



NEWSLETTER



A PRODUCTION OF MEMBERS NETWORKING MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Dear OPAL Members,

I am pleased to share with you some exciting news from March 2023. Oman Energy Association (OPAL) has been active in several initiatives and events that have showcased our commitment to improving the energy and minerals sector's sustainability, safety, and inclusivity.

We kicked off the month with the Workers Welfare Forum, organized in cooperation with bp Oman and with wide participation from the Ministry of Labor, the General Federation of Oman Workers and oil and gas operating companies. The forum highlighted the need to establish a new standard for the industry and concluded with a panel discussion with subject matter experts from the energy sector.

We also participated as a strategic partner in the Asset Integrity and Reliability Show Middle East 2023, with delegations from Oman and abroad. Our aim was to exchange experiences on the key enablers to effectively manage asset integrity and process safety, the risks and the catastrophic consequences in case of failures, and the deployment of digitalization and artificial intelligence to protect people, assets, and the environment, and for business sustainability.

On Human Capital Development front, OPAL is committed to training for employment programs. We collaborated with Apave Gulf LLC for the official induction of the second batch under the training for employment program "NDT program," funded by the Ministry of Labour. Trainees will be employed after successfully completing the program. On this, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Apave management for believing on the importance of recruiting nationals as part of their ICV wide contribution. Furthermore, in collaboration with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), we organized the official induc-

tion of the Emdad Internship Program - second batch, to enhance the employability of Omani graduates. The program will be delivered by 23 companies and involves training 170 graduates for a period of 6 months. The program is tailored to build the required skills that are commensurate with the private sector's labor market needs.

On the HSE front, we organized the 8th OPAL Leadership Safety Forum, hosted by CC Energy Development, and held under the auspices of His Excellency the Minister of Energy and Minerals. We discussed learnings from HSE incidents and measures to prevent recurrence in addition to presenting detailed analysis of the industry's HSE statistics and performance over the past five years. OPAL participated in the Gulf Traffic Week Exhibition organized by Royal Oman Police's General Directorate of Traffic - Haima Division. This event aims to spread awareness of the importance of adhering to traffic rules and regulations among all segments of society, schools, students, and road users to reduce the risk of accidents. OPAL also participated in the Traffic Week Exhibition organized by the Engineering Services Department at the Ministry of Defense. The event aimed to spread awareness of the importance of adhering to traffic rules and regulations among road users to reduce the risk of accidents.

On 15th March, OPAL has also contributed in the Health and Wellness panel discussions organized by IOSH, impact on the workers and their being, as well as implications on the business performance. In addition, OPAL has held various HSE committee engagements with Industry subject matter experts and HSE Managers from the Operators to discuss and progress on the Industry HSE agenda, such as development of the Road Safety Strategy, revision of key standards, standards implementation as well as the devel-

opment of the OPAL Mutual Aid Standard within 2023.

On the Minerals sector front, OPAL and Minerals directorate of the MEM, held engagements to strengthen their ties and agreed on initiatives to advance management of HSE in the mining operations, with key focus on Safety Leadership in Mining. Furthermore, the month of March has witnessed another collaboration with bp Oman in which we held a joint meeting with contractors and subcontractors' community to present the updates in the Road Safety Standard 2nd Edition that has come into effect on 1st January 2023.

On the engagements with our members and stakeholders front, I hope you have visited us during Oman Sustainability Week exhibition. We were delighted to welcome His Excellency the Minister of Energy and Minerals to the OPAL corner during the event, where he praised OPAL's vital role and its valuable contributions to various aspects of sustainability in the energy and minerals sector.

OPAL in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development and the Human Development Center for the Disabled is organizing the First Forum for People with Disabilities. The event is planned from 1-3 May 2023 with the aims to contribute to the indicators of Vision 2040 for integration and empowerment for people with disabilities.

Finally, I would like to thank all our members for their continued support and participation in these initiatives. Only together, we can make a positive impact on the energy and minerals sector and the wider community.

