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الجمعية العمانية للطاقة
Oman Energy Association

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Oman Convention & Exhibition Center
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ABOUT EVENT

International Conference & Exhibition on Occupational Health will be Oman's flagship multidisciplinary & cross sector forum on Occupational Health & Safety.

The event will bring together policy makers, thought leaders, industry leaders, international experts, management representatives, Health, Safety, Wellness & associated professionals from the wide spectrum of the national, regional & global industries, government and the holistic community.

IOHS will invite the best in their fields as faculties and will surpass all in covering as many relevant topics as possible.

EVENT CHAIR



Abdul Rahman Al Yahyaei
Chief Executive Officer
Oman Energy Association (OPAL)

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear OPAL Community,

What an exciting month was May! After the Holy Month of Ramadan and Eid Holidays we kicked off with the fifth gear. I am excited to share the latest updates from the Oman Energy Association (OPAL).

Let me start from the beginning of the month. Under the patronage of His Excellency Sayyid Saud bin Hilal al Busaidi, the Governor of Muscat, OPAL proudly participated as a strategic partner in the first forum for persons with disabilities, themed "Integration and Empowerment". This forum, organized by the Ministry of Social Development, aimed to enhance the role of individuals with disabilities in the Omani society, promote seamless access to resources, and raise awareness about their rights.

On the HSE front, OPAL successfully organized and delivered the First Mining Leaders Safety Forum in the mining sector in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals. This forum brought together over 40 companies with 100+ participants with focused dialogues to strengthen safety leadership in the mining industry, share the mining occupation health, safety and environment guideline, promote HSE standards within the sector, and leverage advanced technologies for risk reduction and improve worker welfare. Another key agenda item of the forum was to start building the Mining HSE Roadmap 2023-2030.

OPAL has also successfully organized and conducted the Summer Mitigation Forum 2023, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and sponsored by OQ, under the patronage of His Excellency the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Labour. The focus of the forum was to raise awareness on the risks associated with summer heat and its impact on the health and wellbeing of the workers in the concession areas, as well as the precautions

the employers need to put in place to protect the workers from heat stress risks, and heat stroke. The forum also discussed the requirements to comply with MD 286/2008 for work stoppage from 1230 hrs to 1530 hrs for the months of June, July & August. MoL also highlighted the required mitigations for submission to MoL, with evidence for exception approval to continue work based on MD 322/2011. The forum was concluded with very interactive panel discussions where all participants had the opportunity to ask questions, comment or share challenges with regards to summer mitigation and compliance requirements.

In addition, OPAL has also organized and conducted the Oman Road Safety Forum 2023 in collaboration with OXY, OQ & Shell and under the patronage of His Excellency the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology for Transport. The Forum shed light on the trend and severity of road traffic crashes (accidents) at the national level as well as in the energy sector over the past five years and discussed opportunities for improvement through the implementation of the Road Safety Strategy (2023-2030). The forum discussed various topics of interest, including the changes in the OPAL Road Safety Standard 2nd Edition, fatigue management technologies, private commuting, and the OPAL OneDrive project. In addition, His Excellency Professor Abdullah bin Khamis Ambusaidi, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education (MoE) for Education, presented the MoE experience and feedback for the implementation the Shell VIA Road Safety Program for school children. The forum also included very rich panel discussions for 2 hours with high value interactive dialogues with the participants. The Oman Logistics Association (OLA) shared a presentation about OLA, its objective, mission, visions, its structure, and ways of working, and its importance to Oman.

OPAL, in collaboration with the Environmental Authority and OQ, organized and conducted a full day workshop in support of the Green Alliance initiative with representatives from the government and private sector. The workshop was an excellent platform to establish alignment with all participants on Green Alliance execution and delivery approach.

Another key accomplishment of OPAL was the finalization of the Road Safety Strategy (2023-2030) with the ultimate goal towards achieving "Zero Fatalities and No Harm due to Road Traffic Crashes in the Oil and Gas Industry". This was developed over various meetings and workshops organized by OPAL and

supported by the industry, involving road safety experts and HSE managers from the energy sector, and MEM.

