

# **OPAL NEWSLETTER**

A PRODUCTION OF MEMBERS NETWORKING MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



**Dear Valued OPAL Members**,

As we reflect on November's milestones, it fills me with immense pride to share the exceptional achievements that underscore OPAL's dedication to advancing Oman's energy sector and supporting national priorities. This month has been especially significant as we proudly contribute to realizing the visionary directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarig Al Said through our work on vocational education initiatives!

#### **Vocational Technical Education**

It is with great honor that I highlight His Majesty's perusal of the vocational technical education for grades 11 and 12, a project to which OPAL has proudly contributed alongside the Ministry of Education. This monumental initiative, aimed at expanding educational pathways and strengthening the Sultanate's educational system, marks a pivotal moment for Oman. As a strategic partner, OPAL played a key role in proposing and developing six vocational technical education pathways, reflecting our unwavering commitment to empowering Omani youth with future-ready skills.

#### **Empowering the Workforce: New Initiatives** Launched

On November 3rd, in collaboration with Galfar Engineering & Contracting, Ryboa Haima Trading, and Najed Al Ahliy, OPAL officially inducted the HSE Apprenticeship Program, funded by the Ministry of Labor. This 18-month program will directly employ 71 engineeringgraduates upon successful completion, reinforcing OPAL's mission to create sustainable employment opportunities for Omani talent.

#### Promoting Science and Safety

From November 4th to 11th, OPAL proudly participated as a strategic partner in the fourth edition of the Oman Science Festival. This event aimed to inspire innovation and foster a culture of scientific curiosity among students, aligning with our commitment to building a knowledge-based economy.

In alignment with our Road Safety Strategy (2023-2030), we also conducted a workshop introducing OPAL's advanced Defensive Driving Training Program on November 6th. This initiative emphasizes the integration of new technologies and innovative training approaches to enhance driver safety across Oman.

#### **Celebrating Success and Environmental** Stewardship

November 11th marked the graduation of the second cohort from the Ruwad program. Under the patronage of H.E. Bader bin Salim Al Mamari, this event celebrated the achievements of 46 trainees, with many already securing employment across the energy sector.

On November 28th, OPAL joined forces with the Environmental Authority and Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) to kick-start the Green Alliance Initiative, aimed at planting ten million trees to combat carbon emissions and promote environmental sustainability.

#### Preparation for the upcoming OPAL Awards for Best Practice

This month, we oversaw the OPAL Awards Best Practice assessments, where our members' shortlisted projects were presented to an external judging committee. This marked the beginning of the scoring process, with the committee providing valuable feedback on each submission. We are excited to announce the winners at the awards ceremony in January next year and look forward to celebrating the outstanding achievements of our members.

#### **Reflecting on Progress**

On November 13th, the OPAL Board of Directors convened to review our accomplishments for the year. Their encouragement reaffirms our shared commitment to advancing Oman's energy sector and contributing to national development.

As we close this chapter of 2024, I extend my gratitude to our members and partners for your continued support. Together, we are shaping a future defined by innovation, sustainability, and growth.

Warm regards,

Eng. Mohammed bin Hamood Al Naabi Chief Executive Officer Oman Energy Association (OPAL)

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Oman Energy Association (OPAL) is honored that His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said perused the vocational technical education for grades 11 and 12, which we contributed to developing in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. His Majesty's directives and his interest in expanding education pathways in the Sultanate of Oman have greatly contributed to strengthening and advancing the educational system.

OPAL is proud to be a strategic partner of the Ministry of Education in implementing these directives, having worked on proposing vocational education pathways and actively contributing to the development of the six approved vocational technical education for grades 11 and 12.



Sunday, 3 November 2024, Oman Energy Association OPAL, in collaboration with Galfar Engineering & Contracting, Ryboa Haima Trading and Najed Al Ahliy, organized the official induction of "HSE Apprenticeship program", funded by Ministry of Labor. the program aims to enhance employment opportunities for 71 Omani job. seekerswith diplomas or bachelor's degrees in engineering. The program will be delivered by Technical & Administration Training Institute and INFITIECH for period of 18 Months. The trainees will be employed directly after successfully completing the requirement of the program.