Sincerely,

Abdul Rahman Al Yahyaee
OPAL CEO



الجمعية العمانية للطاقة
Oman Energy Association



**A NEW NAME FOR A STRONGER
VOICE OF THE INDUSTRY**



Sunday, March 5, 2023, in cooperation with BP Oman and with wide participation from the Ministry of Labor, the General Federation of Oman Workers and oil and gas operating companies, OPAL organized the first Workers Welfare Forum under the auspices of His Excellency the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labor for Labor. During the forum, a number of working papers presented highlighted the need to establish a new standard for the industry. The forum concluded with a panel discussion with a number of subject matter experts from the energy sector.



Wednesday, March 08, 2023, in collaboration with Safety Cooperation Services Institute (SCS), Oman Energy Association (OPAL) participated in the Gulf Traffic Week Exhibition organized by Royal Oman Police's General Directorate of Traffic – Haima Division. This event aims to spread awareness of the importance of adhering to traffic rules and regulations among all segments of society, schools, students, and road users to reduce the risk of accidents.



Wednesday, March 8, 2023, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) participated as a strategic partner in the Asset Integrity and Reliability Show Middle East 2023 with delegations from Oman & abroad. The aim of the event was exchanging experiences in risks related topics to asset integrity and process safety, and the deployment of digitalization and artificial intelligence to protect people, assets and the environment.



Sunday, March 12, 2023, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) in collaboration with Apave Gulf LIC organized the official induction for batch 2 under the training for employment program "NDT program" funded by Ministry of Labour. The program will be delivered by National Training Institute for a period of 6 months. Trainees will be employed after successfully completing the program.



Sunday, March 12, 2023, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized the 8th OPAL Leadership Safety Forum hosted by CC Energy Development, under the auspices of His Excellency the Minister of Energy and Minerals. The forum discussed learnings from HE incidents and measures to prevent recurrence in addition to presenting the 5 years industry's HSE statistics and performance.



Sunday, March 12, 2023, in collaboration with Safety Cooperation Services Institute (SCS) and Fleet Management Systems & Technologies, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) participated in the Traffic Week Exhibition organized by the Engineering Services Department at Ministry of Defense. The event aims to spread awareness of the importance of adhering to traffic rules and regulations among road users to reduce the risk of accidents.



Tuesday, March 14, 2023, Oman Energy Association OPAL in collaboration with BP Oman held a joint meeting with contractors and subcontractors' community to present the updates in the Road Safety Standard 2nd Edition that has come into effect on 1st January 2023.



Tuesday, March 14, 2023, We're delighted to have welcomed His Excellency the Minister of Energy and Minerals to the OPAL corner at the Oman Sustainability Week exhibition, where His Excellency the Minister praised OPAL's vital role and its valuable contributions to various aspects of sustainability in the energy and minerals sector.



Sunday, March 19, 2023, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized the official induction for the Cabin Crew training program- second batch funded by Ministry of Labour. The program will be delivered by Arabian Development & Training Institute for a period of 4 months. After successfully completing the program, trainees will be employed at Salam Air.



Thursday, March 23, 2023, The Oman Energy Association (OPAL) has signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development and the Human Development Center for the Disabled to be the strategic partner in the first forum for people with disabilities, which will be held from 1-3 May 2023 and aims to contribute to the indicators of Vision 2040 for integration and empowerment.



Thursday, March 23, 2023, in collaboration with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized the official induction of the Emdad Internship Program - second batch, to enhance the employability of Omani graduates. The program will be delivered by 23 companies and involves training 170 graduates for a period of 6 months, The program is tailored to build the required skills that are commensurate with the private sector's labor market needs.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

DID YOU KNOW?

COACHING SERVICES

An initiative which will provide Coaching services to OPAL members by partnering with clients in a thought-provoking and creative process that inspires them to maximize their personal and professional potential. The service was developed in collaboration with International Coaching Federation (ICF Oman Chapter).



ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES IPO OVERSUBSCRIBED 8.7 TIMES

Oman's largest oilfield services provider Abraj Energy Services, en route to listing on the Muscat Stock Exchange on March 14, said its initial public offering (IPO) has been oversubscribed by 8.7 times after receiving strong demand from local, regional and international investors.

Abraj, which aimed to raise up to RO93.97mn through the initial public offering of its 49 per cent share capital, received overwhelming response to its IPO from both retail as well as institutional investors.

Total demand for IPO shares topped RO790mn, making it 870 per cent oversubscribed and recording the biggest demand for an IPO in Oman in recent years, according to the data provided by Abraj on Twitter.