On the Human Capital Development front, OPAL in collaboration with Apave Gulf IL, we also organized the official induction for the "Draughtsman Program - Batch Two." This training program is part of the Employment Program funded by the Ministry of Labour. The National Training Institute will deliver the comprehensive six-month program, which aims to equip participants with the necessary skills for employment opportunities. Successful completion of the program will open doors for trainees to contribute to the energy sector through their newly acquired skills.

Furthermore, OPAL, represented by the Energy & Minerals Sector Skills Unit, conducted a meeting with RTITB and training centers accredited by OPAL STAR. The meeting focused on topics related to the application of Lifting Operations National Occupational Standards. The goal was to discuss best practices and explore ways for private training institutions to adhere to these standards and maintain the provision of high-quality services to the sector. OPAL's active involvement in these initiatives showcases its commitment to road safety and skills development within the energy sector. By collaborating with various organizations and stakeholders, OPAL is making significant contributions to the industry's growth and improvement.

We sealed the month participating as a strategic partner in the official ceremony to launch the Oman Qualifications Framework. The event was organized by Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance at the Kempinski Hotel Muscat, under the patronage of His Excellency the Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance. In accordance with the government's aspirations to enhance the quality of education in all its forms and levels, the framework aims to serve as the primary reference for accrediting all qualifications, both domestically and internationally, in alignment with the national strategy for education quality.

These achievements reflect OPAL's commitment to driving positive change and fostering collaboration within the energy sector. We look forward to further growth, success, and impactful initiatives in the future.

Abdulrahman Al Yahyaee
OPAL CEO



Monday, May 1, 2023, Under the patronage of His Excellency Sayyid Sad bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat, Oman Energy Association participates as a strategic partner in the first forum for persons with disabilities “Integration and Empowerment” organized by the Ministry of Social Development, between 1-3 May 2023 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Center. The forum aims to enhance the role of persons with disabilities in society, enable them to have comprehensive access, strengthening the role of the family in the early intervention system, reviewing the products and services provided to them, facilitating the exchange of information and ideas, and promoting the innovation system for them, in addition to enhancing societal awareness towards the rights of persons with disabilities.



Wednesday, May 3, 2023, the final ceremony of the First Forum for Persons with Disabilities, Themed “Integration and Empowerment”, was held under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs. The forum was organized by the Ministry of Social Development, in strategic partnership with the Oman Energy Association (OPAL and the Human Building Center for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. The three day forum saw extensive participation from over 65 governmental, private, local, and international agencies and civil society institutions.



Sunday, 7th May 2023, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) in collaboration with OQ Exploration & Production (OQ E&P) organized the final review workshop of the Road Safety Strategy (2023-2030). The workshop was intended to finalise the Road Safety Strategy for the Ministry of Energy and Minerals Endorsement by 05th June.



Tuesday, May 2, 2023, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, in collaboration with the Oman Energy Association (OPAL), organized the first safety forum for leaders in the mining sector under the patronage of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals. More than 40 companies and specialized entities in the mining sector participated in the forum, which aims to establish a strong alliance between the main parties involved in operating, managing, and sustaining the mining sector by applying health, safety, and environmental standards in the sector and using advanced systems and the latest technologies to reduce risks and improve the quality of workers welfare.



Sunday, May 7, 2023, OPAL held a meeting for its board of directors, during which several important topics related to the association’s performance and activity development during the first quarter of the current year were discussed. The agenda included several important topics, including reviewing the financial performance report for the first quarter of the year and examining technical and administrative reports for the same period. Board members expressed their satisfaction with the association’s excellent performance during the past period and emphasized the need to improve efforts and work on developing technical capabilities and expertise of association members in health and safety by introducing modern technology and applications to achieve more progress and success in the future.



Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held its regular meeting with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) to review existing agreement and explore ways to develop it further. The two parties agreed to establish OPAL as an accredited institution for new training and educational programs in renewable energy. These programs aim to offer internationally recognized certifications to learners seeking to advance their skills in this field. During the meeting, ideas, experiences, and information were exchanged to enhance the partnership between the two parties and facilitate the process of obtaining accredited certificates in different fields.



Monday, May 8th, 2023, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) conducted the first workshop, aimed at setting unified criteria for private medical centers offering Fitness to Work assessments to Energy sector employees. The workshop was hosted by Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) with significant contributions from the Ministry of Health and industry medical experts.



