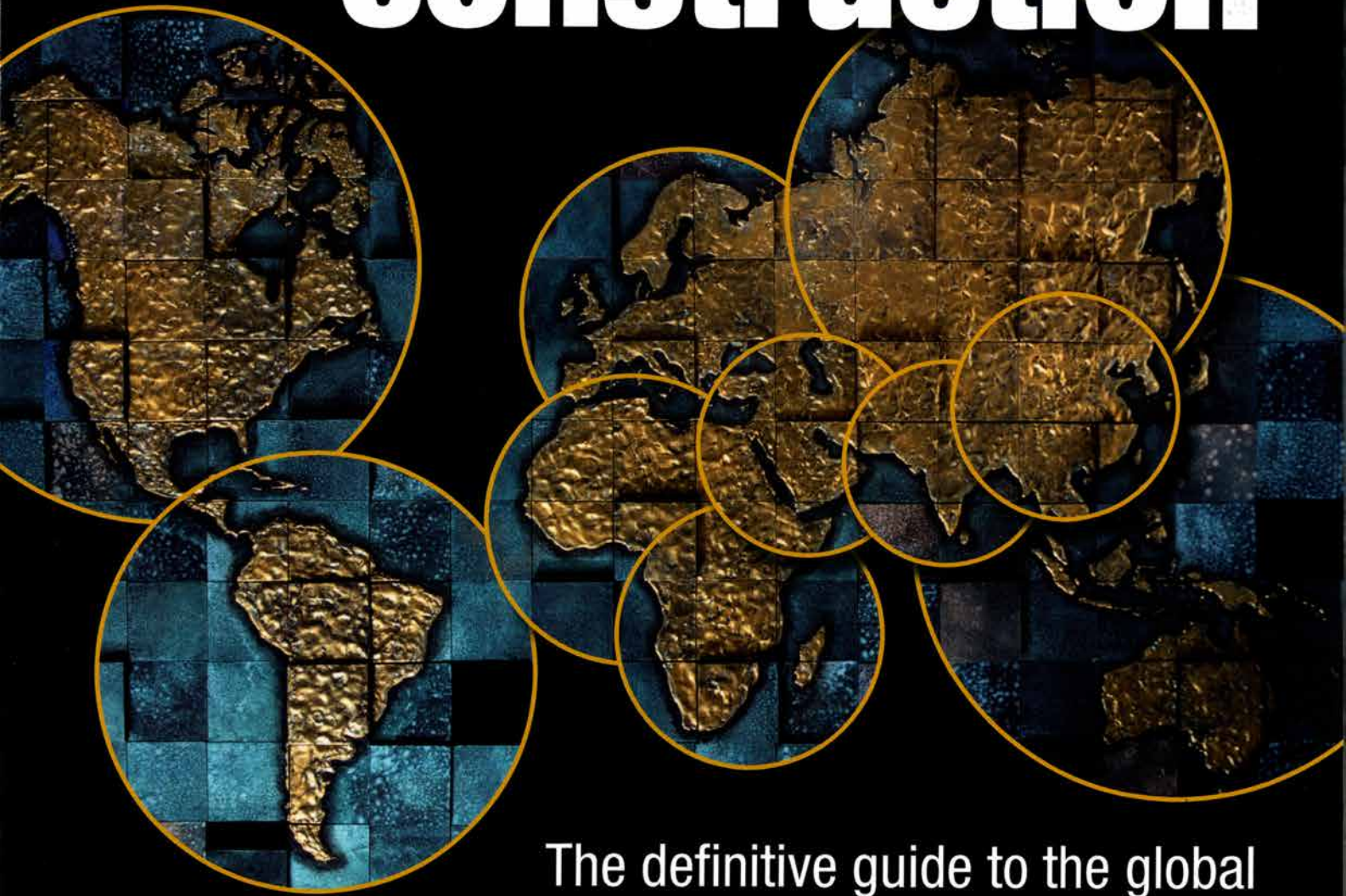


A KHL SPECIAL REPORT

World construction



The definitive guide to the global
construction industry in 2018

**international
construction**

khl

A seriously hot market

Conditions for construction can be challenging, but overcoming challenges has become common practice in the Middle East, as **Mike Hayes** reports.

According to business analyst MEED, the outlook for construction markets in the Middle East is generally improving.

The UAE is the highest-ranking market in terms of construction spend, with Dubai being the most high-profile emirate, continuing the significant development of its infrastructure ahead of its hosting of the World Expo in 2020.

The contract to develop the infrastructure required for the Expo 2020 site in Dubai was recently awarded to a joint venture (JV) between Orascom and Besix.

Cairo-based Orascom is working with Belgian firm Besix on the construction of amenities such as sewerage infrastructure, roads, underground pipes and cabling, and electrical and water services.

The contract is one of up to 47 expected to be granted this year, by the team responsible for delivering the Expo 2020 site, with an estimated total value of around \$3 billion.

Recently, more than 4.7 million m³ of earth had been moved

Trevi subsidiary Swissboring undertakes foundation work at Dubai's ICD Brookfield Place tower



HLG Contracting will construct Expo Village, five 16-storey residential towers in Dubai

on the event site in Dubai South, with Tristar Engineering and Construction having already undertaken the deep infrastructure work on the non-gated area, known as Expo Village.

The completed Expo 2020 site will cover a total area of almost 4.4 km², and is expected to host up to 300,000 visitors per day, between October 2020 and April 2021.

Another Expo-related contract, which was recently awarded to HLG Contracting, is the Expo Village towers.

The AED619 million (\$170 million) contract, awarded by Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC), is for the construction of five 16-storey residential towers.

The Middle East-based HLG – in which Australia-based CIMIC Group has a 45% stake – will be responsible for constructing the towers' concrete frames, masonry, facades, fit-out and external works.

Three of the Expo Village structures will be joined by a three-storey podium, with another similar podium connecting the remaining two,

