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PRESS RELEASE

France and Saudi Arabia sign long-term partnerships

During the visit to AIUla of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, Attractiveness, and French Nationals Abroad, the Royal Commission for AIUla signed a foundational agreement with RATP Dev, a subsidiary of the RATP group, as well as two memoranda of understanding with the French companies Amane Advisors and Idverde concerning long-term strategic partnerships.

Saudi Arabia and France signed an intergovernmental agreement in April 2018 on the sustainable development of the AIUla region and its transformation into a world-class cultural and tourism destination.

As a result of this agreement, the French Agency for AIUla Development (AFALULA) was created to mobilize all French know-how (experts, operators, companies) and to support its Saudi partner, the Royal Commission for AIUla (RCU), in a spirit of collaborative development.

The Agency brings together some of the world's leading experts in all the key areas of the project: museography, archaeology, architecture and urban planning, mobility, agriculture and botany, tourism, education, infrastructure, horse, security, water and environmental management.

In developing AIUla, it is the joint desire of Saudi Arabia and France to implement a new model of economic and tourism development, focused on environmental conservation, respect for history and the land, and inclusion of the local communities. This approach is at the heart of the bilateral agreement signed between the two governments.

On December 22, 2022, during the visit to AIUla of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, Attractiveness, and French Nationals Abroad, Mr. Olivier Becht, a partnership was signed with RATP Dev, a subsidiary of the RATP group, regarding the development of an integrated, sustainable, and smart mobility network to serve residents and visitors, as well as two memoranda of understanding with Amane Advisors and Idverde regarding the transformation of waste management services and landscaping in AIUla, respectively.

“I am delighted with the signing of these contracts which confirm the strengthening of economic ties between our two countries. The expertise of our companies and their know-how, particularly in sustainable development and mobility solutions, should contribute to the deployment of the Vision 2030 project initiated by the Saudi authorities.” **Olivier Becht, Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, Attractiveness, and French Nationals Abroad**

“The signing of the contract with RATP Dev and the memoranda of understanding with Amane Advisors and Idverde are proof of the common desire of Saudi Arabia and France to provide AIUla with smart and innovative solutions for mobility, waste management and landscaping, and to serve the region, its residents, and the visitors of today and tomorrow. It is also a reminder of the excellence of our French companies in cutting-edge technologies designed to create responsible environments as well as unique living environments for all.” **Gérard Mestrallet, Executive Chairman of Afalula**

The “360 Mobility Plan” contract signed with RATP Dev aims to develop coherent local mobility solutions for residents and tourists that meet the region's needs

RATP's Dev 360 mobility plan is the cornerstone of sustainable mobility in AIUla, aimed at providing efficient and effective public and private mobility services.

To the partnership, RATP Dev will bring all of its expertise, its capacity to innovate, and its internationally recognized experience as public transport planner and operator.

In the spirit of collaborative development, the two partners will work to make AIUla a destination and a pleasant place to live – a place where travel will be fluid, safe, and environmentally friendly.

As part of the new mobility chain, the partners will strive to develop, operate, and maintain innovative public transport systems to meet the mobility needs of the population: residents, schoolchildren, and students, as well as tourists, driving innovation on both a technological and a social level.

The primary objective of the project is to shape the governance, policies, operations, and physical assets needed to build a sustainable and smart public mobility network for the benefit of citizens and visitors from around the world.

The mobility plan will provide a unique visitor experience and significantly improve quality of life for the local communities, while making a significant contribution to reducing CO₂ emissions.

Through this partnership, RATP Dev is committed to participating in the local labor market by offering training and employment opportunities to the women and men who live in AIUla. The group will also operate maintenance activities in the region and will locate the related facilities in AIUla.

The memorandum of understanding signed with Amane Advisors will enable AIUla to deliver superior waste management services to residents, communities, and tourists.

Amane Advisors is leading global consulting company specializing in resource recovery, energy recovery and water. It will support the RCU in delivering world-class waste management services within AIUla, including implementing collection and cleaning services, establishing recycling and treatment facilities at Resource Management Park, and meeting an ambitious waste recovery objective of 70% by 2035.

With more than 50 projects delivered in Saudi Arabia, Amane Advisors is eager to contribute to the Kingdom's sustainable development in the waste and circular economy.

This memorandum covers several aspects:

- Implementation of the strategy and transformation of waste management services in AIUla;
- Definition of an organizational plan for the waste management department in the context of

increasing activities, as well as implementation of a centralized resource management pool; supporting the RCU in providing waste management services and facilities and in supervising the performance of private operators;

- Supporting the RCU in searching for and selecting legal counsel for the drafting and implementation of waste management services regulations;
- Supporting the RCU in recruiting and training a team and a manager responsible for an awareness campaign, as well as shaping this campaign in the short, medium, and long term.