Thursday, May 11, 2023, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held a meeting with the Energy Institute in London with the aim of coordinating and collaborating between the two institutions and exploring avenues for development in the training fields of renewable energy, health, and occupational safety. During the meeting, there was an exchange of opinions, ideas, and sharing of experiences and information on how to enhance the partnership between the two parties.



Friday, May 12th, 2023, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held a meeting with (EAL) to review current agreement and explore further collaboration between the two organizations. During the meeting, ideas, experiences, and information were exchanged to enhance the partnership between the two parties especially in the fields of engineering and manufacturing vocational qualifications related to new energies.



Sunday, May 14, 2023, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) in collaboration with Apave Gulf IL organized the official induction for "Draughtsman program- batch two" Training for Employments Program funded by the Ministry of Labour. The program will be delivered by the National Training Institute for a period of 6 months and after completing the program successfully the trainees will be employed.



Monday, May 15, 2023, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held a meeting with the International Assessment Center (IAC) to discuss the possible cooperation in the field of developing OPAL accredited training providers trainers for professional competency assessments and to explore more cooperation between the two organizations in developing professional competency assessments for the engineering specializations.



Monday, May 15, 2023, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held a meeting with Highfield Group. Various topics of mutual interest were Discussed such as health, safety, environment, food safety, education, assessment, and electronic professional accreditation. OPAL and Highfield Group look forward to future collaborations aimed at enhancing health, safety, and environment, and implementing best professional practices.



Wednesday, May 17th, 2023, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) represented by the Energy & Minerals Sector Skills Unit, held a meeting with RTITB and the training centers accredited by OPAL STAR, to discuss topics related to the application of Lifting Operations National Occupational Standards and to discuss possible ways for private training institutions to adhere to best practices and maintain providing high quality services to the sector.



Monday, May 22, 2023, Under the patronage of the Undersecretary of Ministry of Labor for Labor, the Ministry of Labour and Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized the second edition of the Summer Mitigation Forum. The event aimed to raise awareness about heat stress prevention and foster a culture of safety in the workplace. During the forum participants engaged in vibrant discussion on how to tackle heat stress at workplace.



Tuesday, May 23, 2023, bp Oman signed three agreements as part of its national training programme, 'Ruwad'. A combined effort between bp, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) and various other oil and gas contractors, 'Ruwad' programme aims to establish a framework that enables the upskilling of national competencies in line with Oman Vision 2040's goals and objectives.



Monday, May 29th, 2023, Under the patronage of the Undersecretary of Ministry Of Transport Communications and Information Technology for Transport, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized Oman Road Safety Forum 2023 in collaboration with OxY, OQ & Shell. The Forum shed light on the trend of road safety incidents in the energy sector over the past five years and identify opportunities for improvement through the adoption of the Road Safety Strategy (2023-2030). The forum discussed various topics of interest, including the changes in the OPAL Road Safety Standard 2nd Edition, fatigue management technologies, private commuting, the alternative OneDrive project.



Monday, May 29th, 2023, During the Oman Road Safety Forum 2023, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Delivered a presentation on the outcomes of the shell Pilot VIA program, which was implemented in selected schools. Where the program aimed to educate school students on the basics of road safety and raise the level of awareness. The presentation highlighted the positive results achieved and emphasized the importance of promoting road safety awareness among young learners. The Ministry of Education's participation in the forum further underscored their commitment to ensuring a safe and secure environment for students on the roads.



Wednesday, May 31, 2023, Under the patronage of His Excellency the Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) participated as a strategic partner in the official ceremony to launch the Oman Qualifications Framework. The event was organized by Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance at the Kempinski Hotel Muscat. In accordance with the government's aspirations to enhance the quality of education in all its forms and levels, the framework aims to serve as the primary reference for accrediting all qualifications, both domestically and internationally, in alignment with the national strategy for education quality.



