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Fairmont creeps into motion

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Eight companies have been invited to prequalify for the main contract to build the Fairmont Palm Residences & Hotel on Palm Jumeirah. The residences, which are being developed by Kuwait-based **IFA Hotels & Resorts**, will comprise 580 luxury apartments, townhouses and villas for about 2,000 residents as well as underground parking and related entertainment facilities. Project costs are estimated at about \$200 million. The hotel element, being developed by a joint venture of IFA and Saudi Arabia's **Kingdom Hotel Investment Group**, is also valued at about \$200 million and calls for the construction of a 400-room luxury resort. Work on both projects is due to be completed by 2008. The piling tender for The Fairmont project has also been issued. The UK's **Mace International** is the project manager. The Fairmont projects will be linked by footbridge to the Golden Mile, for which contractors have been invited to bid by the end of November for the main construction package. Abu Dhabi-based **NSCC** in joint venture (JV) with France's **Soletanche Bachy** is carrying out the foundations, enabling and piling package. The same team of architects and consultants is working on the other three projects. The US' **HHCP Design International** is the concept designer; South Africa's **DSA Architects International** is the architect and consultant; the UK's **Currie & Brown** is the quantity surveyor (MEED 29:4:05).

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