

Content by The Buzz Business

TRANSITION

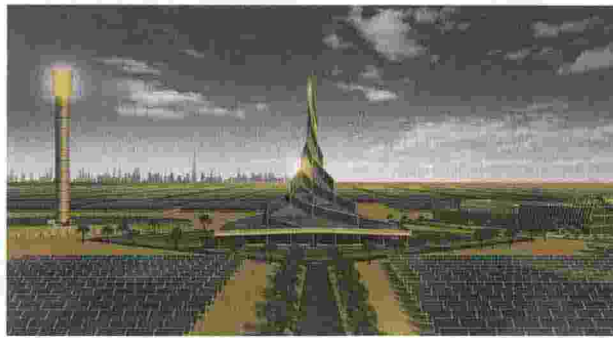
SUSTAINABILITY IS THE KEY DRIVER FOR INNOVATION

In recent years, there has been an acceleration of the global trend that has put ordinary people in the driver's seat of 21st century life. The fast-changing needs and concerns of the individual are shaping the future at an unprecedented speed.

Working with partners across the private and public sectors, Smart Dubai is deploying digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, **blockchain** and the Internet of Things to empower residents. In the energy industry, Smart Dubai's closest partner, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), is using renewable power to transform consumers into electricity-producing prosumers in this dynamic and sun-rich part of the world.

"DEWA designed three smart projects to support the Smart Dubai Initiative launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to transform the city into the smartest and happiest in the world. These projects are Shams Dubai, to connect photovoltaic solar systems on building rooftops to DEWA's grid; Smart Applications through Smart Meters and Grids; and the Green Charger Initiative for electric vehicle (EV) recharging," explains HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD and CEO of DEWA.

As part of its Shams Dubai initiative, DEWA has so far connected solar photovoltaic panels



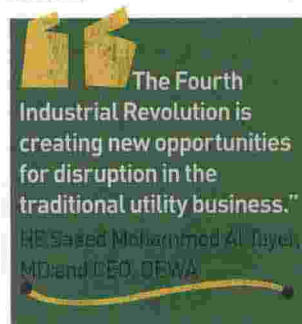
DEWA aims to transform Dubai into a global hub for clean energy

to more than 1,000 buildings with a total capacity nearing 50 megawatts (MW). Residents and companies who sign up with Shams Dubai are able to export any excess solar power they generate back to DEWA's grid, cutting their electricity bills and helping the city evolve toward a cleaner energy system.

"Dubai aspires to become a global center of clean energy and of the green economy, with the aim of increasing its total power output from clean energy sources to 75% by 2050, up from 7% in 2020," adds Al Tayer.

With average annual irradiation of about 2,100 kWh/m² across the emirate, and with solar photovoltaic systems lasting for at least 25 years, the Shams Dubai program is enabling Dubai to harness one of its most precious natural resources. "Shams Dubai has been instrumental to the development of our flourishing solar industry," Al Tayer says. "This will consolidate our global position as the city with the lowest carbon footprint in the world."

DEWA has also launched a new program to support the growth of the emirate's fledgling EV market. The Green Charger Initiative will double Dubai's charging infrastructure—and allow EV drivers to recharge their cars at public charging points for no cost at all.



After an initial rollout of 100 chargers, DEWA now plans to install another 100 charging points this year, for EV users across the entire emirate.

"As an additional incentive, DEWA's registered users will be able to have their electric vehicles charged by our Green Charger electric vehicle charging stations, completely

free," Al Tayer says. The incentive, which will be applicable across the company's entire network of public charging stations, will last until the end of 2019.

As part of its Smart Applications through Smart Meters and Grids initiative, DEWA is replacing old mechanical and electromechanical meters with new smart meters. It has also implemented several smart procedures in electricity networks and is using SCADA systems and smart monitoring devices, as well as control and automation systems, to provide electricity and water services to the highest standards of availability, efficiency and reliability. "By 2020, we will have over 1,200,000 smart meters in Dubai," says Al Tayer.



With Shams Dubai, Green Charger and Smart Applications through Smart Meters and Grids placing the latest technologies in the hands of ordinary users, DEWA is putting the people of Dubai at the heart of the city's energy industry and giving them a central role in transforming the future of their emirate. ■