**MAPEI INVESTS OVER USD 6.5 MILLION TO STRENGTHEN ITS PRESENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates - March 21st, 2018**: Established in 1937 in Milan, Italy, MAPEI, the leading manufacturer of adhesives, sealants and chemical products for the Construction Industry, today officially inaugurates the enlargement of its facilities in the UAE. In laying the groundwork for the company’s second decade in the region, MAPEI has invested more than USD 6.5 million for the expansion of its state-of-the-art production facility and new offices at the Dubai Investments Park.

As the region diversifies to non-oil revenues, the Construction Market continues to show important and solid growth. For this reason, Mapei has decided to strengthen its position thanks to this new strategic investment. The newly expanded facility now features an additional 5,200 square meter covered warehousing for larger storage capacity, and the addition of a new epoxy resin production line will allow MAPEI to enlarge its portfolio delivering innovative and locally designed solutions. The new offices feature more than 2,000 square meters of built-up area which includes a showroom and training center, and is now a work place to more than 120 employees from 22 different countries.

Veronica Squinzi, Global Development Director of MAPEI said, “MAPEI wants to reinforce its presence in the region supporting the constant economic developments by enhancing its production capacity. Only by being closer to the local needs and combining an efficient logistic, high quality products and customer service excellence, Mapei has been able to gain the position of one of the preferred supplier to the Industry. The United Arab Emirates continue to present important opportunities, such as Expo 2020 with its visionary approach ”Connecting minds, creating the future”. Mapei, of course, is ready to support these projects realization thanks to its previous experiences as a supplier of high quality system solutions. In addition, Mapei Construction Chemicals LLC has recently been appointed as the regional headquarters for the development of the Group in the Middle-East and Eastern Africa regions, hence we are sure that capitalizing the positive experience achieved in UAE, Mapei will succeed in other markets within the region as well”.

Marco Squinzi, Research & Development Director at MAPEI: “Delivering the best quality product in the industry is our everyday commitment. Thanks to our global presence we can benefit from the experience in our 28 R&D centers spread around the globe and coordinated by our central R&L lab in Milan. Exchanging knowledge between the various Mapei Group Research & Development teams and the constant update of knowledge through joint research projects with the scientific community allow us to deliver more than 1.000 new formulations every year. Innovation and sustainability are the key drivers of our technical approach and their combination will contribute for the wellbeing of future generations. We are delighted to have been able to share our expertise and values during the 10 years of Mapei’s existence in the Middle East and thanks to the new investment we will be able to continue this path for many more decades to come”.

After a decade of developing businesses in the region, MAPEI is now at home with production, logistics and the regional headquarters at the Dubai Investments Park, one of the largest integrated commercial and industrial communities in the Middle East and a wholly owned subsidiary of Dubai Investments.

Omar Al Mesmar, General Manager of Dubai Investments Park (DIP) commented, “MAPEI, manufacturing innovative products to the most stringent health, safety and environmental standards within the mixed-use Dubai Investments Park is a matter of immense pride. With its close proximity to Dubai World Central, Jebel Ali Port and Expo 2020 site, DIP offers strategic advantages to MAPEI with easier access and logistics. DIP is committed to enhancing customer experience and hence is continuously improving its internal road network, directions to customers as well as power & utility systems.”

Stefano Iannacone, Regional Director for Middle East & East Africa, “We are optimistic with the increased demands in the construction market, and our newly expanded facility will help in supporting and serving important projects and the region’s ambitions and vision. We intend to continue our investments in the region supporting the local markets: we have recently opened a new subsidiary in Egypt and with others to come, we continue with our objective to be locally present and become a leading supplier in all the markets within the region.”

***About Mapei Group***

*Founded in 1937, Mapei a multinational Group with its headquarters in Milan (Italy) now has 82 subsidiaries in 54 different countries companies and 75 production facilities in the 5 continents.*

*The foundations for the success of the company are specialisation in the world of building by offering certified products and systems to meet the requirements of clients and market demand; internationalisation to be more in tune with local needs and reduce transport costs to a minimum; Research and Development which receives the most support from the Company and the highest number of new employees.*

*For more information visit www.mapei.ae*