to delivering fully autonomous vehicles to customers around the globe. It's an important development, in that it shows that even without cameras, which rely on light, Ford's LiDAR - working with the car's virtual driver software - is robust enough to steer flawlessly around winding roads. While it's ideal to have all three modes of sensors - radar, cameras and LiDAR - the latter can function independently on roads without stoplights.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data has found the passenger vehicle occupant fatality rate during dark hours to be about three times higher than the daytime rate.

"Thanks to LiDAR, the test cars aren't reliant on the sun shining, nor cameras detecting painted white lines on the asphalt," says Jim McBride, Ford technical leader for autonomous vehicles. "In fact, LiDAR allows autonomous cars to drive just as well in the dark as they do in the light of day."

To navigate in the dark, Ford self-driving cars use high-resolution 3D maps - complete with information about the road, road markings, geography, topography and landmarks like signs, buildings and trees. The vehicle uses LiDAR pulses to pinpoint itself on the map in

real time. Additional data from radar gets fused with that of LiDAR to complete the full sensing capability of the autonomous vehicle.

For the desert test, Ford engineers, sporting night-vision goggles, monitored the Fusion from inside and outside the vehicle. Night vision allowed them to see the LiDAR doing its job in the form of a grid of infrared laser beams projected around the vehicle as it drove past. LiDAR sensors shoot out 2.8 million laser pulses a second to precisely scan the surrounding environment.

"Inside the car, I could feel it moving, but when I looked out the window, I only saw darkness," describes Wayne Williams, a Ford research scientist and engineer. "As I rode in the back seat, I was following the car's progression in real time using computer monitoring. Sure enough, it stayed precisely on track along those winding roads."

After more than a decade of Ford autonomous vehicle research, the company is dedicated to achieving fully autonomous driving capability, which, as defined by SAE International Level 4, does not require the driver to intervene and take control of the vehicle.

This year, Ford will triple its autonomous vehicle test fleet - bringing the number to about 30 self-driving Fusion Hybrid sedans for testing on roads in California, Arizona and Michigan. These developments are key elements of Ford Smart Mobility, the plan to take Ford to the next level in connectivity, mobility, autonomous vehicles, the customer experience, and data and analytics.



KUWAIT: United Real Estate Company (URC) Chairman Tariq Abdul Salam addresses the Annual General Assembly Meeting at the Chairman's Club in KIPCO tower.



URC REPORTS 8.3% RISE IN NET PROFIT FOR 2015

ABDUL SALAM: 34% INCREASE IN NET OPERATING PROFIT OF KD 23 MILLION

KUWAIT: United Real Estate Company (URC), Kuwait's leading development and property services company, today announced an 8.3 percent increase in net profit of KD 8 million for the 2015 year at its Annual General Assembly Meeting.

The company's Chairman Tariq Abdul Salam also announced a 34 percent increase in net operating profit of KD 23 million for the year. The Company's general assembly meeting took place at the Chairman's Club in KIPCO tower, and was followed by URC's annual Shafafiyah (transparency) Investor's Forum, which included a review of the past five years, in addition to highlighting the outlook for 2016 to 2020.

Abdul Salam said URC had performed strongly despite market challenges and achieved a 52 percent increase in the company's total assets over the last five years, yielding a cumulative value of KD 554 million. The company's revenues also rose 154 percent since 2010 to reach KD 61 million last year.

"In 2014, URC forecast the growth of the com-

pany's revenues and profits and this has been reinforced by the company's end year results in 2015, yielding a 17 percent increase in revenues to reach KD 61 million, and a 34 percent rise in operating profit to reach KD 23 million, compared with 2014. Additionally, net profit increased by 8.3 percent from the same period last year, to reach KD 8 million."

"Our focus has been to consistently apply our strategic long term vision to yield steady, positive financial results year on year, and develop a range of unique development projects across the GCC and MENA region. The company has achieved sustainable returns by structuring a diversified portfolio of assets and building a balanced source of income. Moreover, URC took a number of steps in 2015 to support future expansion and development plans which has helped to open new strategic partnerships with investors and real estate professionals in the region.

The company's continued strategy to build the capacity of URC's subsidiaries, which specialize in

different areas including property and facilities management, contracting and building, construction and project management, has led to an increase of 43 percent in contracting and services revenue, as compared with the same period in 2014, to reach KD 12 million, and which the company plans to double in the coming year."

Ahmad Kasem, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of URC added, "In 2015, we completed several projects including 'Raouche View at 1090', a luxury high rise building situated overlooking the famous Raouche rocks in Beirut, Lebanon, 'Aswar Residences', a 75 unit residential community in New Cairo, and 'Abdali Mall', a 56,500 square meter, market leading entertainment and retail shopping destination in Amman, Jordan, set to open its doors next month."

"URC's outlook for 2016 to 2020 is for continued growth and profitability with a focus on continuing to diversify the company's capacity to take advantage of emerging development opportunities in Kuwait as well as the MENA region.