Sunday, 3 November 2024, in collaboration with BP Oman, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized the official induction for the third batch of the "Ruwad" National Training Program, which includes 35 graduates from various specializations. This program is funded by BP Oman. The training will be delivered by Seven Seas Petroleum, Nafath Renewable Energy, Baker Hughes, and KCA Deutag Drilling Company, who will train the graduates for one year with the primary aim of empowering participants, enhancing their skills, and providing them with the necessary knowledge for success in the job market.



Oman Energy Association (OPAL) is participating in fourth edition of Oman Science Festival as a strategic partner from 4 - 11 November 2024, at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre. The festival aims to raise awareness of the importance of science among students and the community through interactive methods that stimulate creative thinking and encourage innovation and continuous learning in scientific disciplines. This aligns with global trends focused on advancing science and technology and enhancing students' skills for integration into a knowledge-based economy.

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Wednesday, 6th November 2024, in alignment with OPAL's Road Safety Strategy (2023-2030), which emphasizes enhancing Defensive Driving Training Programs (DDT) through the integration of advanced technologies and a revamped curriculum, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) in collaboration with RTITB Middle East, conducted a full-day workshop for approved OPAL defensive driving trainers and managers. The workshop aimed to introduce OPAL's new defensive driving approach, covering its objectives, structure, and the anticipated positive impact on drivers' safety and performance. Participants had the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas, gaining a clearer understanding of their critical role in implementing the program effectively.



Monday, 11 November 2024, bp Oman, in partnership with the Oman Energy Association (OPAL) and in collaboration with SLB, Worley, and Nafath Renewable Energy, celebrated the graduation of the second cohort from the Ruwad national training program under the patronage of HE Bader bin Salim Al Mamari, the Secretary General of the Tender Board. The Ruwad program aims to train and equip participants with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the local job market. A total of 46 trainees graduated, of which 22 were hired by the partner companies, and 10 found employment at other entities.

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Wednesday, November 13, 2024, the Board of Directors of the Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held its third meeting of the year. During the meeting, the Board reviewed OPAL's most significant accomplishments for 2024 and addressed key issues within the energy sector. Board members commended the efforts of the executive management and the OPAL team in serving the energy and minerals sector specifically, as well as supporting national initiatives in general.



Thursday, November 28, 2024, Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in partnership with the Environmental Authority (EA) and hosted by Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), organized a kick-off workshop for the implementation of the Green Alliance Initiative. The initiative aims to plant ten million trees to help reduce carbon emissions through afforestation.

## **OPAL NEW MEMBERS**

#### OPAL WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR FAMILY.

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- Al Kasbi Engineering
- Muscat Smart Projects
- MHMY Auditors

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

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On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Oman Energy Association and OPAL members, we extend our sincere congratulations to

## H.E Eng. Salim Al Aufi

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on receiving the prestigious Second-Class Oman Civil Order from His Majesty. We wish him all the best and success.



## OMAN'S LARGEST COPPER PROJECT BREAKS GROUND



Muscat – Minerals Development Oman (MDO), through its subsidiary Mazoon Mining Company, celebrated on Sunday the official groundbreaking of the Mazoon Copper Project, the largest integrated copper concentrate production venture in Oman.

The Mazoon Copper Project is located in the Wilayat of Yangul, Dhahirah Governorate. Covering an area of 20 sqkm, the project consists of five open-pit mines with an estimated 22.9mn tonnes of copper ore reserves. It also includes the construction of a state-of-the-art processing plant spanning 56,000 sqm, with the capacity to process 2.5mn tonnes of copper ore annually. The project is expected to produce 115,000 tonnes of copper concentrate per year, with a copper grade of 21.5%.

The Mazoon Copper Project is expected to play a key role in meeting the growing global demand for copper, while positioning Oman as a strategic hub for high-quality copper concentrate production.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held under the patronage of H E Abdul Salam Mohammed al Murshidi, Chairman of the Oman Investment Authority (OIA).

The journey of the project began with extensive exploration activities, culminating in the signing of a concession agreement in 2022 for Concession Area 12-A1. To ensure the successful delivery of the project, the Canadian firm Lycopodium was appointed to provide engineering, procurement, and construction management services.

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With the project now in its initial development stages, site preparations are well underway, and tenders are being issued, marking the next steps for the project.

Construction of the processing plant is planned to begin in the first quarter of 2025, with copper concentrate production set to commence in the first quarter of 2027. This strategic timeline will be crucial in ramping up copper production to meet both local and international market demands.

