

NEOM: A Lucrative Opportunity for The Glass Industry

Saudi Arabia's Neom development project presents potentially lucrative opportunities for glass producers. Part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 plan, the Neom development spans an area the size of Belgium and includes the glass sided 500 metre tall smart city called The Line.



Saudi Arabia's Neom project offers a number of potentially lucrative business opportunities for producers of flat and hollow glass. The total area under development amounts to around 26,500 square kilometres (10,200 square miles) – approximately the same size as Belgium.

Makers of machinery for the glass industry could also stand to benefit from companies seeking to increase production capacity to meet the demands of this enormous project.

The Neom project is part of Saudi Vision 2030, a program launched by the Saudi Arabian government to prepare the nation economically, socially and culturally for the future.



THE LINE REVOLUTIONARY URBANISM

THE LINE IS COMPRISED OF A SERIES OF INTERCONNECTED MODULES, REACHING 500M HIGH.

THE CORE ELEMENTS OF EVERY MODULE ARE STANDARDIZED TO MAXIMIZE COMPATIBILITY AND DRIVE DOWN CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

170 KM
LENGTH OF THE LINE

500 M ABOVE SEA-LEVEL
HEIGHT OF THE LINE

200 M
WIDTH OF THE LINE

34 SQ. KM
FOOTPRINT OF THE LINE
2% OF CONVENTIONAL CITIES

NEOM.COM

While some might view Saudi Arabia as a desert kingdom, the south west of the nation has a more temperate climate with beaches and snow-capped mountains making the area ideal for tourism and even for industry. Indeed, Neom positions itself as a global hub for business and aims to set standards for livability too.

One of Neom's key projects is The Line, a glass sided linear smart city that will reach from the southern end of the Gulf of Aqaba eastwards 170 kilometres into the desert. The Line is one of Neom's 16 large scale developments. On Google Maps today, it is

possible today to see initial excavations for the structure's foundations.

A 2.4 kilometre first phase will provide living space for 300,000 people and is due for completion by 2030. Completion of the entire structure of The Line is expected by 2045.

Once complete, the Line will be able to house 9 million people. Residents in this smart city will never be more than 5 minutes away from local amenities. Travel from one end to the city to the other will only take 20 minutes via a high speed transit system.

The dimensions of the line, as well as its length, are striking. Not only will the main structure be 500 metres high, it will also be 200 metres wide. Quick calculations will reveal just how much glass is likely to be required for its external surfaces. Seeing as The Line is to be as energy efficient as possible, the glass panels are likely to be double, if not triple-glazed units.

Glass producers interested in supplying the project would do well to note that The Line project has generated some controversy. Indeed, companies considering involvement in the

supply of materials for the project should also pay attention to potential reputational risk issues.

All projects of this size carry risks but if there are doubts surrounding the Neom project, the completion in October 2024 of the Sindalah region should go some way towards allaying them.

The luxury resort of Sindalah, the first Neom Region to be completed, is situated on an 840,000 square metre (9 million sq ft) island in Saudi Arabia's Tabuk Province.

Clearly, the Neom series of construction projects will all require, to a greater and lesser extent, glass. In view of the location of Neom's regions, the range of glass products required will be extensive.

Less obviously perhaps, many of these developments will require decorative glassware as well as many other hollow glass products.

Find out more about the projects on the following websites:

<https://www.neom.com> and <https://www.vision2030.gov>