GULF BANK'S 2016 AL-DANAH PRIZE DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is happy to announce the remaining dates for its 2016 Al-Danah prizes draws. This year's multi-million Kuwaiti dinar prize draw line-up includes exciting daily draws (two KD 1,000 winners per working day), as well as Al-Danah's changed quarterly draws, now offering a single cash prize every quarter.



Al-Danah's first quarterly draw was held on 31 March with one winner of KD 200,000. The second Al-Danah quarterly draw is due to be held on 30 June with a prize of KD 250,000 and the third quarterly draw will be on 29 September with one prize of KD500,000. The final quarterly Al-Danah draw in 2016, for the top prize of KD1,000,000 will be held on 5 January 2017. As you will note, each quarterly prize draw now offers one major prize instead of three prizes as in previous years.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah loyalty chances program is different from every other chance program in Kuwait. Uniquely, the program transfers all the 'chances to win' gained by an Al-Danah customer at the end of the previous year to the following year. This means that all the chances gained by Al-Danah customers in 2015 have now been moved into 2016 and

have been added onto all the new chances the customer gains this year.

Another feature is that for every KD100 a customer is rewarded with one chance, and that chance is increased by one on a daily basis as long as the customer maintains a minimum balance of KD 200. The more a customer deposits into their account, the more chances to win they gain on a daily basis.

Al-Danah also offers a number of special services to customers, including the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which allows account holders deposit their money at their convenience, and the Al-Danah calculator to help customers work out their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaitis and all residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will be entered into the draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2016 upcoming draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200.

To take part in the Al-Danah draws, prospective customers can open an account at any one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line using the bank's bilingual website at www.e-gulfbank.com, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805. Information about Al-Danah and its winners can also be found by logging on to www.e-gulfbank.com/aldanahwinners.



Mohamed Fargahly Thabet

TOP REAL ESTATE GROUP LAUNCHES TURNKEY PROJECTS IN THAILAND

KUWAIT: Top Real Estate Group announced the official launch of some outstanding projects at different areas in Thailand. The executive manager of the group, Mohamed Fargahly Thabet stated "The launch of these projects is based on the Group's continuous interest to provide the best real estate opportunities in the international real estate market in different areas while ensuring real returns for the investor whether rent yields or capital growth returns. Fargahly affirmed that "the group is committed to provide the best offers to its clients to achieve peace of mind and successful investment. The group does not save efforts to look for the best projects in the target markets through business relations with some major real estate developers in such markets to ensure timely handover of projects and their quality, prime locations, prices and yields.

He added that "Top Real Estate Group entered into contract with Sansiri Construction Corporation which is one of the largest real estate companies in the Kingdom of Thailand with great experience of more than 31 years. Sansiri Corporation has been listed in Thailand stock exchange market since 1996 with capital of about Thai Bat 27 billion (Approx \$850 million)". When asked about the projects contracted by the Group, Fargahly stated "We will launch six major projects including two major projects in Bangkok near the prominent touristic districts and

hospitals visited by many Arab people in addition to the launch of seaside project in Pattaya and three different projects in Phuket appropriate for different categories". He added that "There are different types of units offered within such projects including studio to four bedrooms and hall with areas ranging from 35 SM to 266 SM at prices starting at KD 23,000 and the flats shall be handed fully furnished with luxurious furniture selected by the client from amongst various options available with the company".

Fargahly added that "the offered projects are integrated projects as Sansiri is specialized in turnkey residential compound projects. Each project contains round the clock security service in addition to swimming pools, gym, integrated hotel service including housekeeping as well as integrated health facilities including sauna, Jacuzzi and barbeque and family party's areas. Fargahly added that "the group offers rent yields for flats at 6-7% under guaranteed contracts for two years". He affirmed that "the Thai market is much secured regarding rent in view of its great touristic capabilities and availability of touristic attractions from all over the world". Fargahly stated that "the group shall offer special discount to its clients during the exhibition period while the developer will bear all registration and title fees of any unit purchased during the exhibition period in view of the Group's belief that investor is at the top of our priorities."



BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. JASSIM MOHAMMAD AHMAD AL ALI
2. MERWEH HUMOUD TAHER AL SHAMMARI
3. AHMAD ABDULLAH IBRAHEEM AL FAY-LAKAWI
4. FATMA JAFAR MOHAMMED HUSSAIN MARAFI
5. HAMAID MESALAM ALI AL MASHMOUM

To further add to the anticipation of Yawmi account customers, Burgan Bank now offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account now offers Daily and quarterly Draws,

the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning. For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services.



A flyer of Yawmi Account daily draw

Burgan Bank names daily lucky winners of Yawmi account draw

Burgan Bank announced today the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000. The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are: Jassim Mohammad Ahmad Al Ali; Merweh Humoud Taher Al Shammari; Ahmad Abdullah Ibraheem Al Faylakawi; Fatma Jafar Mohammed Hussain Marafi; Hamadi Mesalam Ali Al Mashmoum. To further add to the anticipation of Yawmi account customers, Burgan Bank now offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to

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URC posts 8.3% rise in net profit for 2015

Company holds its AGM and Shafafiyah Investor's Forum

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(Left): Tariq Abdul Salam, Chairman of URC (second right) with officials during the company's AGM and (right) photo from the event.



from the same period last year, to reach KD 8 million."