In a statement to the Oman News Agency, H E Murshidi said, "This project represents a transformative step in positioning Oman as a strategic copper hub, contributing to the diversification of our national economy and creating sustainable job opportunities for Omanis. We are confident that this project will have a significant positive impact on the local community, supporting SMEs and driving economic development."

Dr Badar Saud al Kharusi, Chairman of Minerals Development Oman, said, "We are proud to witness the Mazoon Copper Project come to fruition after an extensive series of exploration activities. This project marks a significant milestone for MDO, adding invaluable assets to our portfolio. The company began copper ore extraction from Block 4 in the Wilayat of Sohar in 2024 and has continued its exploration efforts across its 23,644 sqKM concession area. We are excited to see our resource base grow."

"With the necessary financing secured, the project reflects both our financial stability and the trust we have garnered locally and globally. We are committed to ensuring that each phase of the project meets the highest environmental and social standards," he added.

Sustainability is a core pillar of the Mazoon Copper Project. The project has adopted a zero-water discharge system, ensuring that treated water is recycled to minimise water consumption. Additionally, waste management systems have been put in place to preserve the surrounding environment, safeguard air quality, and protect groundwater.

In addition to the Mazoon Copper Project, MDO continues to advance its exploration campaigns across a diverse range of strategic minerals, including copper, chrome, gypsum, limestone, dolomite, and silica. The company has also initiated the redevelopment of copper mines in Sohar and Liwa, aiming to produce 800,000 tonnes of copper ore annually, with confirmed reserves of 2.78mn tonnes of copper ore.



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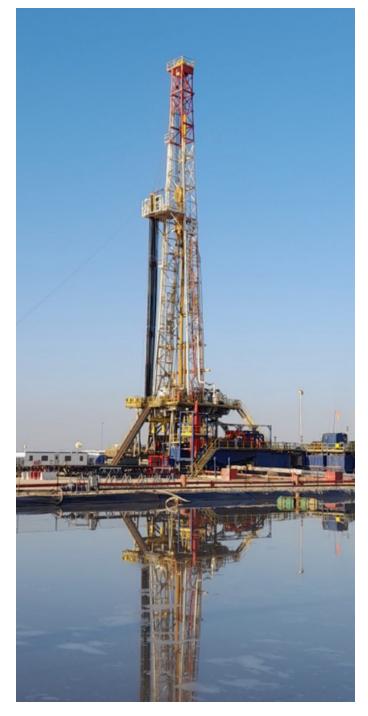
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## OMAN APPROVES TETHYS OIL'S FIELD DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 56



Muscat – Swedish energy firm Tethys Oil announced that Oman's Ministry of Energy and Minerals (MEM) has approved its Field Development Plan (FDP) for Block 56.

With the approval, Block 56 has been declared commercial, and the exploration and production sharing agreement (EPSA) has been extended by 20 years, through 2044, Tethys Oil said in a statement.

'The FDP and Declaration of Commerciality are the first of their kind for Tethys Oil as an operator, marking a significant milestone for both the company and the Block 56 partnership,' Tethys Oil added.

The approved FDP includes the development of the Al Jumd, Menna, and Sarha discoveries, along with additional exploration potential identified through several leads and prospects. Development activities are scheduled to begin in 2025, according to Tethys Oil.

The partner group for Block 56 consists of Tethys Oil (65% operator), Biyaq Oilfield Services (25%), Medco Arabia (5%), and Intaj LLC (5%).

Magnus Nordin, Managing Director of Tethys Oil, said, "MEM's approval of the Block 56 FDP is a major milestone for Tethys Oil and our partners. We are now looking forward to unlocking the potential of the block over the coming years. I would like to thank the Ministry of Energy and Minerals for their cooperation and support, as well as our team and partners – Biyaq Oilfield Services, Medco Arabia, and Intaj LLC – for their valuable contributions."

In a statement to Oman News Agency, MEM noted that the Block 56 FDP involves the development of fields in the Wilayats of Shalim, Al-Halaniyat Islands, and Al-Jazir, including the Al Jumd, Menna, and Sarha fields. The focus will be on exploring and extracting oil from the Khalatah and Karim formations, within an area spanning 5,808 square kilometers.

