



For Immediate Release
October 3, 2007
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Al Mamoon new \$22.7 million telecommunications center taking shape in Baghdad

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[Arabic-Version](#)

BAGHDAD, Iraq –“It represents the heart of Baghdad’s telecommunications system and will allow Iraq to connect to the world,” says an Iraqi engineer overseeing construction of the \$22.7 million Al Mamoon Exchange and Telecommunications Center.

Currently the project is 27 percent complete and is scheduled to open next February. Mohammad Abdula, a lifelong resident of Baghdad, says phone service in Baghdad is available locally allowing residents to call those in their immediate neighborhood. “But unless you use a cell phone, you can’t call friends and family on the other side of the Tigris River or to other cities in Iraq. This facility is the first step in restoring and improving phone service here.” He looks forward to the day when Iraqis can make international calls using their home phones as well as connecting to the internet.

The new facility will include a seven-story structure that will house communication switch gear and telecommunication offices. It will also include a 1300 sq. meter post office, a loading dock for delivery trucks, a 250-car covered garage, and a cafeteria capable of serving 150 people. Currently 175 Iraqi construction workers are employed at the site. The contractor has his own concrete plant capable of producing 90 cubic meters of concrete per hour.



Artists sketch of what the new Al Mamoon Exchange and Telecommunications Center in Baghdad will look like.

“The old Al Mamoon tower is a landmark known throughout Iraq. This new structure will provide reliable communications and be a focal point for the City of Baghdad. Architecturally, it’s a signature project that all Iraqis can look to with pride.”



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is overseeing the construction of the \$22.7 million Al Mamoon Exchange and Telecommunications Center in Baghdad. Shown above are a few of the 175 Iraqis on the construction crew positioning 270 tons of rebar in preparation to place 2,635 cubic meters of concrete for the seven-story structure's foundation. That facility also includes a 250-car covered garage, a 1300 sq. meter post office. (USACE photo)

Abdula is working with Ministry of Communications officials who will take ownership of the facility when finished. "They're anxious to move in," he noted. "They know what this facility means to Iraq."

Abdula, who earned a civil engineering degree from Baghdad University, has been working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for three years and is currently overseeing 16 projects.

He's part of USACE's Baghdad Area Office that is currently managing over 100 projects valued at nearly \$400 million including new water and sewer lines, electrical distribution networks, road paving, hospital renovations, and new courthouses.



The contractor has two cranes at work at the Al Mamoon construction project, the largest capable of lifting material 60 feet in the air. (USACE photo)

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