

## PROJECTS

# Dubai Airports opens \$3.2bn Concourse A

Dubai Airports has announced the phased opening of the \$3.2bn Concourse A - the first in the world that has been specifically built for the huge Airbus A380 - at Dubai International Airport's Terminal 3.

The concourse, which took around three years to build, was brought into operation on the second day of the year with the first flight leaving from Dubai to London's Heathrow airport.

Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports, said: "We are opening Concourse A in stages, with more gates coming on-line in each successive phase, just as we did with the opening of Terminal 3 and Concourse B in 2008, and which involved the complete transfer of Emirates airline's operations to the new facility."


Concourse A has been built as part of a \$7.8bn long-term strategic plan to upgrade the airport and,

once fully operational, it will increase capacity from 60m to 75m passengers a year. The 528,000m<sup>2</sup> facility is spread over 11 floors.

It contains around 11,000m<sup>2</sup> of retail space, a 32-room, five-star hotel, 12,438m<sup>2</sup> of first-class lounge space and 16,553m<sup>2</sup> of business class space. It also has two restaurants, food courts and bars.

Concourse facilities include double-height air bridges with direct lounge boarding for first and business class passengers.

H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman of Emirates Group and Dubai Airports Group, described the initial flight as a historic and momentous occasion.

The concourse project was a key feature in the 2012 CW Awards, with main contractor ALEC winning Contractor of the Year and Eddie Pickles named Project Manager of the Year. 



A bird's-eye view of Dubai International Airport.

## In Quotes

**"There was a lot of wastage, but now we are starting to see a bit of common sense being used in how people operate their buildings."**

**THOMAS BOHLEN,**  
chief technical officer,  
MECSD



**"Clients understand that involving an FM company early, while it is more money in at an early part of a project, actually does bring long-term savings."**

**STEVE BARTLEY,**  
GM - Abu  
Dhabi, Serco  
Middle East



**"The sequencing of MEP installation is very important - you have to have very good supervision with high levels of manpower."**

**RACHID GHAMRAOUI,**  
general manager,  
Besix Sanotec

