Hydropolis, part 1: The idea

Siemens Industrial Building Consultants (IBC) has been commissioned to plan, engineer and project manage the world's first underwater hotel, Hydropolis. Currently still in planning, Hydropolis is destined to be a tourist attraction par excellence in the ever-blooming Dubai emirate.

Professor Roland Dieterle from IBC is responsible for the design and project management. "We are hoping that the concept, as it was developed and as it was received, will have a chance to materialize," shares Professor Dieterle. "Though we are still in the initial phase of design, we have a very clear picture of how we could turn it into reality. However, Siemens's involvement is dependent upon the partners involved. Though we have high hopes that this project will be profitable, we hold neither the risk for the project's construction nor for its operational success."

One man's vision

Hydropolis is the brainchild of German designer and investor Joachim Hauser. "Mr. Hauser and German partners who had extensive knowledge in space ship and space station design were deliberating on how to utilize their knowledge another way. So they came up with the 'underwater space station'," explains the Professor.

The hotel is conceived to contain three main elements – the land station, the connecting tunnel and the submarine complex. Guests will be welcomed and received in the lounge in the land station, which will feature a restaurant and a high-tech cinema where viewers can learn about ocean life and the history of underwater architecture.

Tunnels will connect the land station to the submarine station. "All transport for guests, visitors, staff and goods will be facilitated by trains," Professor Dieterle expands. A fully-automated cable-propelled transportation system ensures that no motor, drive-train or other oil-dependent devices are required on the train.

The hotel building itself will be a state-of-the-art construction. The suites, with its rounded features, light colors and materials, are at the heart of the experience. A ballroom with a retracting roof for staging open-air events and an innovative spa area are additional highlights. The hallway will serve as the backbone of the facility and three international restaurants will provide first-rate culinary experience for the hotel's distinguished guests.

"This could be a nice opportunity to install a new and sustainable energy concept, such as a state-of-the-art climatization, or even fuel-cell energy generation. All the technology that Siemens is using in automation could be used there," adds Professor Dieterle enthusiastically. "Complex, innovative projects such as this allow Siemens to demonstrate its cross-over solution capabilities, in the spirit of the 'ONE' Siemens initiative. It is IBC's goal to support business for business units."

The attention that the project will attract will be immense. "We could use it to promote our company's innovative ideas. The project ties together Siemens' technical expertise and innovation power," concludes Professor Dieterle.

In part two of the Hydropolis series, you will find out more about how Siemens got involved, and what the company has in the planning.

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For internal political reasons, the project was put on hold and we did not continue with Part 2