The ministry also highlighted that the project will include further exploration activities at several promising sites, offering significant opportunities for future growth. Investment in the area is expected to exceed \$240mn in the near term, with the potential for increased investments as exploration and evaluation activities progress in the next phase.

Tethys Oil submitted its FDP for Block 56, within the Mudawrat Concession, to the Ministry of Energy and Minerals for review and approval in June this year.

'The development will involve drilling several horizontal development wells. The surface development concept is designed to accommodate future needs and will initially adopt a fast-track option, utilising export via neighboring operators, as demonstrated during the Al Jumd extended well test in 2023,' Tethys Oil noted in June.

The Field Development Plan also outlines a continued exploration strategy for Block 56, targeting additional leads and prospects.

Tethys Oil is focused on oil exploration and production in onshore regions with known oil discoveries. The company's core area is Oman, where it holds interests in Blocks 3&4, 49, 56, and 58.



#### QUALITY AND ACCREDITATION OPAL CAMP STANDARD V2



The camp cleaning services crew must ensure adherence to the standardized cleaning equipment color coding system. This system is essential as it assigns different colors to cleaning tools for designated areas preventing cross-contamination between high-risk and low-risk areas, such as food preparation zones, washrooms, and general cleaning spaces. Implementing this color-coded system enhances hygiene practices, reduces the risk of cross-infection, and maintains a safe, clean environment for all camp residents.





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AL-GHALIBI INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING LLC



#### Who We are:

Al-Ghalbi International Engineering & Contracting was founded in 1998, by national capacities with extensive management experience that works with a vision to enhance the company's role innational development, the company has more than 780 employees, Omanization reached 46% in the company, and national cadres occupy leadership positions in the administrative, professional, technical, financial and service departments of the company.

The company accomplished many projects during its path in the field of laying and maintaining oil and gas pipelines in various fields and concession areas in the Sultanate of Oman, as well it obtained certificates of excellence in performance, and certificates for doing business without time-consuming from its major strategic clients, such as Oman Petroleum Development Company (PDO), Occidental Oman(OXY), OQ, Daleel Petroleum, ARA Petroleum, and CCED. Vision:

Pioneer and First Choice in providing best services and solutions to all Oil & Gas Industry Requirements.

#### Mission:

To be the pioneer company in providing best services and solutions to off plot projects, delivery & Flow pipe line integrity and maintenance.

> Location Map Major operational Areas

> > Sohar

Duqum

Headquarters

#### Accreditations / Certificates / Memberships

- ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS)
- ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System (EMS)
- OHSAS 18001:2007 Occupational Health & Safety Management System
- OPAL Membership
- OPAL Compliance Verification Certificate (CVC)
- OPAL Health Safety & Environment Management System (HSEMS)
- Joint Supplier Registration System (JSRS).



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## MEM SIGNS NEW MINING CONCESSION AGREEMENT



Muscat – The Ministry of Energy and Minerals (MEM) on Thursday signed a new mining concession agreement with Al Tamman Indsil FerroChrome Company for exploration and mining in concession area No. 22-D in the North Sharqiyah Governorate.

The concession area covers 790 square kilometers and is characterised by a set of ophiolite rocks that contain indicators of valuable ores, including copper and chromium.

Under the agreement, the company is required to carry out a comprehensive exploration programme during the first two years. This will include topographic and geophysical surveys using remote sensing techniques and the preparation of detailed geological maps for a significant portion of the area.

The programme also entails precise geochemical and physical analyses, as well as the implementation of an extensive drilling campaign of up to 250 boreholes, each averaging 35 meters in depth.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Government of Oman by H E Eng Salim Nasser al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, and Dr Roman Lorf, acting on behalf of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Tamman Indsil FerroChrome Company.

The Minister of Energy and Minerals highlighted the significant development observed in the minerals sector, which has been driven by MEM's approach over the past years. This approach focuses on achieving a balance between the expansion of mining activities and the economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

## APPRECIATION

Oman Energy Association (OPAL) would like to recognize

## **Mahmoud Al Shukri**

Former Corporate HSE Manager at Petroleum Development Oman (PDO)

for his exceptional contributions to OPAL and his invaluable dedication, active participation, and leadership in elevating HSE standards and practices in the energy sector.