'We are proud to record the largest initial public offering in Oman's stock market, with the subscription volume in the company's shares amounting to more than RO790mn. We sincerely thank our success partners – new investors – for their confidence in Abraj Energy Services,' the company said.

Through the largest IPO in Oman market since 2010, Abraj's parent OQ offered 377.4mn shares in a price range of 242bz-249bz for public subscription which was closed on March 2. Abraj has set the final price at 249bz per share, which is at the top of the offer price range given at the launch of the IPO.

Abraj Energy Services is expected to start trading on the Muscat Stock Exchange on March 14.

The Capital Market Authority (CMA) on Monday approved the allocation of Abraj shares to the subscribers. As much as 35 per cent of the total offered shares have been allocated to the second category investors (retail investors).

The IPO collected RO246mn from second category (retail) investors against the offered size of RO29.6mn for this category, oversubscribing more than eight times. Around 40,000 individual retail investors participated in the second category subscription.

On the other hand, the first category (institutional) subscription – which has been allocated at 65 per cent of the total offer size – was oversubscribed by 21.6 times, attracting very strong demand from local, regional and international investors.

Abraj collected RO507mn from institutional subscription except for anchor investors. Apart from two anchor investors, as many as 132 local, regional and international institutions participated in the IPO.

Earlier OQ brought in Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund and global energy services giant Schlumberger as anchor investors for the Abraj IPO. In aggregate, the anchor investors committed RO37.58mn to the IPO, representing 40 per cent of the offer size.

In a statement, the CMA said that the allocation of Abraj shares was approved based on distributing the minimum limit to the small shareholders category at 4,500 shares and 0.1121 per cent of the remaining shares for each subscriber. For the first category (institutional investors), the subscribers have been allocated 4.62 per cent of their respective subscriptions.

As per the data released by Abraj, around 54 per cent of the total institutional subscription was subscribed by local institutional investors while remaining 46 per cent was taken by regional and international investors.

Abraj recently announced that it will add 11 new drilling rigs to its fleet during the next five years as part of its regional expansion plans. The company has also signed a strategic partnership deal with Saudi Arabian Chevron and Kuwait Gulf Oil Company in the field of drilling and oil extraction to expand its regional presence.

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OMAN SHELL PARTNERS WITH OMAN CHARITABLE ORGANISATION TO POWER

As a company that upholds the principles of honesty, integrity, and respect for people, Shell Oman Marketing Company (Oman Shell) has earned widespread reverence for its ethical, community-centric conduct. Committed to furthering its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme and in line with its commitment to Powering Lives, the company recently extended a generous donation to the Oman Charitable Organisation (OCO). The donation grant ceremony was held earlier this month at the OCO headquarters in AlKhuwair. Representing Oman Shell at the ceremony was Mahmoud al Abri, General Manager of Corporate Relations at Oman Shell (interim), who extended the support to Badr al Zaabi, Assistant Chief Executive Officer of OCO. The grant ceremony also witnessed the presence of key officials from Oman Shell's management and SR team as well as senior executives from OCO. Commenting on the support to OCO, Al Abri said, "Oman Shell, through its diverse endeavours, has been at the forefront of nur-

turing an inclusive, equitable, and self-reliant society. We believe that people are the most important assets of a nation and their health, safety, and wellbeing are critical parameters to achieving sustainable progress. Acknowledging the fact that OCO provides significant support in the form of financial aid to those in need, Oman Shell's donation will play an impactful role in helping the organization further its programmes and initiatives across a wider section of society. Through such thoughtful partnerships with leading charitable organisations, Oman Shell will continue to reaffirm its commitment to the Shell Powering Progress strategy while simultaneously being active players in the journey towards achieving Oman Vision 2040 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Oman Shell's strategised SR policies emphasis community upskilling and enterprise development, environment, and the holistic well-being of people. Along with executing its targeted social investment initiatives, Oman Shell takes concerted efforts to remain relevant to the evolving needs of the public. By establishing clear channels of communication and encouraging open dialogues, it continuously engages with NGOs, charities, and other stakeholders to understand their needs, collectively address challenges, and drive qualitative action to enrich the local society. Established by a royal decree in 1996, OCO's core philosophies of philanthropy, service to the people, and development of local communities resonate with Oman Shell. Apart from financial support, OCO has been extending study and medical aid as well as housing assistance to those with limited income. It has also been working to increase social awareness while instilling a culture of volunteerism among the youth. Oman Shell's unique stance on leading SR activities has helped it establish long-term relationships with stakeholders across various sectors and reiterated its position as a company that has been pioneering transformational change and aiding in the socio-economic growth of the nation. Through the years, Oman Shell has run several innovative and industry-first social campaigns that have identified and addressed the needs of the community and continues to Power Progress through sharing benefits with the local society and exemplifying its commitment to being a responsible corporate citizen.



