

WORLD NEWS



CHINA The Chinese government has announced a plan to expand its high-speed rail network to more than 30,000 km by 2020.

Details released at a State Council Information Office briefing in Beijing describe a CNY3.5 trillion (\$730 billion) proposal to connect up to 80% of major cities in the country via the network.

At the end of 2015, China's high-speed rail system extended to around 19,000 km. The government will invite private investors to assist in funding the project to add a further 11,000 km to the high-speed network, thus aiding President Xi Jinping's efforts to kick-start economic growth in the country.

The plan is set to benefit a number of China's rail construction and rolling stock supply companies, including China Railway Construction Corp, China Railway Group and CRRC Corp.

The government will also hope its plans for rail reforms will give a much-needed boost to the state-run rail operator China Railway Corp, which have recently suffered losses.

EVENTS DIARY

2017

Samoter
February 22 – 25, 2017
Verona, Italy
www.samoter.it

The Rental Show
February 26 – March 1, 2017
Orlando, US
www.therentalshow.com

ConExpo-Con/Agg
March 7 – 11, 2017
Las Vegas, US
www.conexpoconagg.com

SMOPYC
April 25 – 29, 2017
Zaragoza, Spain
www.smopyc.es

APEX (International Access Equipment Exhibition)
May 2-4, 2017
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.apexshow.com

International Rental Exhibition (IRE)
May 2-4, 2017
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.IREshow.com

Komatek
May 3-7, 2017
Ankara, Turkey
www.komatek.com

International Tower Crane Conference (ITC)
May 10-11, 2017
London, UK
www.khl.com/itc

Plantworx 2017
June 6-8, 2017
Bruntingthorpe, UK
www.plantworx.co.uk

BICES 2017
September 20 – 23, 2017
Beijing, China
www.e-bices.org

Excon 2017
December 12 – 16, 2017
Bengaluru, India
www.excon.in

**US
Fluor in for med lab**

Fluor Corporation has secured an engineering, procurement and construction contract to for a new \$2 billion medical manufacturing facility in North Carolina.

The contracted, awarded by Novo Nordisk, calls on Fluor to deliver a 77,000 m2 facility from which life-saving medicines will be produced for diabetes sufferers.

Since the project was announced earlier this year, Fluor has been working with Novo Nordisk, providing basic design services.

With completion of the project expected in mid-2019, some 2,500 people are expected to be employed on the construction, with 700 jobs made available at the facility, once in full operation.

Juan G. Hernandez, president of Fluor's Life Sciences and Advanced Manufacturing business, said, "Fluor is honoured to have the opportunity to assist Novo Nordisk in building this world-class facility in North Carolina to provide modern treatments to diabetes patients."

**ETHIOPIA
Gibe III is tallest dam**

The world's tallest roller-compacted concrete dam – Gibe III – has been completed in Ethiopia, with an inauguration ceremony attended by the country's prime minister, Hailemariam Desalegn.

The \$1.56 billion dam – the third in the Gibe complex – will generate up to 6,500 GWh, increasing the country's electricity production capacity by at least 80%.

At a height of 250 m, Gibe III is not only Ethiopia's largest, but also the first in the country to have been built using roller-compacted concrete.

It has a crest length of 630 m, and Salini used some 6.2 million m³ in its construction – equivalent to two-and-a-half times that used to build the Great Pyramid in Egypt.

Over the course of the project, Salini has called on expertise from 32 countries, and some 20,000 Ethiopians were employed during various phases of construction.

Now fully operational, the dam's 10 Francis turbines have a combined capacity of 1,870 MW.

**SAUDI ARABIA
Shipyard gets green light**

Saudi Arabia has signalled its plans to develop a shipbuilding industry by giving green light to a \$4.3 billion shipyard on its Gulf coast.

Hyundai Heavy Industries will build the King Salman ship repair and shipbuilding complex, as a joint venture with the state-run oil firm Saudi Aramco.

The project is part of the country's Vision 2030 initiative, aimed at diversifying the Saudi economy away from its dependence on oil and petrochemicals.

Development of the 496 hectare shipyard, expected to be in service by 2021, will ease the pressure on Hyundai Heavy, which has recently made public a plan to sell off assets and streamline its workforce in the face of falling orders.

Chung Ki-sun, executive vice president of corporate planning office of HHI, who is leading the project said: "We are pleased to be taking part in the first national industrial project of Saudi Arabia named after His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud."