The Maritime Standard
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Omani companies bid for dry port opportunity

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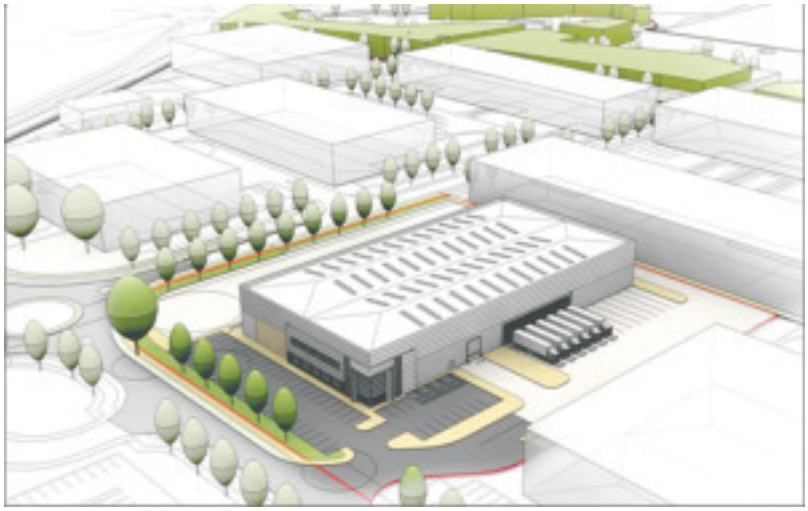

Artistic impression of first phase of SABLA

Muscat port operator, Port Services Corporation (PSC), is reported to be joining forces with Salalah Port Services Company and two other partners in order to bid for the right to operate Oman's first ever Dry Port in South Al Batinah Governorate. The partnership also includes Borusan Logistics International Oman and Shumookh Investment & Service.

All four companies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) affirming their joint intention to participate in the bid. Subsequently they have submitted an Expression of Interest (EoI) in bidding for the contract.

The South Al Batinah Logistics Area (SABLA), as it is officially known, is the cornerstone of a long-term strategy by the government to position Oman as a logistics gateway to the Middle East. A project site spread over 8,100 hectares has been identified at the intersection of the Barka-Nakhal Road and the Muscat-Al Batinah Expressway route, as well as the planned rail line between Sohar and Muscat. Activities and facilities within SABLA will include a customs bonded dry port, an intermodal rail terminal, warehouse and distribution facilities, open storage yards, truck parking, and service centres, amongst others.

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Development is currently focused on Phase 1, which comprises a 30 hectare area that will function as a customs bonded gateway for shippers to receive and deliver cargo originating from or destined to the greater Muscat area via the country’s ports, including the Port of Sohar.

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