

Bunkerworld

Naval base opens in Fujairah

October 22, 2010

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has opened a naval base in Fujairah.

The base will "provide a quick response to natural and man-made disasters that may occur at sea, in addition to... ensuring safe and quick passage for oil exports," the state-run WAM news agency said on Thursday.

A Dubai-based military analyst said the base would strengthen the UAE's ability to protect its economic and strategic interests.

"There's an oil pipeline from Abu Dhabi to Fujairah port, and there's the Dolphin project, which is a gas pipeline between Qatar, Abu Dhabi, then Fujairah and then on to Oman," he said.

Fujairah is one of the world top three bunkering ports.

This week, Chemoil's joint venture firm GPS Chemoil said it had secured a \$90 million loan to build phase four of its storage terminal in Fujairah.

According to the company, the terminal will be one of the largest bunker terminals in the Middle East.

Fujairah is on the Gulf of Oman, close to the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has threatened to block trade through the Strait if its dispute with Western powers over its nuclear programme escalates.

"Countries like Qatar, the UAE, Kuwait and Bahrain and Iraq... are really blocked in if the Strait of Hormuz is closed," said the military analyst.

"It is natural to see these countries come up with contingency plans that coincide with heightened threat perceptions."