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**A NEW NAME FOR A STRONGER
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ENERGY STORAGE A KEY GOAL FOR OMAN



Having set in motion an ambitious plan to harness solar and wind resources for low-carbon electricity generation, the Sultanate of Oman is now moving to develop its energy storage capacity to address intermittency challenges associated with renewable resources. Energy storage technologies and systems allow for the storage of energy during times of surplus availability for utilization during times of limited supply. Eng Salim bin Nasser al Aufi (pictured), Minister of Energy and Minerals, affirmed Oman's commitment to developing storage capacity to address imbalances in supply from renewable resources, such as solar and wind. "The main challenge is how can we bring an unstable power generation system into the grid and continue to use it as a reliable source, and that's when storage becomes extremely important; we need to address storage and we will continue to push more and more for storage," Al Aufi announced here

last week. Speaking at the opening of the IEEE Power Talks forum held in Muscat, he noted that Nama Power and Water Procurement - the sole national buyer of electricity and water output - has been given the mandate to oversee the development of energy storage capacity in Oman. "Earlier this year, Nama was tasked with creating a project focusing primarily on storage, because we believe it is extremely important for us if we are to achieve the targets that we set for ourselves," the Minister stressed. One early target is to secure around 30 per cent of power generation from renewables by 2030, which Nama has been mandated to achieve, he pointed out. Further, to ensure that the national electricity grid is robust enough to simultaneously handle supply from existing gas-based power plants as well as solar and wind schemes, investments in digitization, smart grid and smart metering will be necessary to help manage the grid, he said. At the same time, Oman is forging ahead with decarbonisation of the transport sector as well, with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals working in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology to lay the regulatory groundwork to support e-mobility on a wide scale. This is attested by initiatives launched in recent months, promoting the adoption of electric vehicles (EV) and hydrogen-powered transportation in the future as well, said Al Aufi. "(Recently), I signed regulation to support the installation of EV chargers at different locations, and so on," the Minister said. In this regard, he reiterated his pledge, first shared at the Green Hydrogen Summit Oman 2022, to ensure that EV users can drive from Muscat to Salalah and back without having to worry about the adequacy of charging points along the route - a pledge he hopes to see fulfilled by around this year's Summit in December, Al Aufi added.

MEMBER NEWS

OMANI FINTECH FIRM MAMUN GETS CROWDFUNDING LICENSE

Mamun, a leading Omani financial technology (fintech) firm, announced that it has received a full crowdfunding license from the Capital Market Authority (CMA). Mamun has also received pre-approval for a PSP (Payment Service Provider) license from the Central Bank of Oman (CBO). These significant regulatory milestones reinforce Mamun's commitment to providing cutting-edge fintech infrastructure capabilities to a diverse range of third-party systems, the firm said. As a fintech infrastructure-as-a-service provider, Mamun offers a proprietary technology platform that empowers telecom companies, banks, and large startups with the tools and capabilities necessary to roll out fintech services and products. "We are thrilled to have been granted the full crowdfunding license by the CMA and a pre-approval for the PSP license by the CBO," said Mohammed al Tamami, co-founder and chief commercial officer of Mamun. He said, "These licenses from the regulators are a testament to our commitment to delivering state-of-the-art fintech infrastructure and comprehensive solutions. We are excited to expand our offerings and partner with industry leaders like Fasset to shape the future of finance." Mamun is the first-of-its-kind home-grown tech company that has exported its technology beyond Oman. The company's technology is currently licensed by the likes of Foodics in Saudi Arabia, a unicorn valued at over a billion dollars. According to Tamami, building on its success, Mamun now aims to leverage



its comprehensive payment technology and crowdfunding expertise to deliver holistic financial, investing, and payment products to businesses and investors. "By integrating these two powerful technologies, Mamun is poised to revolutionise the fintech landscape by offering seamless, end-to-end solutions," he said. Mamun recently announced a strategic partnership with Fasset, a renowned innovator in the fintech field. This collaboration aims to co-create advanced products that further enhance Mamun's holistic approach to fintech services. By combining their respective strengths and expertise, Mamun and Fasset strive to drive innovation, accessibility, and convenience in the financial industry. Tamami noted that Mamun continues to pioneer advancements in the fintech space, empowering businesses, investors, and end-users with secure, efficient, and transformative financial solutions. "With the full crowdfunding license and pre-approval for the PSP license, Mamun is well-positioned to lead the industry's digital transformation and foster a thriving fintech ecosystem in Oman," he added.

