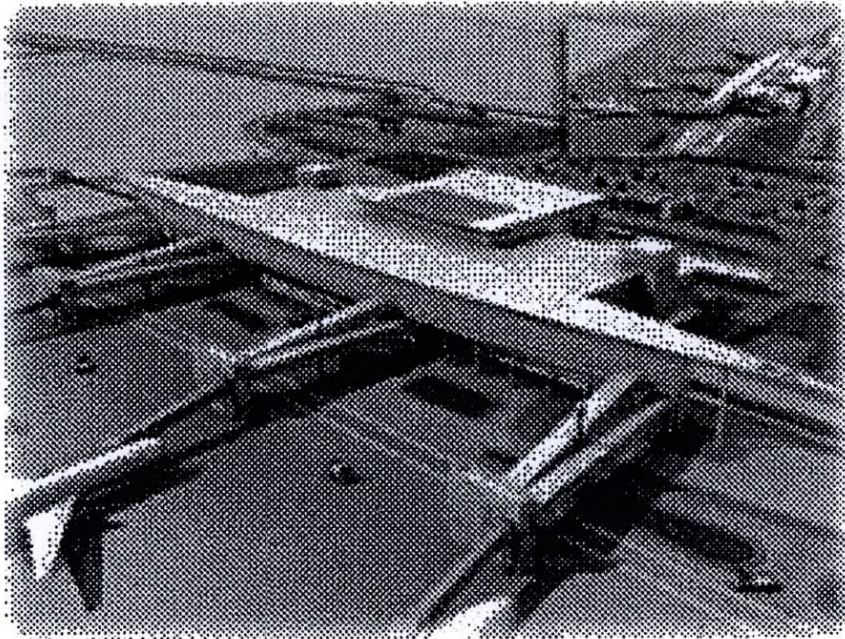


Borg El Arab gets Japanese funding for upgrade project



Plans to modernise Borg El Arab Airport, Alexandria, Egypt, are underway with financial assistance from the Japanese government of US\$56 million. The project, set to be completed in late 2009, includes the improvement of the airport's passenger and cargo terminals. Once upgraded, Borg El Arab will be the main airport for Alexandria, replacing El Nouzha.

The US\$97 million contract for construction of the new facilities was awarded to Orascom Construction Industries and BESIX Group joint venture. Japan Airport Consultants, Netherlands Airport Consultants and Engineering Consultants Group (Egypt) were the main designers of the modernisation plans. The

airport is located 43km from Alexandria, Egypt's second-largest city. It was inaugurated in 1998 to serve passengers from the Nile Delta.

Expansion plans include construction of a new three-storey passenger terminal with a total floor area of 21,789m² to handle 1,000 passengers an hour. By 2014, the terminal is expected to handle one million passengers a year. The design is based on an image of water and sky, incorporating elements of Egyptian culture and history as well as its geographical location. The main feature of this concept is an arc-shaped roof with a curved airside façade that will give short walking distances and plenty of natural lighting.

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