## QUALITY AND ACCREDITATION ROAD SAFETY STANDARD V2

Effective immediately, the vehicle age will be temporarily waived in the process at RAS inspection centre for all current vehicles in operation until the next standard revision issued by January 2026. However, operating companies shall strategically manage the transition to meet OPAL Road Safety Standard Rev 2 requirements.

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\* For more details, please contact (usp@opaloman.org)



## INSIGHTS INTO LEADERSHIP



Yvon Martinez Vice President for the Middle East Operations at Newrest

## Q1 | Can you share more about Newrest's contributions to Omani society and how these initiatives align with the company's values?

Newrest Wacasco has been actively contributing to the development and well-being of Omani society through a range of initiatives that reflect its core values of excellence, sustainability, and social responsibility. With a presence in Oman since 1982 under Waleed Catering Services Company and 17 years under the Newrest Wacasco banner, we have established ourselves as a stable and reliable employer and service provider. This stability is a cornerstone of our commitment to delivering unmatched service quality and operational know-how.

We are deeply committed to the growth and professional development of our employees. Internally, Newrest Wacasco provides training programs that adhere to international standards, equipping employees with skills that meet global benchmarks. As an approved training centre by the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS), we ensure top-tier learning opportunities for our teams. Externally, we support Omani nationals by collaborating with the National Hospitality Institute (NHI), offering specialized training programs. Graduates from these programs are deployed within our operations, creating pathways to meaningful employment.

Currently, we have under contract around 250 Omanis, including former NHI trainees, demonstrating not only our commitment to national workforce development but also fostering loyalty with low staff turnover over the years (each local employee stays almost 6 years at an average within our company). Additionally, we take pride in our balanced gender representation, with a growing ratio of Omani females to males working in our head office, underscoring our dedication to inclusivity (75% of Omani women works in our head office).

Newrest Wacasco actively supports the local economy by prioritizing the procurement of local products. For instance, we purchase locally sourced chicken and eggs, which reduces reliance on imports and strengthens ties with local farms. This is part of our broader commitment to fostering a circular economy and reducing environmental impact.

Our global corporate social responsibility (CSR) values are seamlessly integrated into local operations, with initiatives such as food waste reduction and segregation, oil recycling programs, and campaigns promoting healthy living. These efforts not only contribute to a sustainable future but also reflect our alignment with Oman's broader environmental and societal goals.

## Q2 | How does Newrest ensure the highest international standards of quality, hygiene, and safety in its operations across Oman?

Newrest Wacasco ensures the highest international standards of quality, hygiene, and safety in its operations across Oman by implementing a comprehensive and robust framework that integrates cutting-edge tools, certifications, and best practices.

At the heart of our operations is a **well-structured Quality Management System (QMS)** that ensures consistency and excellence across all processes. Our on-site QHSE (Quality, Health, Safety, and Environment) officers, supported by head office QHSE supervisors, provide hands-on monitoring and guidance to maintain and enhance these standards.

In addition, we rigorously follow ISO certifications and conduct yearly group internal audits to ensure compliance with international benchmarks. Currently, Newrest Wacasco is holding 4 ISO certificate (9001, 22000, 45000 and 14000). Additionally, we adhere to the OPAL (Oman Society for Petroleum Services) standard checklist, further affirming our commitment to local and global standards of excellence.

Newrest uses advanced tools for monitoring and efficiency: we leverage digitalized HACCP tools, which enhance reliability and reactivity in food safety management. Our innovative tool, Calypso, supports Gemba Walks—a structured process of on-site observations and improvements—conducted at all organizational levels. These walks are performed a minimum number of times per month and are monitored remotely by our headquarters, ensuring real-time oversight and the effectiveness of action plans. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are transparently shared and reviewed with our clients. Regular discussions and common action plans are developed based on these KPIs, with oversight and feedback from our headquarters to ensure alignment and continuous improvement.

Finally, we have implemented proactive safety and engagement programs. For instance, the deployment of our "I Care" program, featuring 16 non-negotiable safety principles, underlines our proactive approach to fostering a culture of safety. This program empowers teams to prioritize health, hygiene, and safety in every aspect of their work.

#### Q3 | What innovative practices has Newrest implemented in Oman, and how do these initiatives support the company's long-term vision for growth in the country?

