



# NEWSLETTER



A PRODUCTION OF MEMBERS NETWORKING MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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EDITORIAL TEAM RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADAPT THE TEXTS TO SPECIFY THE COORDINATE FORMAT AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PUBLICATION.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Dear OPAL members,  
This new year provides a fresh start and an opportunity to look back, evaluate and set new targets. We closed the year 2021 with noticeable optimism across Oman as one of the best vaccination programmes in the world rolled out and we started to see rebound in oil prices. Despite of the economic downturn caused by COVID-19, OPAL performed extremely well during 2021 and continue to be valuable voice of the industry in 2022 and beyond. Amidst a global pandemic, OPAL achieved its 2021 business plan with outstanding results and below is the highlight of the 2021 key achievements:

- Implemented VAT requirements in ERP and filed OPAL VAT return filed with Tax Authority on time (Q2-Q4 2021).
- Partnered with Tax consultant (Morison) and established VAT digital helpdesk for VAT Advisory services to members at discount.
- Staffing (HSE Projects Lead (SLB Secondment), Renewal of Sr. Manager Planning & Internal Support (PDO Secondment), SSU R&D Specialist, HCM Specialist, QA RAS and 19 Interns).
- O&G Labor Clearance Committee, over 90 request processed.
- Supported MEM in reviewing and endorsement of over 233 requests for return of expat man power.
- # 474 hours of HR consultancy.

### PRODUCTS & SERVICES

- Awarded TAR Project.
- MOU with the Ministry of Labour to supervise the training and qualification of the energy and minerals sector.
- MOU with Riyadh: To design entrepreneurs readiness program, raising internal capabilities and building the required platforms, and led urgent loans initiatives, 619 loans approved from 3,266 applications.
- Graduation 30 candidates joined Data Sciences and Employability Program.
- Tawteen Initiatives with MOL (Fuel Station Mangers, Fuel Transportation Driver, HSE Supervisors).
- Starting the first lifting inspection program for 30 candidates.
- Three MOU with PDO (i) Internship for technical and admin for 100 graduates. (ii) Upskilling PDO drivers (iii) On job training based

- on HSE NOS for fresh graduates.
- # 52 approved OPAL STAR training providers.
- # 8 Approved TP to deliver HSE Practitioner Apprenticeship program.
- # 7 Training providers are approved to deliver Safe Journey Management course.
- # 47 Approved RAS Inspection Centers.
- # 7 Approved Defensive Driving Training Providers/ Assessment Centers distributed in 17 different locations.
- # 11 Approved IVMS Vendors, with 17 devices.
- # 47 Approved Compliance Verification Certificate.

### PROJECTS & BD

- Completion and the approval of the 7 National Occupational Standards (NOS) related to Drilling Operation.
- Two skill certification schemes (Lifting Operation & HSE) were developed and initially approved by MoL. Waiting the MoL final approvals & announcements.
- Approvals of Skill Certification Assessment Centers.
- Completion of QA/QC training program framework.
- Development and completion of Lifting Operation Training programs, with the approvals of the regularity body.
- Supported other newly established SSUs.
- Issued a number of clarifications on decisions made by the Supreme Committee & Authorities on COVID-19.
- Fitness to Work Standard 1<sup>st</sup> edition has been issued.
- Conducted 1<sup>st</sup> OPAL Summer Mitigation controls forum with oilfield service companies.

- Incident Lesson Review Committee has been formed.
- 1<sup>st</sup> OPAL Incident Lesson-learning forum has been conducted.
- Launched Duty of Care campaign in association with Schlumberger, Shaleem, Halliburton & Abraj.
- Mapping of 9 Life Saving Rules with existing standards and agreeing on 2021-2022 projects.

### MEMBER NETWORKING MANAGEMENT

- # 454 Active Registered Members.
- # 70 New Members.
- # 4 Engagements Webinars (VAT) Webinar with Tax Authority & EY with more than 283 attendees; Road Safety Implementations Roadshow with more than 43 participants; DD Training & Assessment Providers Webinar) and Digital Enablement for the Energy Sector with Oman DataPark.
- Successful AGM Meeting & Board Election.
- Organized OPAL Best Practices Award.
- # 357 posts & videos.
- # 12 newsletters.
- # 334 letters to address common members issues.
- Launched ICV first Book.
- Launched OPAL Cloud Services with Datamount.
- Organized 3# OPAL Senior Leaders Safety Forum.
- Road Safety Workshop.

This is only snapshot of many other services we have offered to our members. I am not really going into the details but I really wanted to assure you that OPAL team is

### PLANNING & INTERNAL SUPPORT

- Completed new office fit out project and ensured smooth staff movement to the new office.
- Closed 2020 books with clean audit certificate.
- Built 2022-24 Business Plan.
- Formed over 103 contracts/MOUs
- Consolidated VAT legislation inquiries from member companies and clarified them with Tax Authority.



working hard to address as many common issues of our members in addition working to introduce new services and products which will result into saving time, effort and cost. Looking ahead and in order to fulfil OPAL's new vision and mission, six key result areas and ten strategic goals for 2022-24 have been established as follows:

**1. Valuable Voice of the Industry**

**a. GOAL 1:** Sustaining the existing committees and establish new formal committees in support of OPAL expansion by the end of 2022

**b. GOAL 2:** Lobbying for member companies' common issues to establish OPAL's value and strength as the Industry's Voice.

