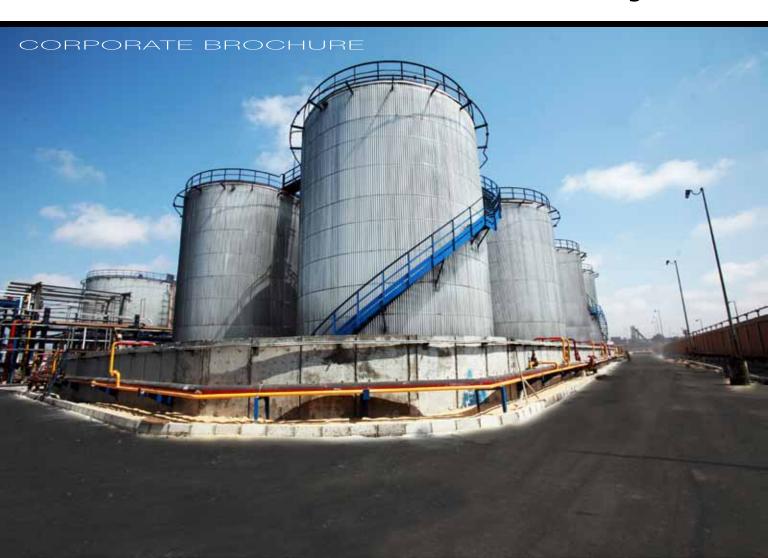
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

GROUP

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espite the prolonged period of economic downturn across the Western world, the construction industry in the Middle East continues to thrive. Countries and emirates such as Egypt, Dubai and Abu Dhabi have embarked on a sustained period of development that has created 21st century infrastructure and attracted plenty of foreign investment to the region.

Construction work across the Middle East has created a wealth of opportunity for consultancy firms that can deliver diversity in engineering. Ashraf Khalil, vice president and head of the Business Development Division at ECG Engineering Consultants Group, tells Andrew Pelis how the company has grown across a changing landscape for the past 41 years





Of course, Egypt's reputation for expert design and construction traces back thousands of years, so the resulting success of companies like ECG Engineering Consultants Group (ECG) comes as little surprise and has created a need for the Cairo-based company to seek larger premises.

As demand in the region has grown, ECG has expanded its range of speciality skills and can now offer its clients master planning, feasibility studies, project management, architecture and engineering designs, and construction management and supervision services on a variety of construction projects including buildings, power, water and waste water, oil and gas, transportation and urban development for mixed use.

ECG was formed at a time when Egypt was undergoing an extensive infrastructure upgrade, as Ashraf Khalil, vice president and head of the Business Development Division, explains. "The firm was established in 1969 and up to the mid-1990s as much as 95 per cent of our work was

related to water and waste water in Egypt. A lot of the infrastructure was financed by international agencies and brought further development to the region, which enabled us to expand.

"Today we are headquartered in Cairo and have offices in Egypt and five other branches including Doha (in Qatar), Dubai and Abu Dhabi (in the UAE) and Khartoum (in the Sudan), while we are now creating a centre in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. We are also in the process of re-opening our office in Damascus, Syria, as demand has picked up there too."

Khalil is in no doubt that the real estate development boom that engulfed the area played a significant role in changing the shape of ECG and says that this was the primary reason for the company diversifying its services.

Away from water projects, one of the biggest recent jobs has been the construction of the three million square foot Smart Village along the Cairo-Alexandria desert road. It is Egypt's first fully operational information technology cluster and