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EQUATE President & CEO Mohammed Husain addressing the summit.

Industry needs more networking connectivity: Husain

EQUATE sponsors Kuwait Oil & Gas Summit

KUWAIT CITY, April 11: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, said that with the Middle East having a 40% share of global gas reserves, more networking connectivity is needed to maximize the utilization value of such gas resources.

Participating at Kuwait Oil & Gas Summit 2016, EQUATE President & CEO Mohammed Husain said, "Developing the gas sector requires thorough collaboration between national oil companies (NOC) and their international counterparts (IOC) as 'Partners in Success' for overall sustainability. Such development entails overall

adaptation, preparing for the new era, resilience, understanding future energy mix, high reliability, ensuring environmental excellence, pricing structure, innovative solutions, cost effective technology, suitable regulations, as well as having the qualified human capital."

Husain noted, "Currently, the oil market is facing price fluctuations due to increased supplies. Although the market is currently progressing, we are still dealing with changes. Naturally, as a major market, China is critical to maintain stability. Along the same lines, the oil producers meeting in Doha will have a direct impact on matters."

Husain added, "In terms of EQUATE's upcoming projects, we are continuing the execution of our 2020 Strategy and are currently looking as far as 2025. At the same time, to optimize the added-value, EQUATE is continuing the integration of its new subsidiary ME Global which we acquired at the end of 2015."

Sponsored by EQUATE, Kuwait Oil & Gas Summit 2016 is held during April 11-12 with the participation of several senior officials from Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) & Subsidiaries, as well as other oil, gas, petrochemical, scientific and academic organizations from around the world.

Group offers clients remunerative investment yields: Fargahly

TREG launches turnkey projects in Thailand

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(Top & above): Thailand real estate projects

tractions from all over the world". Fargahly stated that "the group shall offer special discount to its clients during the exhibition period while the developer will

bear all registration and title fees of any unit purchased during the exhibition period in view of the Group's belief that investor is at the top of our priorities".

MIT Enterprise Forum Arab Startup Competition 2016

Three Kuwait teams compete in finals

KUWAIT CITY, April 11: Three teams from Kuwait have qualified for the final stages of the MIT Enterprise Forum Arab Startup Competition 2016. A total of 76 competing teams from 15 Arab countries have reached the semi-final stage, with the Competition's finalists and ultimate winners set to be revealed at a gala event to be held at King Abdullah Economic City, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 14 April.

The MIT Enterprise Forum Arab Startup Competition is organized in partnership with Community Jameel, the Social Enterprise arm of Abdul Latif Jameel, and Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator across the Middle East and Africa. This year's final ceremony and conference is supported by government partner the Economic Cities Authority of KSA and hosting partner the King Abdullah Economic City as well as global technology provider Huawei.

The Kuwait semi-finalists span two of the Competition's three tracks — Startup, Ideas and Social Entrepreneurship with total prize money on offer in excess of US\$150,000. Each of the three tracks will award the first three ranked winners with cash prizes in addition to many other benefits including:

top tier training, mentorship, coaching, media exposure, and great networking opportunities.

Zain Group has always possessed a strong affinity for youth development, entrepreneurship, and innovation, so its support of the competition is something the company believes aligns perfectly with its own core values.

Commenting on the semi-finalists from Kuwait, Eaman Al Roudhan, Zain Kuwait CEO said, "We at Zain are proud to foster the growth of this competition as we recognize that much of the region's future development will be driven by young people in technology, whose ideas and the ability to turn them into something constructive and sustainable have been and will continue to be the success story of modern society. Our support also comes to further strengthen Zain's strategy to support young people in the community."

Al Roudhan continued, "We are confident that the three Kuwaiti semi-finalists will perform well in the finals and we are looking forward to interacting with this year's aspiring entrepreneurs and taking the opportunity to capitalize on the most promising innovative ideas in the digital space supporting our evolution to becoming a digital lifestyle provider."

Fady Jameel, President of Community Jameel International commented: "At Community Jameel, we are committed to enabling the next generation of young entrepreneurs and we will remain focused on creating and enabling an environment in which young entrepreneurs can achieve their aspirations. We are overwhelmed with the quality of participants in this competition and we are confident that this 9th edition will yield promising entrepreneurs who will play an important role in shaping the economy."

The applicants from Kuwait vying to make it to the final, and be crowned winners include Ajar Online, a cloud service built for the real estate market that offers a quick and efficient online rent collection via SMS and Email. Another semi-finalist is Ghinwa, who are building a mobile application that can be used by users to perform Karaoke where songs are licensed from the copyright owners to ensure legality, allowing users to share and promote their talents across different social media platforms. SharedSlots.com provides an online marketplace where people can offer, search, and book idle spaces on demand, for purposes such as working, studying, and conducting events.



Mohamed Fargahly Thabet

Gulf Bank's 2016 Al-Danah draws

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