**2. Sustainable "Local Content" and Prosperity for Business Communities in Oman**

**a. GOAL 3:** Digitalize all OPAL's key activities to do things faster, cheaper, more efficient with better quality to enable OPAL to provide better value to its member companies.

**b. GOAL 4:** Promote development of essential capabilities for the Omani workforce at all levels.

**c. GOAL 5:** Higher industry-wide "local content" or spend to Omani companies and citizens.

**3. Sustainable Business Practices & Common Standards for the Industry**

**a. GOAL 6:** Develop and implement common standards and best practices to strengthen and sustain the industry.

**4. Greater Synergy across the Industry**

**a. GOAL 7:** Collaboration

amongst member companies to achieve greater combined results for common goals.

**5. Stronger Image and Reputation adding tangible value to the energy sector and country**

**a. GOAL 8:** Expand in minerals and power sectors to increase OPAL's membership base and promote OPAL's established products & services therefore well positioning OPAL in the energy & minerals sector.

**6. Strong internal capabilities to sustain existence & effective delivery of service**

**a. GOAL 9:** Assure OPAL's Operating Efficiency and Financial Sustainability.

**b. GOAL 10:** Improve internal processes and HR capability across OPAL to consistently

deliver OPAL's annual programs.

To make this happen, I am setting my 2022 intentions as follows:

- Build a highly skilled, values-based team using an inclusive hiring approach.
- Engage actively with the ecosystem to develop opportunities for collaboration.
- Provide updates to our stakeholders through regular communications and reports.
- Digitalize all of our processes.

Lastly, I offer my sincere wishes for your good health and happiness and would greatly appreciate your continued support and encouragement for OPAL in 2022. Stay in touch by receiving our regular updates through our news portal: [www.opal-news.org](http://www.opal-news.org).

**MEMBER NEWS**

**OOMCO SIGNS MOU WITH RIYADA TO PROVIDE 20 RETAIL STORES TO SUPPORT OMANI STARTUPS**



Oman Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Public Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Riyada) to provide 20 retail stores to support Omani startups.

The agreement, which was signed by Hussain Bin Jama Bait Ishaq, Acting Chief Executive Officer at OOMCO and Abdulaziz Al-Raisi, Vice President of the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development, allows Riyada cardholders to apply to rent out specially equipped retail spaces at OOMCO Ahlain stations in various locations throughout the country. Entrepreneurs who meet the criteria for registration will be offered several benefits, including having their products displayed and marketed in Ahlain stores, as well as being promoted on OOMCO and its partners' social media pages. Business owners will also be provided with basic utilities and exempted from registration fees for the first four months of the contract.

SME development is one of the main pillars of OOMCO's rigorous CSR strategy, which also includes projects such as scholarships, vehicle safety awareness, and education on renewable energy. The partnership underscores the company's long-term strategy to provide services "beyond the pump" while enhancing the quality of life of the communities it serves.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR  
**2022** عروض العام الجديد

Courses List	Date	Price
IOSH Working Safely (English or Arabic)	17 Mar	49 OMR
IOSH Managing Safely - Arabic	13 - 16 Mar	79 OMR
IOSH Managing Safely - English	13 - 16 Mar	79 OMR
NEBOSH IGC - English	13 - 25 Feb	375 OMR
NEBOSH IGC - Arabic	13 - 25 Feb	375 OMR
Fire Warden	17 Feb	25 OMR
First Aid - Highfield (UK)	16 Feb	45 OMR
NEBOSH Fire Safety - FSC <b>NEW</b>	6 - 10 Mar	299 OMR
NEBOSH International Diploma for Professionals <b>NEW</b>	14 Feb - 7 Mar	389 OMR/Unit
NEBOSH Environmental Management - EMC <b>NEW</b>	20 - 28 Mar	299 OMR
NVQ Level 6 <b>NEW</b>	13 - 17 March	700 OMR

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
OPAL SERVICES & BENEFITS

**OPAL'S Engagement Forums**

OPAL organizes interactive forums between its members to address common issues in efforts to provide solutions to create an ideal business environment. In addition, engagement forums with international participation will be organized where companies from abroad will be invited to provide the latest technology and open business opportunities to our members with their counterparts from different countries of the world.





MEMBER NEWS

# FIRE SAFETY ENGINEERING/MANAGEMENT AT ICEM



International College of Engineering and Management (ICEM) offers Bachelor's degree with Hons. in Fire Safety Engineering/Management (FSEM) which are exclusively available only in the GCC. The FSEM program is affiliated to the University of Central Lancashire, UK (#801-1000 in QS Global World Rankings, 2021). ICEM staff and UCLan course leaders work together to ensure that students receive high standards of education and make them highly employable. In addition to a large number of Omani students, many international

students join the program every year from various countries of GCC such as Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt etc. The courses are intended to provide the knowledge of fire safety systems, provisions for life safety in the buildings and property protection in the event of fire through excellence in teaching, research and practice.