OPAL NEW MEMBERS

OPAL WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR FAMILY.

We are gold to have you on board as one of our members, and we wish you succes and prosperity.

- Muscat Power Pioneer LLC
- Bin Muqadam Transport & Heavy Equipment LLC
- Al Jazeera Training & Investment Company
- Professional Stars Energy Services LLC
- Dohat Al Khaleej LLC
- Fast Solutions For Oil & Gas Services LLC
- Western line projects LLC
- Masaken Al Raha Company LLC
- Multiline International General Services LLC
- TUV SUD MIDDLE EAST SERVICES
- Date Logistics
- TRAINIG LLC



THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERALS SIGNS MINING DEAL WITH UK'S KNIGHTS BAY

In Oman's first mineral exploration deal with a foreign investor, the sultanate has signed an agreement with the UK-based mining company Knights Bay for the extraction of nickel and its derivatives. The Ministry of Energy and Minerals on Thursday signed the mining concession agreement with Knights Bay to obtain the concession rights in mining area No 21 located in the Wilayat of Ibra in Governorate of North Sharqiyah. The agreement aims to extract nickel and its derivatives with high purity. The extraction process will be carried out without any carbon emissions (zero carbon). The agreement was signed by H E Eng Salim Nasser al Aufi, Oman's Minister of Energy and Minerals and Brian Spratley, chairman of Knights Bay.

In a statement to Oman News Agency, Dr Salah bin Hafeedh al Dahab, director general of investment at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, said that this agreement comes in line with the government's approach to allocate mining concession areas to develop investment in the mineral sector.

He pointed out that this agreement with Knights Bay is the first mining agreement with a foreign investor.

Dahab noted that the initial investment related to the exploration and appraisal phase are estimated between US\$25-30mn in the first three years. This investment will cover an area of 1,444 square kilometres. He said that this phase includes geological surveys and drilling of a number of exploratory and appraisal wells, as well as chemical analysis to confirm the quantities of mineral reserves according to approved international standards. Brian Spratley said that the agreement is important towards achieving the sultanate's strategy represented in looking forward to strengthening non-oil industries and contributing to economic diversification based on Oman Vision 2040.

He told Oman News Agency that his company seeks, through the agreement, to build, develop and process battery minerals (nickel and cobalt) in Oman to meet the global demand for nickel through electric car manufacturers. The signing ceremony of the agreement was attended by Mohsen Hamad al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, officials at the ministry, representatives of the British company and the Chargés d'affaires of the British Embassy in Muscat.

SEMBCORP-LED JV WINS 500MW MANAH II SOLAR POWER



Singapore-based Sembcorp Industries announced that it has – through an 80 per cent-owned joint venture (JV) to be set up by its wholly-owned subsidiary Sembcorp Utilities with Jinko Power Technology Company – received an award by Oman Power and Water Procurement Company (OPWP) to build, own and operate the Manah II Solar Independent Power Project (IPP) in Manah. The 500MW Manah II solar plant is expected to be operational by 2025 and will be backed by a 20-year power purchase agreement with OPWP, Sembcorp said in a statement.

Earlier this month, the Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR) granted its approval to OPWP to award Manah I and Manah II solar power projects to the international investors. The two projects, with power generation capacity of 500MW for each, will be located in the Wilayat of Manah in Dakhiliyah governorate. Total cost of the two projects is expected to be more than RO300mn.

Sembcorp said that Manah II solar plant will augment its well-established presence and track record in Oman's power and water desalination sector. The Salalah Independent Water and Power Plant, one of the most energy-efficient power and water plants in the Dhofar region, is 40 per cent owned by Sembcorp.

