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United Arab Emirates

Egis Delivers Lead Exhibition Design and Construction Supervision for Natural History Museum, Abu Dhabi

Egis has completed its role as Lead Design Consultant and Construction Supervisor for the Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi, one of the most technically complex cultural institutions delivered in the Middle East to date. The Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi forms a key component of the Emirate's Cultural District world-renowned for advancing education, scientific research, and global knowledge exchange.

Located in the Saadiyat Cultural District, adjacent to Louvre Abu Dhabi, the museum officially opened to the public late 2025. Spanning more than 35,000 square metres across two principal buildings connected by a landscaped pedestrian wadi, the project combines dynamic exhibition environments, research facilities, public education spaces, and an immersive theatre experience within a carefully controlled and protected waterfront site.

Egis, a global leader in architecture, consulting, construction engineering and operations and maintenance, was appointed in March 2021, joining the project at schematic design stage, with responsibility for translating an internationally noteworthy architectural concept into a fully coordinated, buildable and operationally robust facility. The consultant remained engaged through detailed exhibition design, authority approvals, construction supervision, and final delivery.

“Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi is a place where knowledge meets wonder. The museum offers a different perspective of the story of life on Earth, framed for the first time through an Arabian lens. Bringing a new dimension to our cultural story, we are building institutions that inspire curiosity, foster learning, and connect us to the bigger questions about our world and our future, while reinforcing our conviction in culture as a strategic force for shared progress. Understanding our planet's past helps us protect its future, and that is the foundation of what we have built here,” said **H.E. Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi**, as highlighted in the museum’s official opening statement.

As Lead Design Consultant, Egis assumed full responsibility for coordinating a comprehensive multidisciplinary scope, including exhibition design, architect of record services, structural and civil engineering, building services (MEP, AVIT and security), façade and access systems, fire and life safety, acoustics, infrastructure, marine and coastal engineering, environmental consultancy, and on-site construction supervision.

Dr Ali Amiri, Buildings Director, Egis Group, said: “Projects of this scale and visibility succeed on seamless programme management and integration. Our role was just that - to bring architecture, engineering, immersive

content, and construction delivery into a single, coordinated system. From schematic design through opening, we worked closely with our partners to ensure that complexity was managed without diluting design intent, visitor experience, or operational resilience.”

Sustainability and operational efficiency were embedded throughout the design approach, with energy-efficient systems, environmentally responsible materials, and green building certification requirements incorporated to support long-term performance.

Moreover, the project required advanced engineering solutions to support sensitive exhibition environments, immersive digital installations, long-span spaces, and long-term operational resilience. Egis applied rigorous technical analysis, digital coordination, and performance-led design methodologies to resolve these challenges while maintaining the architectural integrity of Mecanoo’s concept, developed under the design theme of “Architecture as Landscape.”

The successful delivery of the Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi reinforces Egis’ position as a trusted partner for governments and developers undertaking complex, high-visibility cultural and civic projects, including the recently completed Red Sea Museum in Saudi Arabia and the Palestine Museum.

About Egis

IMAGINE. CREATE. ACHIEVE.
a sustainable future

Egis is a leading global architectural, consulting, construction engineering, operations and mobility services firm. We create and operate intelligent infrastructure and buildings that both respond to the climate emergency and contribute to balanced, sustainable and resilient development.

Our 22,000 employees operate across over 100 countries, deploying their expertise to develop and deliver cutting-edge innovations and solutions for clients. Through the wide range of our activities, we are central to the collective organisation of society and the living environment of citizens all over the world.

With 3,500 employees across 8 countries in the Middle East, Egis has delivered over 700 complex development projects, stimulating economic growth and enhancing quality of life. Ranked among the top five firms in the Middle East by Engineering News Record (ENR), Egis is committed to sustainable development. The Group’s operations in the Middle East are built on strategic acquisitions and a deep understanding of local market conditions. Egis’ long history of providing comprehensive engineering, consulting, and project management services makes it a trusted partner for regional governments, investors, and developers.

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