The department is equipped with internationally recognized fire laboratory with instruments such as Fire box, NBS Smoke chamber, Ignitability test apparatus, Bomb Calorimeter, high end computers for simulation of various fire scenarios for real case application using different Computational Fluid Dynamic Softwares. The high standard fire ground facilities in the college are also the greatest inputs for our students making them competent in practical skills.

Apart from providing the high-quality education, the department also motivates students by engaging them in various academic activities such as seminars, workshops, industrial visits, quiz and presentation, to mention among few.

Few of the recent updates from the department could be highlighted as below:

1. Fire Event: International Undergraduate Fire Fest-2021 was held on 11 April 2021. The activities conducted include Guest Lecture, Speech Competition, Quiz Competition, Essay Competition, and Poster Competition. Participants from School of Engineering, Cochin University of Science and Technology, India, Ras Laffan Emergency & Safety College, Qatar, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and Hong Kong took part in the event. FSEM students secured first rank in speech and poster competitions as well.
2. Job employability: More than 15 fresh students are selected for OQ Company as fire fighters in this current academic year 2021.
3. National University TECH FEST 2021: Our Year -2 student, Ms Fatma Jasim Abdullah Hamadi Al Shehhi, has secured the second rank in Oral Poster presentation at national level competition which was held on 18 May 2021.

Dr. M Shahnawaz Khan  
HEAD OF FIRE SAFETY ENGINEERING/MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT  
International College of Engineering and Management



سلاмати SALAMATI

## GENERAL FOUNDATION PROGRAM



This program qualifies successful students to join higher education at the International College of Engineering and Management or any other college. The foundation program is especially designed to prepare students for higher education programs. It will develop student's standard in English language, Mathematics, Science, and Information Technology. The teaching of Foundation Program is based on the latest educational aids in all subjects. High-level technical learning methods are also used within the classrooms as well as the independent learning center. In addition to the main subjects there is strong focusing on the independent learning, where you are consistently supported in developing independent learning skills that will help you to study the selected higher education program.


[www.icem.edu.om](http://www.icem.edu.om)

- BSc (Hons) Facilities Management
- BSc (Hons) Fire Safety Engineering
- BSc (Hons) Fire Safety Management
- BSc (Hons) Health, Safety and Environmental Management
- BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering (Well Engineering)
- BSc (Hons) Construction Project Management

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**H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhy**, Minister of Energy & Minerals  
Sultanate of Oman



**GLOBAL HSE**  
SULTANATE OF OMAN

## HOSTS



**16-19**  
**MAY** **2022**

Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre



## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



**7000+**  
Global Attendees



**2000+**  
Delegates



**100+**  
Conference  
Speakers



**150+**  
Companies



**30+**  
Countries



**50+**  
Supporters

## ABOUT GLOBAL HSE

Global HSE is an International cross industry platform initiated and pioneered by a Governing council consisting of HSE thought leaders from all major industries around the globe. The conference is recognised for its breadth, expertise and extensive portfolio of strategic as well as technical sessions which advocate the role of HSE across the industries around the globe.

Over the last seven editions, Global HSE has witnessed remarkable success stories, excellent strategies, and thought provoking ideas to bring about the much needed change throughout the HSE value Chain.

## CONFERENCE CHAIRS



**Dr. Hisham Al Siyabi**  
Exploration Director  
PDO



**Ghassan Abulfaraj**  
General Manager-  
Loss Prevention  
Saudi Aramco



**Abdul Rahman  
Al Yahyaei**  
CEO  
OPAL



**H.E. Dr. Shaikh  
Mohamed Al Khalifa**  
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**MEMBER NEWS**

**BP-SULTANATE OF OMAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT RENEWABLE AND HYDROGEN DEVELOPMENT**



Multiple gigawatt scheme: Integrated project expected to include on-shore wind, solar and green hydrogen production.

Energy major BP and the Oman Ministry of Energy and Minerals signed on Monday a Strategic Framework Agreement (SFA) and a Renewables Data Collection Agreement which will support the potential development of multiple gigawatts, world-class renewable energy and green hydrogen development in the Sultanate of Oman, by 2030. As part of the agreement, BP will capture and evaluate solar and wind data from 8,000km<sup>2</sup> of land — an area more than five times the size of Greater London. The evaluation will then support the Omani government in approving the future developments of renewable energy hubs at suitable locations within this area to take advantage of these resources.

The renewable energy resources could also supply renewable power for the development of green hydrogen, targeting both domestic and global export markets. Dr Mohammed al Rumhy, Minister of Energy and Minerals of the Sultanate of Oman, said: "This is a proud moment for Oman and a significant step towards delivering our 2040 Vision. In partnership with BP, we will progress the development of new, world-class solar and wind resources — generating renewable power for the grid and powering the manufacture of green hydrogen to supply domestic demand and to export to global customers. Over the past 50 years, we've advanced our hydrocarbon production. Today's agreement signals the next step in our energy journey — unlocking the potential for Oman as a low-carbon energy hub."