Andy Koss, CEO of UK and Middle East, Sembcorp Industries, said, "The Manah II Solar IPP will mark Sembcorp's first renewables project in the Middle East. This project will leverage our strong network and presence for over ten years in the country built through Salalah Independent Water and Power Plant. We are delighted to be awarded this project and look forward to working with Jinko Power to support the global energy transition."

Sembcorp said Manah II solar project is expected to be financed through a mix of internal cash resources and external bank borrowings. 'It is not expected to have a material impact on the earnings per share, net asset value per share and leverage of Sembcorp for the financial year ending December 31, 2023.'

Oman's government adopted a fuel diversification policy few years ago, which requires that renewable energy projects contribute at least 10 per cent of electricity generation output by 2025.

OPWP is focusing to expand its power generation capacities through solar and wind independent power projects (IPPs). One of the objectives of Oman's National Energy Strategy is to derive at least 30 per cent of electricity from renewable energy projects by 2030.



OMANTEL SIGNS DEAL WITH WINGU GROUP TO EXPAND INTO AFRICAN MARKET

Omantel, the leading provider of telecom services in Oman, has sealed a partnership deal with Wingu Group's Djibouti Data Centre to expand into the African market and further boost its standing as a leading regional wholesale hub.

Wingu Group's Djibouti Data Center was the first and only carrier neutral data center facility in East Africa with access to all major international fiber optic systems connecting Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific regions with Africa.

Apart from providing access to the African market, Omantel said its Point of Presence (POP) in Djibouti will help forge new wholesale partnerships with operators and hyper-scalers, improve the utilisation of connectivity between Oman and Africa, facilitate better commercial models that will lead to business growth and enable better support for customers with connectivity requests to and from Africa.

In a press statement, Sohail Qadir, vice president of the wholesale business unit at Omantel, said, "As a global wholesale player, Omantel is always on the lookout for new market opportunities. Our new partnership with Wingu Group's Djibouti Data Center presents us with a great opportunity to solidify our presence in Africa. It will help us attract more customers to connect to and from Africa, resulting in an enhanced customer experience and new business opportunities for Omantel and Djibouti Data Center. This is indeed another important milestone of fulfilling our wholesale vision: from Oman to the World."

Demos Kyriacou, deputy CEO and chief operating officer at Wingu Group, the owner and operator of Djibouti Data Center (DDC) said, "We pride ourselves on creating a strategic gateway to East and Southern Africa. We are pleased to cement this partnership with a prestigious global player like Omantel. A collaboration of this nature will trigger greater connectivity in the region and inspire more global players to collocate in our Djibouti data center. We are very happy that the Djibouti Data Center has cemented itself as a reliable and cost-effective gateway hub to many of the fastest growing markets and service providers in Africa."

PDO UNVEILS ITS NEW PURPOSE AND STRATEGY



Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), the sultanate's leading oil and gas exploration and production company, on Tuesday unveiled its new corporate purpose and strategy, outlining how it will continue to serve Oman and deliver value to the sultanate in a rapidly changing and volatile energy landscape.

The company's new purpose – 'Building a sustainable and low-carbon future to maximise value for Oman' – replaces its previous vision and mission which were established more than ten years ago.

The official launch of PDO's new purpose was announced at the Oman Sustainability Week (OSW) conference and exhibition, which PDO co-hosted with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals for the second consecutive year.

In the exhibition, PDO showcased its refreshed strategy at an exhibition booth, giving attendees a glimpse of its existing projects and future plans to generate sustainable revenue for Oman today and in the low-carbon future.

Addressing a media gathering, PDO's managing director Steve Phimister said, "Maximising value for Oman is at the heart of our purpose, to fulfill our role in contributing to Oman's Vision 2040 and net zero emissions 2050. PDO is committed to both cost and carbon competitiveness – safely, efficiently and sustainably growing our core oil and gas business whilst minimising emissions from our operations."

Under its new strategy, PDO aims to pioneer the new energy landscape, leading technology deployment, operational excellence, decarbonisation and supply chain development for Oman's oil and gas industry.

Phimister added, "oil and gas has a role in the global energy system for decades to come, but hydrocarbon development must be sustainable. We have a responsibility to sustain the current energy system whilst we build the new (low carbon) energy system. PDO has bold plans to safely increase oil and gas production whilst at the same time halving its emissions. And PDO is well-positioned, in partnership with others, to build sustainable, low-carbon revenue streams for the future of Oman." PDO conducted an interactive session with local and international media representatives to introduce the refreshed strategy and the new purpose during its participation in OSW.