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WORLD BANK EXPECTS GCC ECONOMIC GROWTH TO SLOW TO 2.5% IN 2023



The GCC economies are projected to grow at a slower pace in 2023 compared to the previous year, in the face of lower oil and gas earnings and a global economic slowdown, according to the World Bank. As per the new World Bank Gulf Economic Update report, the GCC economy is expected to grow by 2.5 per cent in 2023 and 3.2 per cent in 2024. This compares to the region's remarkable GDP growth of 7.3 per cent in 2022, which was fuelled by a strong increase in oil production for most of that year. 'The weaker performance is driven primarily by lower hydrocarbon GDP, which is expected to contract by 1.3 per cent in 2023 after the OPEC+ April 2023 production cut announcement and the global economic slowdown,' the World Bank said. However, robust growth in the non-oil sectors, which is anticipated to reach 4.6 per cent in 2023, will dampen the shortfall in hydrocarbon activities, driven primarily by private consumption, fixed investments, and looser fiscal policy in response to 2023's relatively high oil revenues. The latest issue of the World

Bank's Gulf Economic Update stated that this year's more modest growth is nonetheless buoyed by the structural reforms undertaken in the past few years. 'Improvement to the business climate and competitiveness, and the overall improvements in female labour force participation in the GCC countries, especially in Saudi Arabia, have all paid off, though further diversification efforts are still needed and is underway,' the report said. The World Bank said that Oman's economy is forecast to continue to grow, but at a slower pace, driven primarily by accelerated implementation of structural reforms under Vision 2040. The sultanate's overall growth is projected to moderate to 1.5 per cent in 2023 reflecting softening global demand. Accordingly, Oman's hydrocarbon sector is anticipated to contract by 3.3 per cent reflecting OPEC+ recent production cuts, while the non-oil economy is projected to continue its recovery trajectory by growing 3.1 per cent in 2023 supported by front-loading of infrastructure projects, increased industrial capacity from renewable energy, and the tourism sector. The new World Bank Gulf Economic Update, titled 'The Health and Economic Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases in the GCC' focuses on how non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have become the leading cause of mortality and morbidity, accounting for close to 75 per cent of all deaths and disability in the region. Of these deaths and disability, more than 80 per cent are attributed to just four main NCD categories: cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and respiratory diseases. The report also highlights the substantial cost of NCDs to the economies of the GCC countries. A recent study published in the Journal of Medical Economics, a collaborative effort between experts at the World Bank and key stakeholders from across the GCC, estimated the direct medical costs of seven major NCDs to be around US\$16.7bn in 2019 alone. The same study found that NCDs also impose substantial indirect costs to their economies, through the adverse impact on human capital. The losses to workforce productivity alone cost the GCC economies more than US\$80bn in 2019. With an ageing population, and with it the prevalence of NCDs, these costs are only expected to grow in the future.



DID YOU KNOW

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES



OPAL STAR (STANDARDS FOR TRAINING, APPROVAL AND RECOGNITION)

The OPAL STAR was inaugurated in 2017 to drive standardization and quality into the private and public training providers who provide services to the Energy and Minerals sector. OPAL STAR supports the industry's training providers by administering a centralized entity that drives standardization, efficiency, effectiveness, and quality. The OPAL STAR provider standard creates a level playing field for training providers and demonstrates their commitment to superior professionalism, upholding industry standards, and continued learning. The STAR gradings (Gold, Silver & Bronze) encourage continuous improvement amongst the providers and rewards them when they achieve these standards, raising the bar every time. These merits have established a credential that is recognized across the industry and trusted by operators and contractors.