The UK's Minister for Investment Lord Gerry Grimstone added: "Following the signing last week of the UK-Oman Sovereign Investment Partnership, this investment by BP into Oman's renewable energy sector is a shining example of our countries' joint ambition to facilitate strategic and commercial bilateral investment. The project demonstrates our shared vision for future prosperity through clean growth, further strengthening the partnership between the United Kingdom and the Sultanate of Oman". This partnership represents a significant evolution of BP's business in the Sultanate of Oman and is aligned with BP's strategy, which includes rapidly growing our developed renewable generating capacity and taking early positions in hydrogen. BP Chief Executive Bernard Looney said: "Today's agreement represents what BP is able to offer as an integrated energy company. These projects will build on our gas business, and bring wind, solar and green hydrogen together in a distinctive and integrated way supporting Oman's low carbon energy goals. "And we're not just investing in energy. We are investing in Oman to create and develop infrastructure, support local supply chains and cultivate the skills and talent needed to usher in this next generation of energy leaders. We look forward to working closely with the Omani government to take this forward." Under the SFA, BP and Oman will also consider ways to collaborate in a number of areas, including a renewables strategy, regulation, the establishment of a renewable energy hub and the development and reskilling of the local workforce.

The Sultanate of Oman has a strong track record in the oil and gas industry, which it has grown over recent years. Monday's announcement, which is subject to the final agreement of commercial terms, is an important step towards the country's 2040 Vision and an opportunity to become a leading low-carbon energy hub. And it would further support the Omani government's goals of diversifying the economy and bolstering investment.

**MEMBER NEWS**

**KCA DEUTAG WINS \$550MN CONTRACT FOR FOUR NEW DRILLING RIGS IN OMAN**



Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) will award KCA Deutag Energy a ten-year contract for the provision of drilling services with four new highly automated rigs that will be built in Oman, the Aberdeen, UK-based international oil and gas services company said on Tuesday.

The ten-year contract comes with options to extend for a further two years and, with those options included, has a total value of around US\$550mn, KCA Deutag Energy said in a statement on its website. It added that the project enhances an existing strong relationship between the two companies.

The innovative rigs will be constructed by International Drilling Technology Co (IDTEC) in Oman. IDTEC, majority owned by the KCA Deutag Group, is the group's local rig manufacturing and servicing company, which has already acquired the necessary expertise and certifications for rig construction.

The company said that the technologically-advanced rigs will be the first of their kind to be constructed in the sultanate, marking a step change in the rig building capabilities in country.

KCA Deutag Energy will invest approximately US\$100mn to build the new rigs in Oman and expects to commence operations in the second half of 2023. Around 40 per cent of this value will be spent with Omani suppliers, including local small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The company noted that the project has high In-Country Value (ICV) and will provide many benefits to the local economy and community. The ICV benefits will continue throughout the life of the contract, securing employment for approximately 190 jobs.

The rig design and all key components will be provided by KCA Deutag's new business unit, Kenera, through its Bentec engineering and manufacturing centre.

The modern rigs will be highly automated, fast-moving units designed for safe and efficient drilling operations in well-established Omani fields and will benefit from the latest technologies from KCA Deutag's Well of Innovation.

Mohammed al Rashdi, PDO's well engineering director, said, "Awarding this contract to KCA Deutag Energy is a key step in establishing local rig manufacturing capabilities, especially for mechanised rigs capitalizing on PDO journey to modernize its rigs fleet. This will also come with an opportunity to train and develop local Omanis in the design and manufacture of mechanised rigs, in addition, to supporting Omani SMEs and providing job opportunities for Omanis. It is a step change in the country to have locally manufactured light rigs for PDO."

Simon Drew, president of KCA Deutag's land operation, said, "KCA Deutag has been operating in Oman and working for PDO for almost 60 years and we are delighted to have been awarded this opportunity to continue this long-standing relationship."

He said, "This investment demonstrates our commitment to PDO and Oman to deliver outstanding ICV with the first four rigs constructed locally. It is also validation of our excellent safety record, incident-free operations and technological performance — as well as an opportunity to deliver energy-efficient rigs that benefit from our fuel optimisation technology and are capable of adopting grid and hybrid technologies in the future."

