

## Prince Abdullah allies with Turkish IT company, seeks Fener-Al Hilal Game

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**Saudi Arabia Prince Abdullah started a company together with a Turkish IT company. Abdullah is the Honorary President of Al Hilal Football Club in his country, and is now seeking a friendly game between Fenerbahçe-Al Hilal in his country or in Turkey. Ahmet Şefik Öngün, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Gantek will also make contacts to arrange the match.**



One of the most powerful and extraordinary members of the Saudi Arabia Royal Family, son of the elder brother of King Abdullah, started a company in his country in conjunction with the Turkish IT company Gantek Teknoloji Bilişim Çözümleri A.Ş. (Gantek). He said they wanted to start another strong 'IT company' based in Saudi Arabia, leveraging the experience of Gantek in telecommunication. He also expressed his desire to advance relations between the two companies on every level: "I love football. I am the honorary president of Al-Hilal football club in my country. If they accept, we can arrange a friendly match with either Fenerbahçe or Galatasaray. I will make contacts to ensure that. My investment consultant, Mr. Salahattin Baki, is a devoted Fenerbahçe fan, so he wants the game with Fenerbahçe. We have been always proud of the achievements of the Turkish football."

### Turkish companies also very good

When asked why he opted to partner with a Turkish company instead of a European, US or Japanese company in IT, he said: "Turkish IT is very well developed. We found ourselves a very strong and experienced partner" and continued: "Also, I loved Istanbul. This city is both European and Asian. Istanbul is a Muslim city, and the ezan (call to prayer) I heard there really touched me. Relations between the two countries have advanced greatly in recent years. I believe that they will spread to many other areas in the coming years."

### Technology instead of real estate

Prince Abdullah said that Gulf countries were mostly interested in real estate in Turkey so far, and that he owned companies in Saudi Arabia with strong investments, but he also managed a strong group active in paper and recycling: "Previously, I invested a lot in US and European stock exchanges. I made a lot, I lost a lot. But I gained experience, which was the most important thing. Now I am interested in technology companies. There is a huge market and potential in the Gulf area and in Saudi Arabia. I am confident that we will do great things with our Turkish partner Gantek."

### Arabistan instead of Dubai

Ahmet Şefik Öngün, the Chairman of the Board of Gantek, said that companies usually saw Dubai the center of the Middle East, but offered a contrasting view: "However, the strongest country in the region is Saudi Arabia. It is a player with a very strong economy and we think it is the real center. We chose it as the regional center. It is an ideal market in terms of its population and investments. Its size equals that of the other Gulf countries combined. We will use our experience and know-how of 23 years. We aim to provide services in all areas of communication technologies such as telecommunication, finance, satellite and automation."

### Gantek has a turnover of 75 million dollars

GANTEK Teknoloji Bilişim Çözümleri A.Ş. serves many corporate clients in IT area in various countries such as Ukraine, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. The company works in the 'data centers' of telephony companies and provides software for number transferability, interconnection systems. Its latest shareholder is Lütfi Yenel. It has 150 employees and a turnover of 75 million dollars. Gantek started talks with Prince Abdullah in 2009 March. In February 2010, the formal procedures for the foundation of the company were completed and in 2010 March, the first Board meeting took place in Saudi Arabia.