

Batelco Q3 net profit rises

Manama

Bahrain Telecommunications Co (Batelco) posted a 43 per cent increase in third-quarter profit yesterday as earnings from the company's largest-ever acquisition earlier this year added to the bottom line.

Batelco, which is run by a committee of board members after several senior executives quit, made a net profit of 11.45 million dinars in the three months to September 30, up from 8m dinars in the year-earlier period.

Tough competition at home prompted Batelco to buy Cable & Wireless Communications' Monaco and Islands division for \$570m in April.

Third-quarter revenue was up 39pc to 100.49m dinars following the acquisition.

Batelco's nine-month revenue rose 19pc to 271.2m dinars, of which 53pc came from abroad.

Batelco also owns Jordanian telecoms operator Umniah, 27pc

of Yemeni mobile operator Sabafon as well as minority stakes in Internet providers in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Batelco Chairman Shaikh Hamad Bin Abdulla Al Khalifa announced the results following a meeting of the Board of Directors at Batelco Group Headquarters.

"The first nine months of the year were marked by consistently strong cash generation and growing customer numbers across the Group, thanks largely to the addition of the Island Portfolio businesses that were included for the first time in Batelco Group's half year 2013 figures," Shaikh Hamad said.

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Subscriber base shoots up
Batelco Group's subscriber

base has grown to a total of 8.8m, the financial report said. Subscriber base has reached 8.8m, an increase of 22pc since 2012 and a 3pc increase over the last quarter. Mobile subscriber numbers grew to 8.3m, an increase of 22pc year-over-year and 3pc since last quarter. Fixed line subscribers rose by 39pc year over year and remained steady quarter on quarter. All subscriber numbers have been boosted by the addition of the Island Portfolio. Meanwhile, the company has appointed new Group and Bahrain Chief Financial Officers. Faisal Qamhiyah who held the position as Chief Financial Officer for Batelco Bahrain operations since January this year has been appointed as Group CFO. Before joining Batelco Bahrain, Mr. Qamhiyah held the position of CFO of Batelco's Jordan subsidiary, Umniah.



Delegates taking part in the Arab Fertiliser Association's workshop entitled Ammonia Tanks Integrity Management & Inspection Challenges visited GPIC Complex to familiarise themselves with the operations, plants and quality products of GPIC. Special projects General Manager Ahmed Nooruddin welcomed the guests. During the meeting that was attended by members of the executive management, GPIC Trade Union members and a number of senior officials, the delegates were briefed on the company operations and quality petrochemical products that are marketed on the major global markets. The discussions covered the company's plans and programmes related to sustainability and corporate social responsibility, which helped company win numerous prestigious international awards. Above: GPIC officials with the delegates.

Alba backs Invest in Bahrain Forum

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Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), has sponsored Invest in Bahrain Forum & Exhibition 2013 that was held at the Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre yesterday. The Forum, held under the patronage of the Prime

Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, was organised by the Ministry of Industry & Commerce.

"Bahrain has been ranked as one of the world's freest economies and praised for its investor friendly and forward thinking economic policies. Alba has greatly benefited from such a growth-focused busi-

ness environment, which is one of the key reasons for the company's transformation from a regional pioneer into one of the world's leading aluminium smelters. We are proud to sponsor Invest in Bahrain Forum and Exhibition 2013," Chairman of Alba's Board of Directors Mahmood Hashim Al Kooheji said.

Seminar sheds light on insurance accounting

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Bahrain Insurance Association in conjunction with KPMG Fakhro recently hosted a seminar on International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) Insurance Contracts (IFRS 4 Phase II) Re-Exposure draft at the Gulf Hotel in Bahrain. More than 40 senior accounting and finance professionals from the Bahrain Insurance sector attended the event opened by BIA Finance Committee Chair Zaheer Iqbal. Senior Manager Insurance Audit and Advisory services KPMG Fakhro Adeel Mushtaq also briefed the seminar.

"Regional insurers should be thinking about the upcoming financial and regulatory changes and should take steps to implement any changes now. With IFRS phase II in mind, companies should build some flexibility into their strategies so they can respond to the global move towards risk based capital solvency and risk management requirements," said Mr. Mushtaq.

Mr. Mushtaq also provided an update on the IFRS 4 revised



Mr. Mushtaq

exposure draft and the previous exposure draft of IASB.

"The IASB has made substantial efforts to improve the proposal by considering the key concerns of constituents while retaining the objectives of a current value basis for measuring insurance contract liabilities - bringing a final standard for the insurance sector a great deal closer."

IFRS 4 Phase II - together with the global move towards risk based capital solvency requirements similar to Solvency II in Europe - is the biggest set of accounting and regulatory changes facing the industry in a long time. IFRS 4 Phase II proposes a completely new approach to profit and loss, performance measurement and monitoring.