

NTELX International Subsidiary Implementing Cutting-Edge System in Iraq: Will Increase Productivity at Seaports to Keep Trade Flowing

December 15, 2014 Vienna, VA – Nafith International, NTELX International’s Middle Eastern subsidiary, will start operating a system at Iraq’s seaports to streamline truck movements. This port capacity management system will provide scheduling predictability for Iraq’s port and trucking sectors, increasing throughput, saving time and reducing costs. Construction is underway and the system will start operating by June 1, 2015 at Umm Qasr, Iraq’s principal port.

Nafith will build and operate an integrated, Internet-based information technology platform for system users, construct truck marshalling yards and reorganize routes within the ports, under the terms of a concession agreement signed during 2013 with the General Company for Ports of Iraq.

“Modernizing Iraq’s economy remains a top priority during this challenging time,” noted Iraq’s Ambassador to the U.S., Lukman Faily. “Investments by companies that combine sophisticated technology with the talents of American and regional partners are greatly needed by Iraq.”

“We considered delaying construction because of the uncertainties facing Iraq, but instead concluded that the risks are acceptable and Iraq’s needs are acute,” added Rob Quartel, the Chairman of NTELX International. “Increasing port and truck transportation productivity is critical with the cut-off of overland freight traffic from Turkey and Syria by ISIS. By starting now we can help Iraq move forward.”

Nafith, which was established in 2007 by NTELX and its Jordan-based partners and received support from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, strives to enhance the efficiency of freight transportation by providing IT-based solutions to automate trade operations across the developing world. At the historic seaport in Aqaba, Jordan, Nafith implemented a breakthrough system to synchronize the port terminal operations with truck arrivals.

“For half a century, trucks idled in lines, wasting time and fuel, spewing pollution and clogging the city, and we were asked to solve that problem,” explained Larry Kahn, President of NTELX International. “By designing and operating a system to predict and control capacities at the port and on the roads, we optimize the use of the existing infrastructure and speed truck processing.” The Intelligent Transportation Society of America honored Nafith with their 2009 award for the best new service worldwide using advanced technology for surface transportation.

Support for Nafith’s project in Iraq and expansion to other countries was provided by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, and Foursan Capital Partners, a private-equity fund targeting investments in accelerated-growth companies in the Levant and North Africa.

“In Jordan, we have seen the transformational effect that a small firm like Nafith can have on the entire country’s logistics chain,” concluded Nashat T. Masri, a founder and partner of the Foursan Group. “We hope to apply these lessons in Iraq, creating extraordinary efficiencies at a time of tremendous growth and strain on Iraq’s ports.”

NTELX International, LLC (NXI) promotes, develops, finances and operates projects outside of the United States that improve freight transportation efficiency and productivity. NXI was formed in 2013 when NTELX, Inc. split its operations into two separate and distinct companies. NTELX, Inc. provides services to public and private-sector clients with a focus on business process analysis coupled with data analytics, modeling, integration and management. More information is at www.nxintl.com

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