The company announced that it achieved good results during 2022 as its oil and gas production reached 660,00 barrels due to improved efficiency of fields and use of modern technologies in the production process.



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SAS HOSTS 25 YEARS JUBILEE & RECOGNIZES GRADUATES WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPETED TRAINING PROGRAM

Seeh Al-Sarya Engineering LLC (SAS) successfully hosted a corporate event on Tuesday, 21st of March 2023, celebrating 25 Years of its existence in Oman under the auspices of His Excellency,

Sheikh Nasr Amer Shuwain Al Hosni, Undersecretary Ministry of Labor at Grand Millenium Hotel, Muscat. Dignitaries present during the occasion included the Ambassador, Senior Officials of Petroleum Development Oman, Occidental Oman, LCC Companies, SME Companies, and other training institutes including the Board of Directors and Employees of SAS.

The event commenced with a welcome note by the Executive Director, Mr. Saif Said Rashid Al Darai stating that "SAS as a Company has its most prominent goal of serving the national economy which among other sources is also based on the wealth of Oil & Gas. He continued that, "SAS has also contributed to support the Local Community Companies and Small Enterprises and the Company has been focused in developing & supporting the Omani youth in their career for the future of SAS as well as the nation's future at large".

The Minister, HE Sheikh Nasr Amer Shuwain Al Hosni presented the Awards and Certificates to the graduates for completion of training program. A special award was presented for the staff of SAS for their long service in the Company and their contribution towards the company's success.

The event then continued with the launch of Company's New SAS Media which is an initiative to keep pace with the developments in the current markets by providing competitive media services with empowered national cadres in the field of digital media and event organizing, conferences, forums and other digital works.

ALIZZ ISLAMIC BANK HONOURED WITH AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN CSR

Alizz Islamic Bank has been recognised for its outstanding commitment to corporate social responsibility. At the awards ceremony held during the Oman Forum 2023, the bank was honoured with the prestigious 'Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility' (CSR) award at the Alam Al-Iktisad Sustainability Leadership Awards 2023. The event was held under the auspices of Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion. Ali I Mani, General Manager, Alizz Islamic Bank accepted the award on behalf of the bank.

Ali al Mani confirmed that the bank has adopted a new strategy, specifically relating to the initiatives it offers. He believes that continuing to implement sustainable initiatives is crucial for leaving a lasting benefit to society, especially during a time when there is a major shift in project focus. The General Manager who is directly supervising these initiatives himself highlighted the importance of social responsibility for Alizz Islamic Bank and how it aligns with the bank's mission to achieve exceptional and sustainable results for shareholders.

He said, "The bank has invested in projects that have a positive impact on society and create value for all, with a focus on investing in communities since its inception.

The ultimate goal is to strive for a better life for the people the bank serves across the Sultanate, and the belief is that investment in sustainable initiatives is vital for achieving societal prosperity. The bank has provided support to national organisations that work to build strong and



flexible societies, as well as contributed to the growth of non-profit social organisations. "Alizz Islamic Bank continuously participates in several voluntary initiatives to support various social causes. These initiatives include the construction of the Centre of Excellence for children with disabilities and the collection of donations for orphans from the Child Care Centre. The bank is also working with several associations and institutions to engage employees in volunteer work.

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OMAN OFFERS NEW OIL AND GAS CONCESSIONS

Oman's Ministry of Energy and Minerals on Sunday announced the offering of three new oil and gas concession areas for local and international oil companies. This offering is the first batch of the sultanate's 2023 licensing bid round.

The ministry has offered Blocks 15, 36 and 54 in the sultanate, inviting bids from the companies during the period from March 26 to June 25, 2023. Earlier this month the Ministry of Energy and Minerals announced that it was in preparation process to offer two new batches of onshore and offshore oil and gas concession areas during the first half of this year.

The ministry will offer the second batch of the concession areas, which will focus on selected offshore blocks, by the end of the second quarter of 2023. Block 15 is located within Oman's northern oil province some 250km

west of Muscat and 25km south-west of provincial town of Ibri. It is located along the north-eastern edge of petroleum basin in what is to be a similar geological setting to Shams, Wadi Rafash, and Anadarko's Hafar fields. Tight gas is the predominant play within Block 15, the ministry said.