The memorandum of understanding signed with Idverde covers sustainable landscape development in AIUla

- Idverde will actively contribute to achieving the RCU's biodiversity and sustainability goals: the landscape services and activities implemented at AIUla will help preserve its biodiversity. By bringing its cutting-edge expertise to RCU, Idverde will help manage water consumption, cool urban spaces and buildings, increase the rate of carbon capture by soil and trees, and accurately monitor the health of all green spaces as well as the impact of the employed solutions;
- As an advisor and project manager for all landscaping activities, Idverde will provide the RCU with assessments, diagnostics, advice, and access to the latest technologies and best practices in landscaping;
- Idverde will offer landscape solutions, including nature-based solutions, contributing to climate risk mitigation and public health improvement, integrating the needs of local residents.

About Afalula, the French Agency for AIUla Development

Born as a result of an intergovernmental agreement signed by France and Saudi Arabia in April 2018, the French Agency for AIUla Development (Afalula) was founded in Paris in July 2018. In the spirit of collaborative development, Afalula's objective is to support its Saudi partner, the Royal Commission for AIUla (RCU), in the sustainable economic, tourism, and cultural development of AIUla, a region with an exceptional natural and cultural heritage located in the north-west of Saudi Arabia. The Agency's mission is to mobilize all of France's expertise and savoir-faire and to bring together the best operators and companies in the fields of archeology, museography, architecture, urban planning, tourism, hotel management, infrastructure, education, security, agriculture, botany, and sustainable natural resource management.

About the RCU (Royal Commission for AIUla)

The Royal Commission for AIUla (RCU) was established by royal decree in July 2017 to preserve and develop AIUla, an area of outstanding natural and cultural heritage, located in north-western Saudi Arabia. The RCU's long-term plan takes a sensitive, sustainable, and responsible approach to urban and economic development to preserve the region's natural and historic heritage, while making AIUla a great place to live, work, and visit. The plan encompasses numerous initiatives in the fields of archeology, tourism, culture, education, and the arts to address various priorities in economic diversification, empowerment of local communities, and heritage preservation as part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 program.

About the RATP Group

Founded in 2002, RATP Dev operates and maintains urban transport networks in 15 countries on 4 continents (Saudi Arabia, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Australia, Switzerland, Belgium, the United States of America, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, South Africa, Qatar, China and the Philippines). With more than 1.5 billion passengers using its networks every year, RATP Dev demonstrates every day its extensive and renowned expertise in a wide range of mobility services, ranging from rail, regional express rail, tramway, to bus, cable car and

sightseeing activities. RATP Dev leverages in France, outside of Paris, and across international markets the technical expertise and experience of RATP Group, the leader in driverless and tramway operations and operator of the Paris network, one of the largest public transportation networks in the world.

In Saudi Arabia, RATP Dev has a long-term strategic partnership with SAPTCO (Saudi Public Transport Company) on public transport projects in the Kingdom: the Riyadh bus network awarded to their joint venture (Public Transportation Company (PTC)) in 2014 and the flagship Riyadh metro operation and maintenance contract for lines 1 and 2 awarded to their joint venture Capital Metro Company (CAMCO). By 2023, RATP Dev will employ 6,000 people in Saudi Arabia.

In February 2022, the Royal Commission for AlUla entrusted RATP Dev with the launch, operation and maintenance of the POD autonomous vehicle service in the Old Town of AlUla: 2 routes - Old Town site and Dadan Road site served by 2 autonomous vehicles. A very successful operation with 40,500 passengers in 10 months.

About Amane Advisors

Amane Advisors is the leading global strategic advisory firm dedicated to those seeking sustainable success. It offers unparalleled expertise and networks in the complementary areas of water, resource recovery, and energy recovery – leading more than 100 focused projects and transactions across five continents every year.

Working from eight international offices and tapping into a network of more than 600 industry experts, Amane Advisors provides the global capabilities and the local perspectives needed to support a diverse range of corporates, utilities, startups, investors, and government organizations in accelerating their growth, maximizing their impact, and thriving long into the future.

About Idverde

The Idverde Group is the French and European leader in landscaping, present in six countries in Europe and on 150 sites. For both the creation and maintenance of natural areas, Idverde is the partner of local authorities and private players at all stages of the ecological transition. Through its innovative and sustainable solutions, it contributes to the emergence of "active nature" to accelerate the climate transition and protect the environment.

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