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PROFITS OF OMAN'S OIL MARKETING FIRMS RISE ON INCREASED SALES



The total profits of Oman's three oil marketing companies – Oman Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO), Shell Oman Marketing Company, and Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company – significantly increased during the first quarter of 2023 as the firms recorded robust growth in fuel sales. For the first quarter of 2023, all three oil marketing companies together reported slightly more than RO4mn in total net profits, which is 13 per cent higher compared to the RO3.56mn net profit registered by the companies in the first quarter of the previous year. The sultanate's largest oil marketing company, OOMCO, saw its net profit for the three-month period ending March 31, 2023, grow by more than 16 per cent to RO1.41mn compared to the RO1.21mn net profit reported in the same period of 2022. The company's group turnover jumped by 20 per cent to RO202.4mn in the first quarter of 2023, against the RO169.1mn recorded in the previous year. In its latest financial report, OOMCO stated that the increase in revenue was the result of higher sales in the bunker fuel trade and aviation segment. The company also expressed optimism about Oman's future economy, which is expected to positively impact its performance. 'The company is pursuing its five-year strategy (2022 – 2026), which reflects a clear growth road-map that focuses on domestic and international growth, as well as future mobility, sustainability, renewable energy, and an operational excellence framework that aims for effective processes and optimisation of our operational efficiencies,' OOMCO said. 'OOMCO continues to innovate and develop new initiatives to ensure that it remains resilient. The company will spare no efforts to explore all viable opportunities that will enhance the overall company's performance in a sustainable way,' the company added. Al Maha Petroleum posted an impressive 74 per cent year-on-year growth in its net profit for the first quarter of 2023. The company's net profit rose to RO1.6mn during the January-March period of 2023, compared to RO920,000 recorded in the same period last year. Its sales revenue during the first quarter of 2023 grew by 21 per cent to RO120.87mn from RO99.9mn in the same period of the previous year. Al Maha Petroleum attributed this growth to its expanding operations and diversifying product portfolio. The company stated that the robust growth in net profit demonstrates its com-

mitment to cost management and operational efficiency. 'The retail segment witnessed a significant improvement compared to the same period in 2022, as sales increased in the majority of retail stations due to the lifting of restrictions on movement. Additionally, retail fuel stations near the borders contributed to the increase in sales due to price differences,' Al Maha Petroleum said in its financial report. According to Al Maha Petroleum, the fiercely competitive commercial fuel segment continues to be challenging due to low demand from many business and service units in the power sector resorting to the use of gas as a replacement for gas oil. However, the company stated that the increase in the bunkering business and the delivery of additional fuel products to the Duqm Refinery has contributed to the growth of the commercial segment.

Shell Oman Marketing's sales revenue rose 10 per cent to RO122.79mn in the first quarter of 2023, compared to RO112.1mn in the same period last year. However, the company reported a 31 per cent drop in net profit for the first quarter of this year, at RO993,000 compared to the RO1.43mn earned in the corresponding period of 2022. The decline in quarterly profit was mainly due to movement in aviation fuel prices compared to the same period last year and an overall increase in direct costs, Shell Oman Marketing said in its financial report.

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- Vertical Oilfield Services LLC
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- DSV Air & Sea LLC





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The Oman oil and gas market is expected to grow at a CAGR of more than 5% between 2023-2028 driven by supportive government policies and efforts to expand the downstream sector according to industry report. According to the same report, oil production in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 3.6 percent, to reach 33, 23, 800 barrels by the end of January 2023.

Additionally, a projected 3.4% real GDP growth rate will ensure steady growth in gas and refined fuel consumption. Natural gas output is expected to grow from 41.2bcm in 2022 to 42.1bcm in 2023, according to Fitch Solutions. Such forecasts indicates continuous growth for the industry, and Oman Petroleum and Energy Show 2024 will continue to mark such growth as it did for many years by highlighting trends and featuring innovative solutions for the industry.

OPES provides an excellent marketplace for companies to develop business opportunities by connecting 250 exhibitors with over 15,000 visitors. OPES will be held under the patronage of Oman's Ministry of Energy and Minerals in partnership with Society of Petroleum Engineers, the conference organisers.

Take advantage of this opportunity to exhibit and unlock the potential of your business in a market that is experiencing growth trends.

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OMANTEL AND ZAIN LAUNCH MIDDLE EAST'S PREMIER WHOLESALE SERVICES PROVIDER