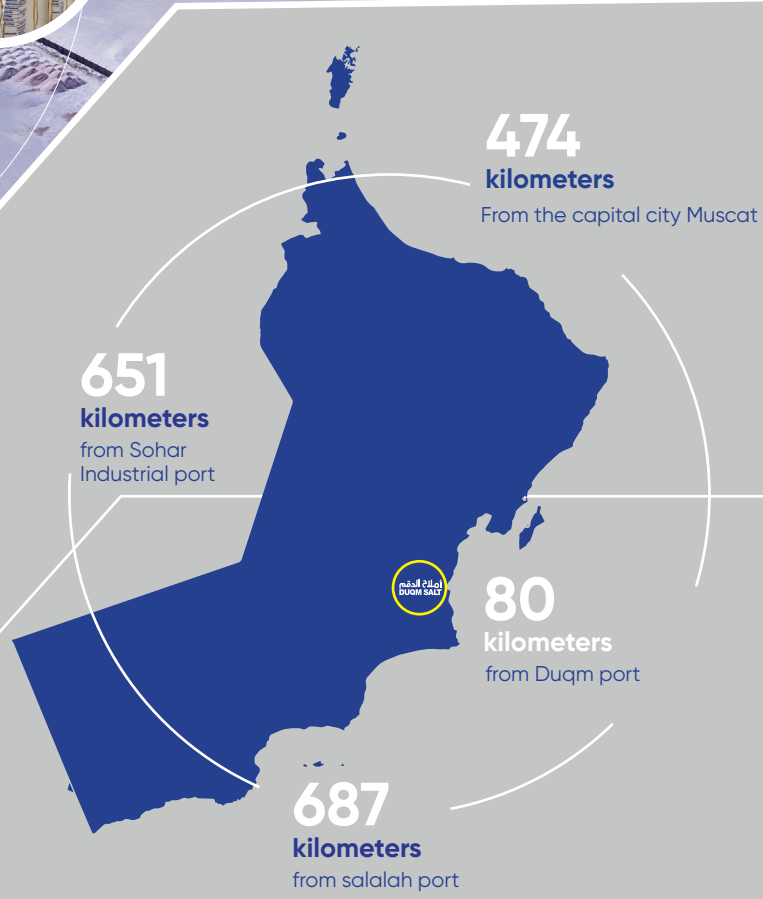


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## MEMBERS NEWS

## OQ SALALAH LPG PROJECT IS OFFICIALLY OPERATIONAL



His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, on Sunday inaugurated the official opening ceremony of the OQ Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) plant in the Governorate of Dhofar, affiliated to the (OQ) Group, with a total investment value of approximately 318 million Omani riyals.

The factory is one of the most important energy projects of the OQ Group, which embodies the government's orientations towards promoting economic diversification policies and maximizing the local value-added of natural resources and in implementation of the Oman 2040 vision, which aims to diversify sources of income. His Highness was briefed on the units of the factory, which was built according to the highest standards of safety and technical quality, from the extraction facility, the crushing facility, and the factory tanks, in addition to the shipping facilities and the system of interconnection pipelines that operate from the current connection points to the extraction unit and from there to storage facilities to export facilities. His Highness also listened to an explanation of the commercial operations of the plant, which have already started through the production and export of liquefied petroleum gas according to international standards, the first shipment of which was ex-

ported in July of 2021. He was also briefed on the plans to start the actual production of all the three products of the factory (propane, butane, and condensate) and load gas tankers to meet the requirements of citizens and residents in the Governorate of Dhofar, in addition to shipping private ships for the components of liquefied petroleum gas and the process of exporting it abroad.

This vital project works on processing natural gas liquids (NGLs) extracted from gas networks into LPG besides a host of other refined petroleum products and petrochemicals. The design construction of the state-of-the-art plant has been done according to the highest technical and safety standards. The various components of the plant consist of a facility for the extraction of rich gas elements such as propane, butane and condensates from natural gas. The project, along with the facilities of extracting LPG, are ideally located at Salalah Free

Zone, adjacent to Salalah Port and hosts a fractionation plant, storage tanks, shipping facilities, and an interconnection pipeline system that will enhance the services to greater standards contributing to the national economy. "The OQ LPG Plant can contribute to promoting the national economy and supporting the in-country added value of natural gas produced by extracting the natural gas condensates," a spokesperson told the Observer. The plant has a capacity to process around 8 million standard cubic metres per day of lean gas to produce about 304 kilotons per year of LPG comprising 155 kilotons per year of propane (C3), 111 kilotons of butane (C4) and 38 kilotons of condensates (C5+). Touted as one of the most vital and strategic projects in the Sultanate, OQ LPG aims to meet the energy requirements of local industrial and retail consumers. Surplus output will be exported to world markets through

OQ Trading, the marketing arm of the group. The plant has a capacity to produce about 837 tons of LPG per day, and about 264,000 tonnes per year. About 155,000 tonnes of propane, 111,000 tons of butane, and 38,000 tons of condensates can be produced annually. While 90 percent of the total production volume of propane and butane are exported, along with the condensates, the remaining 10 per cent of the propane and butane products are used as LPG for domestic use locally in order to meet the necessary needs of LPG in the Governorate of Dhofar. Additionally, the Group is studying the feasibility of using LPG products to develop petrochemical industries to help optimise value creation. In terms of its In-Country Value (ICV) development strategy, over 150 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) benefited from OQ's ICV programme during the implementation of the project, as OQ awarded contracts totaling around RO 100 million to local vendors and service providers. This has resulted in creating business opportunities and providing jobs for national cadres, in line with the Vision 2040. The total of about RO 100 million has been announced to be the in-country added value of the project during its establishment phase and after its commissioning.

