

Muscat Expressway

Client: Muscat Municipality
 Contractor: Soares De Costa OUES JV
 Location: Muscat, Oman
 Products: Rapidshor, Superslim Soldiers, GTX Beams



Case Study

The new interchanges connecting Muscat Expressway, with the soon to be opened Muscat International Airport, is part of a fast track infrastructure project that will see five bridges constructed by Soares De Costa OUES JV, using RMD Kwikform formwork and shoring.

Having recently entered the Oman market, Portuguese contractor Soares De Costa teamed up with OUES to form a joint venture to secure key Muscat infrastructure work. Tasked with building five key bridges connecting the existing expressway with the airport, the joint venture opted to work with RMD Kwikform, following its high profile role supplying formwork and shoring to deliver the new Muscat International Airport Air Traffic Control Tower - the tallest building in Oman.

With the bridge project now part of a fast track scheme to deliver the interchanges ahead of time, Soares De Costa OUES JV had to change its single bridge sequence of works to a multi-bridge construction programme, working on three structures simultaneously.

Commenting on the challenges of the project, Soares De Costa OUES JV Project Director João Fernandes said: "As a business that was new to the Oman marketplace, when we secured this first project, we looked around the market for a formwork and shoring supplier we could work with. RMD Kwikform had a good reputation for delivering projects by working hand in hand with contractors, so along with others we invited them to tender for the temporary works.

"Having been involved with a number of flagship projects in Muscat and the region, RMD Kwikform was able to show us a strong portfolio of work and most importantly how they worked. For me and the team it was about a complete service from design to construction. So it was not just about the equipment, it was the complete design, engineering and site support package that RMD Kwikform could bring to the table. Anyone can just supply equipment, but what use is it without the technical support?"

"For example, one of the more complex structures, bridge three not only had an interesting camber, it was also on quite a strong curve, meaning we had to make sure that the approach we came up with would satisfy both of these challenges."

Designing a solution combining the strengths of its Rapidshor shoring product with other standard equipment, including timber GTX beams and Steel Superslim soldiers, RMD Kwikform was able to provide a cost effective, simple to erect system for each of the five bridges on the expressway. The engineering team worked with Soares De Costa OUES JV throughout the project, with site support technicians on hand to both train the erection teams, check and signoff each section before it was poured.

Commenting on its work with Soares De Costa OUES JV, RMD Kwikform Regional Sales Manager Bellphine Campbell said: "Increasingly contractors like Soares De Costa OUES JV are looking for a more end to end solution. When you are faced with tighter and tighter programme times, you need to know that each element of the construction process, from design to concreting is going to be managed properly by both your team and suppliers. When you can trust your formwork and shoring supplier to deliver, you can then concentrate on the other elements of the project.

"For RMD Kwikform our design and customer service led approach is something that has really appealed to Soares De Costa OUES JV. We have quickly developed a strong relationship with the team and they have benefited from our increasing investment in engineering and site support staff. In particular, our site support technicians have helped to train the erection teams for Soares De Costa OUES JV and supported them through to the final checks to the striking phase, right the way through to safe formwork and shoring dismantling techniques. This has proven to be a great success on the project and the fact that we were able to ramp up our support when the multi-bridge sequencing was launched, enabled Soares De Costa OUES JV to have all the equipment onsite when they needed it."



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