Block 36 covers 18625 sqkm area is along the border with Saudi Arabia and Yemen and is at the south-eastern edge of the Eastern Rub al Khali basin, one of the most prolific oil and gas basins in the world. To the south of this block, in neighbouring Block 38, the Rub al Khali basin is terminated against the Ghudun high that runs from NE to SW and separates the Rub Al Khali from the Southern Oman Salt basin. Moreover, Block 54 covers a 5627 sqkm area and is located in a lightly drilled area, the Eastern Flank province situated between the easternmost edge of known salt in the South Oman Salt Basin and the Mesozoic and Palaeozoic outcrops found along the Huqf Axis. Last year, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals informed that Oman's total estimated reserves of crude oil and condensates increased by four per cent to reach 4.876bn barrels at the end of 2021 in comparison with expected reserves recorded in the previous year. According to the ministry data, total reserves of natural gas in Oman were estimated at 23tn cubic feet at the end of 2021. Oman's average daily production of crude oil and condensates exceeded 1.06mn barrels per day (bpd) for the full year 2022, up by 9.6 per cent in comparison to average daily output of 971,200 bpd recorded in 2021. The sultanate's total oil output in 2022 increased by nearly 10 per cent to 388.4mn barrels compared to 354.5mn barrels in 2021, according to data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information. Total oil exports for the full year 2022 grew by 10.6 per cent to 319.5mn barrels in comparison with 288.9mn barrels in the previous year, the NCSI data showed.

OMAN TARGETS 1 GW OF NEW WIND ENERGY PROJECTS BY 2030

The Sultanate of Oman has lined up for implementation a flurry of wind-based Independent Power Projects (IPPs), offering an aggregate of over 1 gigawatt (GW) of capacity, by 2030. Together with a raft of new solar-based IPPs, and a first-of-its-kind Waste-to-Energy project envisioned at Barka, these new ventures will enable the power sector to meet its goal of securing around 30 per cent of the country's electricity requirements from renewable sources by 2030. According to Abdullah Rashid al Sawafi, Chief Operating Officer of the Oman Power and Water Procurement Co (OPWP), the sole buyer of electricity and water output, as many as six new wind farms are planned for procurement over the next seven years through to 2030. First in the series is a 100 MW scheme planned at Jaalan Bani Bu Ali in South Al Sharghiya Governorate, Al Sawafi said. "Our target is to have this project up and running and contribute to our system by Q4 2026, with a Request for Qualification (RfQ) planned for release in early April this year." Speaking at a forum held in the city recently, he said the pipeline of wind farm projects also envisions the development of a 200 MW capacity scheme in Dugm (Al Wusta Governorate). An RfQ for this IPP is slated to be issued in Q2 / Q3 2023, with the project set to be brought online in Q4 2026. In Dhofar Governorate, OPWP has lined up a second wind-based IPP for procurement next to Oman's maiden wind farm, currently under operation at Fitkhit near Harweel. To be called Dhofar II Wind IPP, this new project will be sized at around



100 MW and brought into operation by 2026. An RfQ for interested developers is planned to be issued in Q2/Q3 this year. Also in the pipeline are plans for a wind farm at as Madrasah (Al Wusta Governorate) with a capacity of 100 MW and due for commercial operation in 2027. A similar-sized project will also be launched at Sadah in Dhofar Governorate in 2028. Rounding off the list are a number of additional wind farms of an aggregate capacity of 400 MW for development at unspecified locations around Oman. Side by side with wind farm development, OPWP also plans to procure a handful of solar-based schemes over the next several years. Thus, in addition to a 1000 MW solar scheme (Manah | Solar IPP and Manah I Solar IPP) which was awarded recently to two separate developers each with a 500 MW share, the list includes plans for a new 500 MW capacity solar project (Ibri III Solar IPP) to be constructed adjoining the existing Ibri II Solar IPP in Al Dhahirah Governorate. Another 500 MW solar scheme is also slated for development within the Main Interconnected System (MIS) by 2027. Finally, one or more solar based projects of a total capacity of 1000 MW are proposed to be developed and launched by 2029, according to OPWP. Also in the works is a long-pending Waste-to-Energy project of around 140 MW that will be developed in partnership with Oman Environmental Services Holding Co (be'ah), the official added.



