



WORLD WIDE WEAVE

MEDIAMESH® makes grand appearance in Qatar

Airport of superlatives sets new standards

The small emirate of Qatar in the Arabian Gulf always thinks big: whether planning the football World Cup in the desert or spectacular construction projects, the unconventional and self-confident desert state regularly oversteps traditional boundaries. And this is also the case for its new airport, Hamad International Airport (HIA) in the capital city Doha, which was opened for passengers after a decade of pioneering design, engineering and construction work. Once all work has been completed, up to 50 million passengers and 2.5 million tonnes of freight are to be processed here every year. In terms of its dimensions and standards, too, the airport of superlatives also breaks new ground. The strategically important location between east and west makes it an important international hub – two thirds of the world population can reach the airport in less than eight hours. In order to convey the country's culture, which is equally oriented towards the future and tradition, the HIA places emphasis on an extraordinary design, maximum efficiency when handling passengers and freight, a luxurious atmosphere and sustainability. The sophisticated concept of the HOK architects (Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum) from San Francisco is underlined in the main hall of the duty-free area and in hall C of the main terminal by four large-scale MEDIAMESH® screens made of stainless steel fabric with integrated LED profiles, which were developed and produced by GKD – GEBR. KUFFERATH AG in Düren, Germany.



Qatar is aiming to gradually replace its previous dependency on petrochemical revenue with culture and knowledge-based economic growth. Prestigious new university buildings housing branches of elite international institutions that attract students from all over the world to the peninsula on the Arabian Gulf show the way ahead, as do the efforts to become a venue for major sporting events. As part of the *National Vision 2030*, Hamad International Airport is an important factor driving the development of the state's new self-image.

Stunning dimensions

Construction on Hamad International Airport started in 2005. The airport is named after the former Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani, who wanted to create an airport that would be used over generations and would accommodate the world's largest aeroplanes. On an area covering around 29 square kilometres, 60% of which was reclaimed from the Arabian Gulf, the HOK architects from San Francisco made this vision a reality. HIA is the world's first airport to boast extra-long take-off and landing strips as well as six spaces with double-decker bridges to accommodate the largest aeroplane in the world, the Airbus A380. At 600,000 square metres, the four-storey main terminal is the size of 84 football pitches – making it the largest building in Doha. Up to 8,700 passengers per hour can be handled here. 138 check-in counters, 50 passport control counters and 65 gates in the final stage allow passengers to be processed quickly despite the enormous dimensions of the terminal. Around the clock, 90 aeroplanes per hour will start and land on the two parallel runways measuring 4,250 and 4,850 metres.



Dynamic design concept

The incredible dynamics of this colossal airport are also conveyed by HOK's architecture. The sweeping glass roof of the main terminal evokes an ebbing wave stretching from the entrance hall towards the runway. Furthermore, the façades of the Emiri Terminal built specially for important state visitors resemble a fleet of sailing boats and the glass front of the airport's own mosque recreates the form of a water droplet. The different levels of the spacious, multi-storey duty-free area are arranged in the style of a gallery. Alongside luxury shopping and culinary delights of all kinds, two large MEDIAMESH[®] screens each measuring 264 square metres underline the exclusivity of the heavily frequented place. The visual lightness of the large-scale screens and the brilliant colours of the displayed media were central arguments for the planners in selecting this solution. Manufactured from Tigris stainless steel fabric with integrated LED profiles, they impress with their intricate transparency, high-quality appearance and invisible cabling. Each made up of six seamlessly joined fabric panels, the transparent displays flank the main hall, high over the heads the airport visitors. The woven construction offers users of the First Class Lounge behind it an unhindered view of the airport hall and on the other side a clear view from the rooms of the terminal hotel. With six bright LEDs per pixel, the screens guarantee brilliant image quality across their entire length of 22.4 metres and height of 11.8 metres, even when the hall is flooded by daylight. This makes the shimmering metallic fabric a fascinating advertising platform for luxury goods from all over the world.

Integrated sustainability

As a full-service provider of transparent media systems, GKD also took over responsibility for the mounting of the screens. A particular challenge for the specialists from Düren was fixing the substructure to the specified



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attachment points on the glass façade behind it. In order to maintain the intricate overall feel of the MEDIAMESH® screens, the fabric panels were fixed to the frame structure using patented Fusiomesh NG fastening technology. However, the outstanding design and excellent function were not the sole focus for the planners from HOK: environmental friendliness was also a key factor when selecting all materials and solutions employed in order to keep the ecological footprint of the overall system as small as possible. With significantly lower power consumption than conventional displays, the MEDIAMESH® screens make a significant contribution to this. Alongside energy efficiency, the low-maintenance system is also sustainable with regard to the material used, as the stainless steel fabric is fully recyclable at the end of its service life. And that's why this extraordinarily broad range of functions offered by the medialised fabric system is also utilised in hall C of HIA: here, two other MEDIAMESH® screens, which are wider but have a slightly smaller overall area at 218 square metres, also set truly monumental standards in the land of luxury shopping and thereby underline the sophisticated design of the terminal.

6,437 characters with spaces

GKD – GEBR. KUFFERATH AG

The owner-run technical weaver GKD – GEBR. KUFFERATH AG is the global market leader for metal and plastic woven solutions. Under the umbrella of GKD – WORLD WIDE WEAVE the company combines four independent business units: SOLID WEAVE (industrial meshes), WEAVE IN MOTION (process belt meshes), CREATIVE WEAVE (architectural meshes) and COMPACT FILTRATION (compact filter systems). With its seven plants



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– including the headquarters in Germany and other facilities in the US, Great Britain, South Africa, China, India and Chile – as well as its branches in France, Spain, Dubai, Qatar and worldwide representatives, GKD is never far from its customers.

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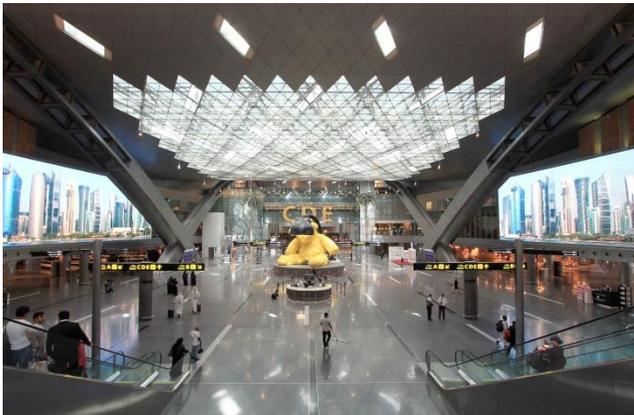
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Picture 1 + 2: Four large-scale MEDIAMESH® screens made of stainless steel fabric with integrated LED profiles by GKD were installed in the main hall of the duty-free area and in hall C of the main terminal.

Picture 3 + 4: In order to maintain the intricate overall feel of the MEDIAMESH® screens by GKD, the fabric panels were fixed to the frame structure using patented Fusiomesh NG fastening technology.

Picture 1-6 © Hamad International Airport/
GKD/Thomas Holtkötter



Picture 5: With significantly lower power consumption than conventional displays, the MEDIAMESH® screens by GKD make a significant contribution to environmental friendliness.

Picture 6: The two MEDIAMESH® screens by GKD in Hall C of HIA with 218 square metres, set truly monumental standards in the land of luxury shopping and thereby underline the sophisticated design of the terminal.

We will be happy to send you the desired images in printable resolution by e-mail.

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