## OMAN SHELL COMPLETES 'SOLAR INTO SCHOOLS' PROJECT IN 22 SCHOOLS



Oman Shell recently announced the completion of its 'Solar into Schools' project, which is Shell's fifth 'Gift to The Nation' initiative in 2016. In this project, Oman Shell collaborated with the Ministry of Education and a number of local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to install solar photovoltaic (PV) generation systems in 22 public schools across the Sultanate over a period of five years. Three more schools were added with solar PV systems set to be installed within the period from 2021-2023. The Solar into Schools initiative helped to install about 27 megawatts (MW) of PV solar plants. These projects help to reduce CO2 emissions (estimated 2,000

tonnes p.a). Through this programme, Shell aimed to promote the students' scientific knowledge and skills and demonstrate that knowledge practically through direct interaction with solar PV systems in their schools. During the programme, more than 1,400 students were trained with the participation of more than 130 teachers from various schools in the Omani governorates and wilayats (provinces). Commenting on the completion of the Solar into Schools project, Walid Hadi, Oman Shell's VP and Board Chairman said, "Initiatives like these are a part of our commitment towards supporting the Sultanate's energy transition while also contributing to the national economic diversification goals outlined in Oman Vision 2040. By partnering with local SMEs to execute the Solar into Schools project, Oman Shell was able to foster the growth and development of renewable energy sector while empowering individual entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills to capitalize on potential business opportunities. Dr Abdullah bin Khamis Ambusaidi Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Educa-

tion said: "I would like to extend our thanks and recognition to Oman Shell for its continuous and fruitful cooperation with the Ministry of Education in consolidating students' awareness of clean energy and its importance in our future lives by adopting two major projects in this area. The first project is the Solar into Schools project, where solar PV systems have been installed in 22 public schools across the Sultanate over the past five years and the first solar PV systems have been piloted in Oman. The project focused on educating generations about the importance of clean energy solutions. The second one is NXplorers educational programme, which was also implemented in the 22 schools, through which Shell aims to enhance students' scientific knowledge and skills and practically demonstrate that knowledge through direct interaction with solar PV systems in their schools. We in the Ministry of Education commend this cooperation and hope to continue to cooperate with Shell to take scientific projects to a better and broader horizon". Majid bin Saeed bin Sulaiman al

Bahri, Undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs in Ministry of Education said: "The Ministry of Education seeks to optimize the use of renewable energy sources and to reduce the cost of electricity at the Ministry's buildings by increasing the utilization of renewable energy through cutting-edge technologies in this space. The Solar into Schools project helps to lower the electricity bills through the power generated by PV panels, thus saving schools the high cost of grid power, increasing awareness of solar energy through the training package developed from the curriculum, and creating viable business opportunities for SMEs entrepreneurs". "The project included the design, installation and operation of PV system structures on the ground, canopies and roofs, in a parallel network. These systems are expected to generate up to 150 MWh per year at each location. We also extend our sincere thanks to Oman Shell for its generous support to the educational process in the Sultanate, wishing them continued success.", he added.



**SECTOR NEWS**

**OMR155MN RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT  
OPENS IN OMAN**



Oman's largest and one of its newest solar power plants is capable of providing clean electricity to 50,000 homes, marking a big step in the country's efforts to move towards renewable and sustainable sources of energy. The Ibril II Solar PV plant, which is in the governorate of Al Dhahirah, was officially inaugurated yesterday under the patronage of Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, the Minister of Interior. Operational since August 2021, the plant features 1.4 million solar panels spread over an area of 13 million square metres, and was built at a cost of OMR155 million.

"With approximately 500 megawatts (MW) capacity, the Ibril Solar Plant is among the key energy transformation projects," said the Ministry of Economy in a statement.

"It will also enable the realisation of the 10th Five Year Plan's priorities to increase renewable energy proportionate to 30 percent of the maximum load by 2030." The project was led by Oman Power and Water Procurement Company, an arm of Nama Group, through contracts with a group of GCC investment firms led by ACWA Power, Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC) and the Alternative Energy Projects Company (AEPC) to set up, own and operate the plant.

Mohammed Abunayyan, chairman of ACWA Power, said, "The project will peak in productivity through the generation of power sufficient for supplying 50,000 homes with electricity and cutting down CO2 emissions by 340,000 tonnes a year."

The opening of the solar plant also marks another step taken under Oman Vision 2040's plans for renewable energy. Projects such as this will help achieve balance between economic development and environmental sustainability. The plant was built under the strategic objective of building effective, balanced, and resilient ecosystems, while at the same time protecting the environment, and ensuring the sustainability of natural resources to help support the national economy.

The project also contributes towards two key areas of priorities for Oman: encouraging private sector investment and international cooperation, and promoting a sustainable management of the environment and natural resources. The first criterion aims towards creating "a competitive business environment that attracts investment, where the government plays a regulatory role coupled with successful, efficient and seamless management," said the Ministry of Economy statement.

It also looks to promote "an empowered and competitive private sector that leads the economy, while taking into consideration social and environmental dimensions." In terms of environmental sustainability and natural resources, it helps meet four objectives: achieving a balance between environmental, economic, and social requirement and applies the rules of sustainable development; a green and circular economy that responds to national needs and is in line with global trends; sustainable use of natural resources and wealth and investing them in a way that achieves high added value; and using renewable energy sources, investing in multiple sources of electricity, and rationalisation of consumption to achieve energy security.

The project constitutes an authentic form of partnership between the public and private sectors. It embodies the Sultanate of Oman's ability to attract direct foreign investments.

**First OPAL Approved IVMS with embedded  
Driver Fatigue Solution in Oman**

As one of the leading OPAL-approved IVMS vendors in Oman, Global FMS Tech. is in incessant pursuit of the most advanced technology to further support the country's road safety measures and is proud to introduce an advanced AI-based Driver Fatigue and Distraction Monitoring Solution (DFMS) to the Sultanate. This latest solution is offered as an embedded technology in our recently OPAL-approved FMS Fusion Series, the latest innovation in Videomatics technology from FMS Tech.