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OPAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023



JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
OSHEMCO FULL DAY WORKSHOP OPAL & OPERATORS ENGAGEMENT	OILFIELD SERVICE COMPANIES (OSC) CEO'S MEETING CSR COMMITTEE MEETING ICV STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 2nd MINING STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING	 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20 th March 2023 OPAL'S SENIOR LEADERS QUARTERLY SAFETY FORUM (8th EDITION) SSU SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT (SMES) RECOGNITION EVENT WORKER WELFARE INDUSTRY FORUM 28 th - 29 th March 2023 OSHEMCO (OPERATORS SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGERS STEERING COMMITTEE) MEETING OMAN SUSTAINABILITY WEEK 13 th - 15 th March 2023 WORKER WELFARE FORUM	INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM OIL AND GAS ICV STEERING COMMITTEE	FORUM OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 1 st - 3 rd May 2023 SUMMER MITIGATION FORUM 22 nd May 2023 OMAN ROAD SAFETY FORUM 29 th May 2023 OAAAQA LAUNCHING EVENT OF THE OMAN QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK 31 st May 2023	OPAL'S SENIOR LEADERS QUARTERLY SAFETY FORUM (9th EDITION) MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT FORUM OPAL INCIDENT SHARING FORUM (4th EDITION) OSHEMCO (OPERATORS SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGERS STEERING COMMITTEE) MEETING
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT FORUM ROAD SAFETY PROVIDERS FORUM	INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM OIL AND GAS ICV STEERING COMMITTEE Last Thursday of the month OSHEMCO (OPERATORS SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGERS STEERING COMMITTEE) MEETING	OPAL'S SENIOR LEADERS QUARTERLY SAFETY FORUM (10th EDITION) MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT FORUM TRAINING PROVIDERS COMMITTEE MEETING Learning from Incident FORUM (5th EDITION)	SSU STAKEHOLDER'S ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS / FORUMS MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT FORUM OILFIELD SERVICE COMPANIES (OSC) FORUM TRAFFIC SAFETY OMAN CONFERENCE ROAD SAFETY PROVIDERS FORUM OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 30 th Oct. - 1 st Nov. 2023 GLOBAL HSE FORUM 9 th - 11 th October 2023	 OPAL SPORTS MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT FORUM	 OPAL 13 th December 2023 OPAL'S SENIOR LEADERS QUARTERLY SAFETY FORUM (11th EDITION) INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM OIL AND GAS ICV STEERING COMMITTEE Last Thursday of the month OSHEMCO (OPERATORS SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGERS STEERING COMMITTEE) MEETING

EVENT OCCURS EVERY MONTH:
NEWSLETTER every 7th of the month
OPAL MAGAZINE Quarterly (March, June, September, December)

COMMITTEES
HR OPERATORS March/June/September/December
HR CONTRACTORS COMMITTEE March/June/September/December
NOS COMMITTEE March/June/September/December
CSR COMMITTEE 20th of February/May/August/November

SECTOR EVENTS

	13 th - 15 th March 2023
	To be announced
	To be announced
	To be announced
	To be announced
International Conference on Advanced Energy Materials and Research (ICAEMR)	12-13 January 2023
International Conference on Green Energy and Technology (ICGET)	12-13 January 2023
International Conference on Education and eLearning (ICEEL)	12-13 February 2023
International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Soft Computing (ICAISC)	12-13 February 2023
International Conference on Heat Transfer and Fluid Flow (ICHTFF)	12-13 March 2023
International Conference On Control, Automation, Robotics And Vision Engineering	12-13 April 2023

January	February	March
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April	May	June
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July	August	September
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October	November	December
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PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Prophet's Ascension
Ramadan
Eid al-Fitr
Eid al-Adha
Muharram - Islamic New Year
The Prophet's Birthday
Oman National Day

DATES

Likely 17 th Feb. - 18 th Feb. 2023
Likely 23 rd Mar. - 21 st Apr. 2023
Likely 21 st - 25 th Apr. 2023
Likely 28 th Jun. - 2 nd Jul. 2023
Likely 19 th Jul. 2023
Likely 26 th - 27 th Sep. 2023
18 th - 19 th November 2023

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