Building on our strong QHSE initiatives, we ensure top-tier quality, hygiene, and safety. These practices enable **real-time oversight and continuous improvement**, aligning with our commitment to operational excellence.

Moreover, our **whistleblower** program fosters a culture of accountability and transparency, encouraging employees to voice concerns confidentially. This initiative reinforces trust, ethical behaviour, and compliance with both local regulations and global standards.



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## INSIGHTS INTO LEADERSHIP

## We have implemented cutting-edge tools to optimize operations and enhance efficiency:

•Fracttal tool for maintenance: This digital tool streamlines maintenance management, ensuring operational reliability and extending the lifecycle of equipment while minimizing downtime.

•Winrest: Our proprietary software facilitates seamless operational management, integrating processes to improve productivity and control.

We strive to provide our customers **with a personalized and scalable experience,** anytime and anywhere. Our solutions are designed to create value through modern concepts that are tailored to the rapidly evolving restaurant market, new trends and customer expectations. Connect'EAT, our interactive application, Order'EAT, our e-commerce solution, Display'EAT, our information-sharing platform, and Satisfy'EAT, our client satisfaction measurement tool, are just a few of the digital solutions developed by the group to enhance the consumer experience in our restaurants.

By combining technological advancements, robust QHSE frameworks, and a focus on operational excellence, Newrest Wacasco guarantees competitive pricing while upholding international standards. This ensures clients receive the best value for their investment, making Newrest Wacasco a trusted partner in Oman's market.

These initiatives align with Newrest's long-term vision of sustainable growth in Oman by prioritizing innovation, quality, and client satisfaction. By continually improving processes and investing in technology, we are not only enhancing our current operations but also building a foundation for future success and expanded contributions to the Omani economy.

#### Q4 | What leadership strategies have you found most effective for managing diverse teams in Oman, and how do these contribute to Newrest's success in the region?

Effective leadership in managing diverse teams is essential to Newrest Wacasco's success in Oman, and our strategies are built on adaptability, inclusivity, and empowerment. By embracing the richness of diversity, we ensure a cohesive and motivated workforce aligned with our mission and values.

At Newrest, we adapt our strategies to the local culture rather than imposing external frameworks. This cultural sensitivity fosters mutual respect and harmony, enabling us to build strong relationships within our teams and with our clients. We respect all beliefs and celebrate cultural and religious events, creating an inclusive and supportive environment for all employees.

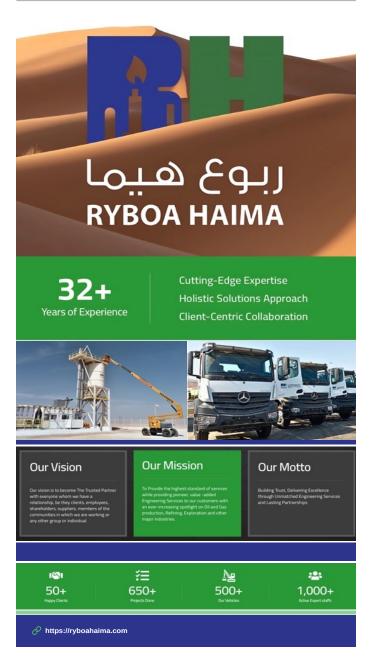
On-site, we focus on maintaining coherence by limiting the diversity of nationalities to one or two. This approach minimizes communication barriers and fosters a sense of unity among team members. However, at our head office, the dynamic is different; our multicultural team, representing 10 nationalities, reflects our commitment to understanding and adapting to our diverse clientele.

Newrest combines the power of a global network with the agility of a local player. This dual approach allows us to leverage international expertise while remaining deeply connected to local needs and expectations. Our team members benefit from international promotion opportunities, with five employees deployed to Newrest countries this year, showcasing the career growth possibilities within our organization. At Newrest, we believe in fostering leadership by embracing challenges. Our "Unlimited Challenge" mindset cultivates resilience, adaptability and proactive problem-solving, key traits for leaders managing diverse teams. This approach empowers our employees to excel and contribute meaningfully to our collective success through a once-a-year sportive challenge but an all through the year competition mindset.

These leadership strategies create an environment where team members feel valued, motivated, and aligned with Newrest's vision, ensuring our continued success and growth in Oman.