A Zain & Omantel Company

Zain Group, a leading telecommunications operator providing services in seven markets across the Middle East and Africa, and Omantel on Sunday announced the launch of a new joint venture (JV) to be called Zain Omantel International (ZOI). ZOI is an unprecedented joint venture that will establish itself as the Middle East's premier international wholesale services provider, Omantel and Zain said in a joint press statement. This groundbreaking partnership aims to revolutionise the wholesale telecommunications sector by offering a unique proposition that combines the strengths of both parties to deliver unparalleled service and support to customers worldwide. ZOI signifies a substantial advancement in the telecommunications industry and is poised to become a global powerhouse due to Zain's extensive regional presence and success in the retail and digital arenas, combined with Omantel's exceptional wholesale capabilities and comprehensive international subsea and terrestrial networks. Zain Group will be holding 74 per cent stake in the JV share capital whereas Omantel's share will be 26 per cent,

according to a disclosure filed by Omantel to the Muscat Stock Exchange. The JV will cater to the end-to-end telecommunications needs of operators in the Middle East, as well as international carriers, data centers, hyperscalers, content, and cloud providers seeking services within the region and beyond. As a result, ZOI will manage all international wholesale requirements of Zain and Omantel operations in eight countries, serving over 55mn customers. Furthermore, ZOI will optimise the existing wholesale businesses of both companies by reducing operating costs and increasing competitiveness through access to state-of-the-art low-latency and high-capacity services over its extended footprint. Bader al Kharafi, Zain's vice-chairman and group CEO, said, "This strategic value-enhancing partnership reflects the next stage of industry collaboration and advancement, and represents another significant milestone of our '4Sight' profitable growth strategy. It also demonstrates our commitment to transforming the business and creating synergies while extending our reach and capabilities to provide the highest quality services to our customers. ZOI is ideally positioned to evolve into a significant international player on the wholesale telecommunications scene that will benefit both Zain and Omantel on financial, commercial and operational levels." Omantel CEO Talal al Mamari said, "The joint venture with Zain is a testament to our unwavering commitment to transforming the international arm of Omantel Group into a leading global provider, building on our existing position as a top regional wholesale player. ZOI is poised to become the primary gateway from our region to the rest of the world, leveraging the combined strengths of Omantel and Zain. With these differentiating factors, ZOI is the preferred partner with a truly unique presence in the international telecommunications landscape."



Thunder Logistics LLC is 100% Omani company registered under "Public Authority for SME Development". Thunder Providing Logistics Services locally and Globally (Air/ Sea/ Land/ Customs Clearance and Project Planning) The founder teams having long sufficient experience in Logistics Globally (since 1999)

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LAND TRANSPORTATIONS (LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL)





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A core benefit of Mzadcom online auction is the removal of the physical limitations of a traditional auction that requires attendees to be geographically located together which greatly reduces audience reach. Online auctions offer advantages to users that traditional auction formats do not offer such as the use of live automated bids & also clients will get the incremented revenue from the scrap & waste materials. Mzadcom Online Auction Platform is fully secured & transparent & designed with special dashboard to Clients in order to view the live auction with fully automated reports.

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SAROOJ CONSTRUCTION COMPANY CELEBRATES REMARKABLE SIX AND A HALF YEARS LTI-FREE MILESTONE IN PDO EARTHWORK PROJECT EXECUTION.



Sarooj recently celebrated its 13.5 million safe man-hours without any Lost Time Incidents (LTIs) in one of its flagship projects. This remarkable milestone showcases Sarooj's unwavering commitment to ensuring the well-being and safety of its employees. The LTI-free milestone is a testament to Sarooj's steadfast dedication to fostering a culture of safety excellence. It reflects the implementation of rigorous safety protocols, comprehensive training programs, and a proactive approach to hazard identification and risk mitigation. By prioritizing the health and safety of its workforce, Sarooj has successfully created a work environment where employees can thrive without compromising their well-being. The achievement of six and a half LTI-free years along with the 46,766,854 KMs driven showcases

Sarooj's commitment to continuous improvement and the relentless pursuit of excellence. By fostering a safety culture that encourages employee engagement, hazard identification, and open communication, Sarooj has created an environment where everyone feels empowered to prioritize safety at all times.

Moving forward, Sarooj remains dedicated to upholding its exceptional safety record, not only in this project but across all its operations. Sarooj embarked on the Earthworks contract in November 2016 with a workforce of 283 skilled personnel and 65 pieces of machinery and equipment. The aim was to execute the project efficiently while ensuring the highest standards of quality and safety. Through continuous efforts and strategic resource allocation, Sarooj has significantly enhanced its capacity over the years. Currently, the company boasts a remarkable manpower capacity of 1,392 individuals across all clusters. Moreover, the fleet of machinery and equipment has also expanded to a total of 446 units, further strengthening SCC's operational capabilities. Sarooj Construction Company successfully completed the first Oil & Gas well pad in the MENA region, constructed using biodiesel fuel only for its machines and equipment. Alongside PDO, SCC executed several iconic sustainable projects including the new concept Eco friendly Solar Powered Cabins as Rest shelter with over 90% reduction in carbon emission for isolated desert location.