The FMS Fusion Series Driver Fatigue solution has advanced and powerful AI capabilities along with built-in image-processing that allows the capturing of facial features of the driver during an on-going trip. With the help of the on-board computer digital image-processing capability of the FMS Fusion hardware, a real-time advanced video analysis is performed on the images to detect driver fatigue and distraction events such as yawning, drowsiness, focusing away from the road, as well as eating, smoking, using a phone, and other distractions. It also comes with additional in-cabin alerting features like vibrator under the seat, audible bleeps, as well as voice message push to communicate with the driver for real-time corrective actions.

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Analyzing...

- No Face: 0 MS
- Phone Use: 0 MS
- Smoking: 0 MS
- Left Eye Closed: 0 MS
- Right Eye Closed: 0 MS
- Blinks Per Minute: 17.098
- Head Pose Distraction: 1502.1 MS
- Gaze Distraction: 2951.2 MS
- Yawning: 0 MS
- Mask: 0 MS

FMS Fusion Series Enclosure, Driver Fatigue & Monitoring Camera, IP Video Surveillance Camera

The FMS Fusion Series also supports in-cabin Mobile Digital Video Recording (MDVR) and Monitoring solution with IP surveillance cameras, to provide a bird's eye view of the on-ground/ in-cabin operations. It is also expected to support Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS), yet another digital revolution towards driver and road safety, very soon.

Driver fatigue is one of the most common causes of road safety incidences and effective monitoring and preventing Driver Fatigue would result in significantly improved driver performance and road safety. This solution from the FMS Tech provides the latest technological innovation for the Oil & Gas Industry Road Safety in Oman.

The Fusion Series Driver Fatigue solution is a proven technology that is tested and approved by selected operators and several vehicles are successfully operational with this system in Oman for several months now.



# FMS Fusion Series

## Driver Fatigue Management and IVMS in One Device

### Features & Benefits

- AI-based driver facial analysis for drowsiness, fatigue & distraction detection
- With embedded full functionality IVMS Telematics (OPAL Approved 2022)
- Real-time in-Cabin alerts for the Driver – Seat Vibrator, Voice kit, etc.
- In-cabin audio or optional haptic feedback to alert the driver
- Highly-secure web-based software platform
- Non-intrusive system
- Optional MDVR functionality with IP cameras integration for Video surveillance
- Scalable to support Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS)
- Improved driver's focus & attention with instant alert
- Enhanced driving behavior
- Prevents Driver-Fatigue-based safety violations

### Driver Activity Recognition



Driver Fatigue & Monitoring Camera

IP Video Surveillance Camera



FMS Fusion Series Enclosure



Scan QR code to download the Technical Data Sheet





MEMBER NEWS

# OMANI TRUCKS OWNERS (OTO) ANNUAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY BAHWAN EXEL LLC

The annual OTO (Omani Trucker Owners) conference was held at the Al Falaj Hotel in Muscat on 1st of January 2022, organized by Bahwan Exel LLC, the lead logistics service provider of Petroleum Development of Oman (PDO). The major goal of this event was to raise awareness on best practices for safe driving by observing Oman traffic rules and PDO road safety standards on having well-maintained vehicles as well as competent drivers to ensure seamless logistics operation. The conference was attended by the officials from the Directorate General of Traffic of the Royal Oman Police (ROP), Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Road Safety Standards Team (RSST) of SHEIDA International and representatives from Omani Truck Owners (OTO) & Drivers.

The annual OTO conference had a variety of interactive lectures by professionals, guest speakers, and experts, all of which contributed to a very constructive and informative discussion. Guest speakers from the Road Safety Institute of Royal Oman Police, began the conference with a speech about road safety & road traffic rules. Further, they presented data and statistics on traffic accidents and their underlying causes. Finally, he



mentioned the Sultanate of Oman's initiatives, which resulted in a significant reduction in the number of accidents, injuries, and deaths. It was told that the number of deaths has consistently decreasing from 2012 to 2020 as a result of initiatives by the authorities. The attendees demonstrated active interactions with speakers and subject matter of experts. The ROP officials used the opportunity to emphasize on pertinent traffic laws, as well as to answer all questions from the Omani truck owners and drivers. The second interactive session was lead by Road Safety Standards Team (RSST) member of SHEIDA International, the leading international organization in the field of providing traffic safety solutions throughout the Sultanate and other Gulf Coopera-

tion Council (GCC) countries. The presentation mainly covers Petroleum Development Oman's safety standards. Attendees engaged in two-way discussion exchange of ideas, and they re-emphasized their commitment towards PDO standards and regulations.

The third speaker was Bahwan Exel's Sr. Vehicle Inspector Supervisor, who gave a brief overview of the techniques that Bahwan Exel has implemented over last couple of years to promote and develop traffic safety, such as fatigue management while driving, control mechanism of the integrated pressure and heat of the truck's tyres during the journey (TPMS), real-time monitoring, vehicle speed control (DSL - IVMS), and so on. Additionally, videos of how

the vehicles daily and periodic inspections were to be conducted was shown, along with photographed results of some inspections for learning purposes. Furthermore, the improvements required to avoid accidents were also explained.