## Join us on 02nd of January 2025 for our next unlimited challenge in Muscat!

-- Interviewed by: Sama Al Zadjali Events & Media Specialist - OPAL





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#### SECTOR NEWS

## OMAN'S REFINERY OUTPUT FALLS 8.4% IN FIRST 9 MONTHS OF 2024



Muscat – Oman's refinery production declined by 8.4% in the first nine months of 2024 compared with the same period last year, with a significant drop in petrol output, according to preliminary data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Petrol production saw a marked reduction of 30.2% in September 2024 compared to August 2024, as per NCSI figures. The output of regular grade petrol (M-91) for the January-September period fell by 18.6% to 10,015,900 barrels, while sales of M-91 reached 10,502,400 barrels. Premium grade petrol (M-95) also experienced a decline of 3.4%, with production totalling 9,154,300 barrels, and sales amounting to 9,964,700 barrels.

Meanwhile, diesel production was down by 12.3%, amounting to 23,311,800 barrels, with domestic sales recorded at 10,544,300 barrels for the first nine months period.

However, there was a positive performance in other fuel types. Aviation fuel output increased by 4.4% to 8,450,800 barrels, while liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) production stood at 6,477,800 barrels. LPG sales reached 7,365,400 barrels in the first three quarters of 2024.

On the petrochemicals front, Oman's production saw mixed results. Production of benzene rose by 10.5% to 130,900 metric tonnes (MT), while paraxylene output increased by 8.4%, totalling 431,400 MT. In contrast, polypropylene production fell by 33.4%, reaching 137,200 MT.

Exports also showed notable growth, particularly in petrol and petrochemical products. Exports of M-91 petrol surged by 72.1%, reaching 2,102,200 barrels, while exports of M-95 petrol increased by 57.3%, totalling 912,700 barrels.

Diesel fuel exports rose to 12,633,100 barrels, while aviation fuel oil exports reached 5,244,900 barrels. LPG exports stood at 306,700 barrels, and petrochemical exports were strong across key categories. Paraxylene exports reached 433,900 MT, while benzene and polypropylene exports totalled 129,500 MT and 105,800 MT, respectively, by the end of September 2024.

Despite the overall production decline, the rise in exports highlights Oman's ongoing role as a key player in global energy markets, particularly in refined products and petrochemicals.

#### **MEMBERS NEWS**

## OQGN GETS APPROVAL FOR 193KM FAHUD-SOHAR LOOP LINE PROJECT



Muscat – OQ Gas Network (OQGN) announced on Sunday that it has received regulatory approval for the construction of a new 193km loop line project connecting Fahud to Sohar. The loop line, which will feature a 42-inch diameter, is designed to bolster Oman's natural gas infrastructure and support regional energy needs.

The project, described as one of the largest initiatives sanctioned by OQGN since the implementation of the regulated asset base framework, is expected to significantly enhance gas supply capacity in the Sohar and Ibri regions. It is aligned with Oman's long-term energy strategy and OQGN's infrastructure expansion plans, the company said in a filing to the Muscat Stock Exchange.

Scheduled for completion in 2027, the new pipeline will increase the capacity of OQGN's northern gas network by 9mn standard cubic meters per day, reinforcing the company's role in meeting rising demand in key industrial and power sectors.

OQGN, which operates Oman's sole natural gas transportation network, currently manages more than 4,030km of pipeline infrastructure across the sultanate. The network supplies gas to a wide range of critical industries, including power generation, water desalination, cement and aluminium production, fertiliser manufacturing, and petrochemical plants.

The company, which holds a natural monopoly over the country's gas transmission system, added that it would keep shareholders informed of any further developments regarding the project.



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## About Himaya

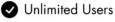
Himaya is a digital HSE platform developed by OPAL. It was designed to support companies in maintaining and effectively monitoring their HSE performance and to help streamline strategic decisions. Offered on a subscription basis, Himaya caters to companies without existing digital HSE systems and those seeking a more cost-effective solution. Priced competitively, Himaya aims to elevate industry standards and strengthen the HSE culture in Oman.

## Features & Modules

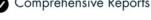
Machine Learning Predictive Insights and AI

- KPI Report Scheduler
- Custom Report Engine



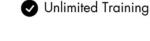


- Comprehensive Reports





Customizable Email Router





## Incident Investigation and Safety Alerts

Report HSE incidents, Investigate, raise action items, send safety alerts, search through past incidents and share learnings across the organization.



