

شركة إنجاز مينا للاستثمار (ش.م.خ)

Injaz Mena Investment Co. PSC



Injaz Mena Investment Reports 29% Return for Investors in SyriaTel

Abu Dhabi, UAE, 20 March 2006: Injaz Mena Investment Company PSC, a leading UAE investment bank, which recently led a consortium of investors to acquire a five per cent stake in SyriaTel Mobile Telecom PSC (SyriaTel), realized over 29% return for its clients on the investment within a six month period.

Despite the current depressed conditions of most regional stock markets, investors who bought SyriaTel shares in a private placement arranged last September by Injaz Mena at \$12 (Dh44.2) per share, saw an appreciation of over 29% in the value of SyriaTel shares, which are traded mainly over-the-counter on the Damascus bourse.

The shares of SyriaTel increased in market value to \$15.1 (Dh55.5) per share as on December 31st, 2005 and presently trade at \$15.52 (Dh57.1). "The reason for the continued rise in SyriaTel shares is simply due to the company's strong fundamentals," said Shariq Azhar, Injaz Mena's Director General. SyriaTel's net income in 2005 reached \$91 million (Dh335 million) and is expected to increase by over 25% in 2006.

"We are very proud of this investment opportunity," he added. "Notwithstanding the recent collapse in many regional stock markets, we remain well positioned to undertake transactions of significant volume and magnitude". SyriaTel is a prime example. "Our investments hold their value despite market fluctuations because they are based on the true underlying value of sound companies".

Mr. Azhar expects a continued annual growth of 25% in SyriaTel revenues over the coming three years and beyond. "We believe there is great potential for growth in the telecommunications industry within our region". Unlike other mature markets with high telecommunications penetration, Syria is still in the process of making telecommunications services available to large parts of the population for the first time.

According to recent reports, last year's growth rate of mobile customers in that country was almost 80 per cent, compared to the previous year. By comparison, mobile growth rates in Western Europe and North America are 13.6 per cent and 13.8 per cent respectively.

Last year, the number of mobile users in Syria exceeded 2.1 million, representing a mobile penetration rate of 11.4 per cent. Meanwhile, fixed-line customers were estimated at 2.4 million, which represented a penetration rate of 13.6 per cent. By comparison, the number of mobile customers in 2002 was 407,000, a penetration of just 2.3 per cent.

Injaz Mena Investment Company PSC was established in 2005. It co-invests, together with high net worth individuals and institutional investors, in private equity and publicly listed companies globally. It is also active in the acquisition of companies with strong growth potential and asset management.