A representative from Omani truck owners (OTO) gave the concluding statement, expressing his view that such conferences will help to enhance confidence among all parties involved in the future, as well as ensure safety for drivers while on the job. In this regard, the representative raised some issues that needed to be addressed as part of the ongoing improvement process with close cooperation and concerted efforts of all parties. Through his remarks, he also expressed gratitude to Bahwan Exel LLC, the conference's organisers for initiating such useful and informative event for the OTO community.

Finally, before the vote of thanks to all those participated, the conference concluded with a symbolic honour for the guest speakers, as well as the acknowledgment of the two best drivers for the year 2021 and the owner of the best truck in terms of inspection and adherence to requirements by Dan Wood, Managing Director of Bahwan Exel LLC.

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# OPAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
<b>OMAN ROAD SAFETY AND THE O&amp;G INDUSTRY WORKSHOP</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	<b>OILFIELD SERVICE COMPANIES (OSC) CEO'S FORUM</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2022  <b>LEVEL 4 AWARD FOR THE INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE OF ASSESSMENT PROCESSES &amp; PRACTICES</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> February 2022  <b>LEVEL 3 AWARD IN ASSESSING VOCATIONALLY RELATED ACHIEVEMENT</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> February - 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2022	<b>OPAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2022  <b>OPAL MAGAZINE</b> To be announced  <b>OPAL'S SENIOR LEADERS QUARTERLY SAFETY FORUM (4<sup>th</sup> EDITION)</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2022  <b>SSU SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT (SMES) RECOGNITION EVENT</b> To be announced  <b>ROAD SAFETY PROVIDERS FORUM</b> To be announced	<b>Incident Sharing and Statistics FORUM</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2022  <b>INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM</b> To be announced  <b>LIFTING EQUIPMENT INSPECTION CENTRE WORKSHOP</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2022  <b>OPAL STAR TRAINING PROVIDERS COMMITTEE MEETING</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022  <b>OIL AND GAS ICV STEERING COMMITTEE</b> Last Thursday of the month	<b>GLOBAL HSE SULTANATE OF OMAN</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2022  <b>SSU STAKEHOLDER'S ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS / FORUMS</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2022  <b>MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT FORUM</b> To be announced  <b>OPAL STAR TRAINING PROVIDERS COMMITTEE MEETING</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2022	<b>OPAL MAGAZINE</b> To be announced  <b>OPAL'S SENIOR LEADERS QUARTERLY SAFETY FORUM (5<sup>th</sup> EDITION)</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2022  <b>MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT FORUM</b> To be announced  <b>OPAL STAR TRAINING PROVIDERS COMMITTEE MEETING</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2022	<b>Incident Sharing and Statistics FORUM</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2022  <b>MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT FORUM</b> To be announced  <b>ROAD SAFETY PROVIDERS FORUM</b> To be announced	<b>INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM</b> To be announced  <b>OIL AND GAS ICV STEERING COMMITTEE</b> Last Thursday of the month	<b>OPAL'S SENIOR LEADERS QUARTERLY SAFETY FORUM (6<sup>th</sup> EDITION)</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2022  <b>OPAL MAGAZINE</b> To be announced  <b>MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT FORUM</b> To be announced  <b>TRAINING PROVIDERS COMMITTEE MEETING</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022	<b>SSU STAKEHOLDER'S ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS / FORUMS</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022  <b>MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT FORUM</b> To be announced  <b>OILFIELD SERVICE COMPANIES (OSC) FORUM</b> To be announced  <b>TRAFFIC SAFETY OMAN CONFERENCE</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2022  <b>ROAD SAFETY PROVIDERS FORUM</b> To be announced	<b>OPAL'S SENIOR LEADERS QUARTERLY SAFETY FORUM (7<sup>th</sup> EDITION)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2023  <b>INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM</b> To be announced  <b>OPAL STAR TRAINING PROVIDERS COMMITTEE MEETING</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022  <b>OIL AND GAS ICV STEERING COMMITTEE</b> Last Thursday of the month	<b>GREEN HYDROGEN SUMMIT OMAN</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2022  <b>OPAL MAGAZINE</b> To be announced  <b>OPAL'S SENIOR LEADERS QUARTERLY SAFETY FORUM (7<sup>th</sup> EDITION)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2023  <b>INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM</b> To be announced  <b>OPAL STAR TRAINING PROVIDERS COMMITTEE MEETING</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022  <b>OIL AND GAS ICV STEERING COMMITTEE</b> Last Thursday of the month

EVENT OCCURS EVERY MONTH: **NEWSLETTER** every 7<sup>th</sup> of the month

## SECTOR EVENTS

	13 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2022		27 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
	27 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2022		27 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
	27 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2022		

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS	DATES
Prophet's Ascension	Likely 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb. - 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022
Ramadhan	Likely 2 <sup>nd</sup> April - 2 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
Eid al-Fitr	Likely 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2022
Eid al-Adha	Likely 9 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
Muharram - Islamic New Year	Likely 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2022
The Prophet's Birthday	Likely 7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
Oman National Day	18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2022

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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