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Abu Dhabi builds \$25m 3D city model

Digital map to help manage the emirate's rapid urban expansion

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Abu Dhabi is in the process of creating a \$25m 3D digital model of the city in order to help better manage its services and rapid urban development, the municipality said.

The digital model of buildings and structures across the emirate will be constructed to ease emergency responses and enhance public safety over the next few years, the Municipality of Abu Dhabi City said.



It will also help in the management of plots across Abu Dhabi, and the internal database created will be shared with other relevant government entities, it said, adding that work on the project was already underway.

Indian firm Rolta has been awarded the \$25m contract to develop the 3D model, which will be one of the largest and most comprehensive projects of its kind ever undertaken.

The Mumbai-based firm, which has previously done work in Dubai and Oman, will create a 3D model of various municipal areas covering nearly 5000 sq km, with tens of thousands of buildings.

"Exterior surfaces of buildings will be rendered in a photo-realistic manner and a user could 'fly' through the model to visualise areas of interest. Interiors of thousands of buildings and many prominent landmarks will also be modelled in 3D to high levels of accuracy," it said in a statement.

Khalfan Al Nuaimi, acting executive director of town planning at the Municipality, said the model will help maintain the emirate's rapid pace of development and is being carried out in collaboration with the Department of Municipal Affairs, Al Ain Municipality, Western Region Municipality, Abu Dhabi Follow-Up and Control Centre, Abu Dhabi Systems and Information Centre and the Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council.