

Hira Industries sets up manufacturing plant in Fujairah Free Zone

Sharief Habib Al Awadhi, Director General of FFZA inaugurates 600 tonne capacity unit

Sharief Habib Al Awadhi, Director General of Fujairah Free Zone Authority (FFZA) inaugurated the new manufacturing facility of the US company, Hira Industries FZC at the free zone on February 11 this year, in the presence of the company's Managing Director, Manish Hira, Managing Partner, Girish Hira, FFZA officials and guests.

Registered with the FFZA since August 2007, Hira Industries will manufacture rubber products such as its Rubtech brand of EPDM building profiles, container gaskets, automotive weatherstrips, and silicon profiles at the new facility. The plant occupies an area of 1200 square metres and has an installed capacity for manufacturing 600 tonnes of rubber products per year. The company plans to double production capacity to 1200 tonnes per year in future.

Hira Industries will be sourcing raw materials from India, the US, Europe and China for the Fujairah plant and exporting finished products to markets in the GCC states, Europe and the US. Manish Hira was all praise for the 'good working environment' the FFZ offered. "The Port of Fujairah sits adjacent to the free zone.



Sharief Habib Al Awadhi, Director General of Fujairah Free Zone Authority (centre) cuts the ribbon inaugurating the new production facility, along with Manish Hira, Managing Director (left) and Girish Hira, Managing Partner, Hira Industries FZC (right) at the Fujairah Free Zone on February 11

This allows us to derive maximum benefit from Fujairah's strategic location. By exploiting available shipping services, we will be able to access all ports in the Arabian Gulf, the Red Sea, Iran and India on weekly feeder vessels," he said in a statement released earlier. "Our factory will benefit from the exemption in customs duties on imports of all commodities and finished products for export and re-export out-

side the UAE. Also, we look to benefit from the exemption in duties on factory machinery or raw material used in the production process," he said.

Explaining the factors that influenced the company's move to FFZ, Hira said: "Visa procedures at FFZA are simpler and quicker as compared to other emirates and free zones, the safety of our premises is assured, costs of labour and living are lower than what we would need to incur in other emirates and we've received great support from FFZA staff in putting together our warehouse operations."

Hira Industries FFZ also looks to benefiting from the five percent exemption in duties that the FFZA allows on goods that are transported outside the free zone. "Fujairah's improved road connectivity to the neighbouring emirates means that finished goods can be moved faster to customers in the domestic market, particularly in Dubai and Sharjah," he said. Additionally, Fujairah has the infrastructure to support the company's manufacturing activity as the entire range of necessary spare parts and fabrication jobs is easily available at competitive prices, Hira added.



Al Awadhi (sixth from right) seen with Girish Hira (third from left), Prakash Sarvaiya, Assistant General Manager, Hira Industries FZC, (fourth from left), Manish Hira (sixth from left), Haitham Al Ali, Operations Manager, FFZA (seventh from left), Vidya S Nair, Head Commercial, FFZA (fourth from right) and guests outside the Hira Industries plant.