SECTOR NEWS

OMAN TO SIGN GREEN HYDROGEN PROJECT DEALS

As part of Oman's efforts to be a worldwide hub for the production and export of green hydrogen, Hydrogen Oman (Hydrom) – a subsidiary of Energy Development Oman (EDO) – will sign the first green hydrogen project agreements in Oman on Thursday. These agreements fall within the Phase A Round 1 auction process that was kicked off in November 2022, Hydrom said in a press statement. Building upon the progress achieved since the announcement of the Oman Green Hydrogen Strategy in October, as well as the subsequent announcement of the first public auction bidding process, the issuance of Royal Decree 10/2023, and the signing of Commercial Terms with six Legacy Initiatives earlier this year, Hydrom will now proceed to sign its first project-related agreements, marking the commencement of the development stage for these projects. H.E Eng Salim bin Nasser al-Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals and chairman of Hydrom, will sign these agreements with the developers in a special event at Grand Millennium Muscat. The occasion will also witness the signing of a head usufruct agreement between the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, and Hydrom, as well as other memorandums of understanding (MoUs) between various prominent entities related to the green economy. The signing of these agreements is in line with Oman's constant efforts to stimulate the growth of its hydrogen sector by strategically creating attrac-



tive investment opportunities in this promising sector. These efforts are also aligned with Oman Vision 2040, which aims to create a bright future for renewable and sustainable energy to achieve Net-Zero emissions by 2050. Regulated by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Hydrom is the orchestrator and overall master planner of Oman's green hydrogen sector. Its mandate includes the delineation of government-owned land areas, the structuring of associated large-scale green hydrogen projects, managing the process for their allocation to developers, as well as facilitating the development of common infrastructure and connected ecosystem industries and hubs.



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OPAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023



JANUARY

OSHEMCO FULL DAY WORKSHOP

OPAL & OPERATORS ENGAGEMENT

FEBRUARY

OILFIELD SERVICE COMPANIES (OSC) CEO'S MEETING

CSR COMMITTEE MEETING

ICV STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

2nd MINING STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH

20th March 2023

OPAL'S SENIOR LEADERS QUARTERLY SAFETY FORUM (8th EDITION)

SSU SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT (SMES) RECOGNITION EVENT

WORKER WELFARE INDUSTRY FORUM

28th - 29th March 2023

OSHEMCO (OPERATORS SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGERS STEERING COMMITTEE) MEETING

OMAN SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

13th - 15th March 2023

WORKER WELFARE FORUM

APRIL

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM

OIL AND GAS ICV STEERING COMMITTEE

FORUM OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

1st - 3rd May 2023

SUMMER MITIGATION FORUM

22nd May 2023

OMAN ROAD SAFETY FORUM

29th May 2023

OAAAQA LAUNCHING EVENT OF THE OMAN QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK

31st May 2023

MAY

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

JUNE

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



21 GHEDEX



TRAINEX



13th - 15th March 2023	To be announced
To be announced	To be announced
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

JULY

MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT FORUM

ROAD SAFETY PROVIDERS FORUM

AUGUST

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM

OIL AND GAS ICV STEERING COMMITTEE

Last Thursday of the month

OSHEMCO (OPERATORS SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGERS STEERING COMMITTEE) MEETING

SEPTEMBER

OPAL'S SENIOR LEADERS QUARTERLY SAFETY FORUM (10th EDITION)

MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT FORUM

TRAINING PROVIDERS COMMITTEE MEETING

Learning from Incident FORUM (5th EDITION)

OCTOBER

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

30th Oct. - 1st Nov. 2023

GLOBAL HSE FORUM

9th - 11th October 2023

NOVEMBER

MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT FORUM

DECEMBER

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

January	February	March
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
29 30 31	26 27 28	26 27 28 29 30 31
April	May	June
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
30	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30
July	August	September
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1	1 2 3 4 5	1 2
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
30 31		
October	November	December
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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

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