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للطباعة والنشر والتوزيع
Printing, Publishing & Distribution
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CHAIRMAN
HE Jamal Bin Huwaireb
EDITORIAL BOARD
Saif Al Mansoori
Khalid Wazani
Eyad Al Jurdy

Mohammed Bin Rashid
Al Maktoum Knowledge
Foundation
T: +971 4 423 3444
F: +971 4 368 7777
PO Box 214444, Dubai
United Arab Emirates
www.mbrf.ae
flashes@mbmf.ae



A Motivate Connect Publication
Media One Tower,
Dubai Media City
PO Box 2331, Dubai, UAE
T: +971 4 427 3000
F: +971 4 428 02261
motivatepublishing.com
connect@motivate.ae

PUBLISHER
Chris Capstick
chris@motivate.ae
SENIOR EDITOR - CONNECT
Lesley Wright
PROJECTS MANAGER
Ingrid Valles
SENIOR ART DIRECTOR
Tarak Parekh
SENIOR DESIGNER
Sanil Kumar
CONTRIBUTOR
Robert Anderson
GENERAL MANAGER - PRODUCTION
Sunil Kumar



FOREWORD

Dear readers,

The human mind is extraordinary. I never cease to be amazed by mankind's most powerful tool and its infinite possibilities. From the dawn of time, it has allowed man to invent, create and experience.

I say this as we take both a step back in time and look to the future this issue, to marvel at ancient underground cities and the latest mission to Mars. Closer to home, the launch of DP World Cargospeed to provide hyperloop-enabled cargo systems will revolutionise the freight industry. The common thread that connects even the most primitive past with the modern worlds of today and tomorrow is man's ingenuity.

Not all inventions are without consequence. Take plastic, for example. Polyethylene terephthalate was hailed as groundbreaking at the time of its invention. We didn't know then that it would become a significant environmental threat to our planet. As this realisation dawned, man went back to the drawingboard and two recent scientific breakthroughs could hold the key to combating the world's plastic pollution crisis – welcome news, indeed.

In the Year of Zayed, we remember the founding father of the nation's wise words: "The real spirit behind progress is the human spirit, the able man with his intellect and capabilities."

With this in mind, I am very much looking forward to this year's submissions for the Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award, as the UAE continues to embrace creativity, invention and knowledge development.

Like the mind, the courage of the heart is another human trait that knows no bounds, and this issue – during the Holy Month of Ramadan – we celebrate 35 years of Emirates Red Crescent, the volunteer humanitarian organisation that has brought aid and relief to those in need around the world. We can all learn from the kindness and empathy shown by the organisation's volunteers.

Jamal Bin Huwaireb
CEO of Mohammed bin Rashid
Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation