

UAE foundation to set up R&D facility in Manipal



The Faizal and Shabana Foundation, a part of UAE-based KEF Holdings, has signed a deal with Manipal University to invest Dh3 million (816,662\$) towards a research and development facility.

The facility will focus on precast concrete technology at the Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT), India.

The agreement will also introduce a precast design and engineering course to the university's curriculum.

Faizal Kottikollon, chairman of KEF Holdings, said: "This is a first for any institute of higher learning in India and has the potential to transform engineering education in the country."

"This new research and development centre will no doubt benefit many students and faculty members. Precast concrete technology is rapidly expanding in India due to its sustainability, affordability and time saving measures," he said.

KEF Holdings recently entered a partnership with Finland-based Elematic, a leading provider for precast technology and machinery, to set up manufacturing plants in India and later UAE, involving investments totaling Dh200 million.

The foundation aims to further precast technology by introducing it to students to advance the field and create employment opportunities for them.

Dr Ramdas M Pai, chancellor of Manipal University, said: "We are committed to seeing the advancement of this industry and we believe that it has the potential to transform engineering education. We look forward to seeing the career possibilities and opportunities that will arise from this."