**Behaviour Based Safety** Report safe and unsafe behaviors

observations to promote a culture of safety.



### Meetings/Events Management

Create meeting minutes, raise action items, track meetings actions and follow-up to closure.



#### Audits Management

Create, assign, and conduct audits digitally on the system and receive notifications for any upcoming audits.



#### Inspection Management

Create, assign, and conduct inspections as many times as you want digitally on the system.



and

### Training Compliance Tracking

Create training matrices, assign trainings across the organization, track compliance and receive notifications.



### Automated Action Tracking

Automatically track all action items to ensure timely follow-up and closure.

#### **HSE Statistics and KPIs**

Capture key HSE statistics, track KPIs, and evaluate performance.

Register your interest now! please scan the QR code To learn more visit: https://himayaopal.com/Landing Or contact us via the channels below



## **IMPLEMENTING SKILLS CERTIFICATION FOR THE HSE ADVISOR ASSESSMENT & UNIFIED LIFTING OPERATIONS**

#### Announcement No.3

In reference to the directives from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral issued on the 15th of May 2024 to all operating companies, OPAL has commenced the implementation of Skills Certification Assessment for the following occupations:

Job Roles	Starting date of tests	Deadline	Comments
HSE Advisor	22-Apr-24	30-Dec-24	No further comment
Mobile Crane Operator	01-Jun-24	30-Dec-24	Any active card for the approved accreditation bodies by OPAL shall be valid until the renewal date.
Telescopic Handler Operator	01-Jun-24	30-Dec-24	
Forklift Operator	01-Jun-24	30-Dec-24	
MEWP operator	01-Jun-24	30-Dec-24	
Excavator Operator	01-Jun-24	30-Dec-24	
Slinger/Signaler/RNB	01-Jun-24	30-Dec-24	
Lorry loader/HIAB	01-Jun-24	30-Dec-24	
Overhead crane operator	01-Jun-24	30-Dec-24	
Vehicle Marshaller	01-Jun-24	30-Dec-24	
Lifting Supervisor	01-Jun-24	30-Dec-24	
Appointed Person	01-Jun-24	30-Dec-24	

Therefore, OPAL urges all parties, including operators, contractors, and subcontractors, to put forth their efforts to ensure the full implementation of the HSE Advisor Assessment and Unified Lifting Operations Assessment in their daily activities and performance evaluations for their employees and contractors by 30th December 2024.

\*Note: As per Ministerial Decision Number (501/2024) issued by the Ministry of Labor on the 1st of September 2024, all Forklift/Counterbalance Operators must be Omanis. In this case, OPAL would like to announce that no Forklift/Counterbalance Operator assessments/ trainings are to be conducted for Non-Omanis. Additionally, no renewals/refresher courses are to be conducted for Non-Omanis with expired cards. All Non-Omani Operators holding valid cards will be allowed to continue to operate until the date of expiry.

The following Centres are the approved Assessment Centres for the mentioned jobs.

Specialization	Centers		
HSE and Lifting Operations	Technical and Administrative Training Institute LLC (TATI)		
	National Training Institute LLC (NTI)		
Lifting Operations	Al Sarooj Institute LLC		
	Excel Training Institute (ETI)		
	Falcon Training Institute (RSFC)		
	Institute for Modern for Admin and Technical Training LLC (IMSATT)		
	INFITECH Training Institute (Abraj)		
	Integrated Safety International Services (ISIS)		
	Knowledge Grid Academy (KG)		
	Occupational Training Institute LLC (OTI)		
	Polyglot Institute		
	Rukun Al Yageen International Skills Development LLC (RAY)		
	Safety Corporation Services LLC (SCS)		
	Velosi		
	Al Saud Training Institute		
	MB Training Institute		
	Technical Training Institute LLC		
	Ryboa Haima Vocational Training & Safety Institute		
	Green Line Training Institute		
	Sag Al-Sahra Training Institute		
	Quality Training Institute (QTI)		

For further clarification please reach out to the Energy and Mineral Sector Skill Unit at + 968 24605700 - https://emssu.opaloman.om/certifications

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Our CSR Principles



Value Creation CSR activities should and environ-value. rate tangible social d environmental



& Transparency Our practices uphold









Ethical Business We adhere to ethical

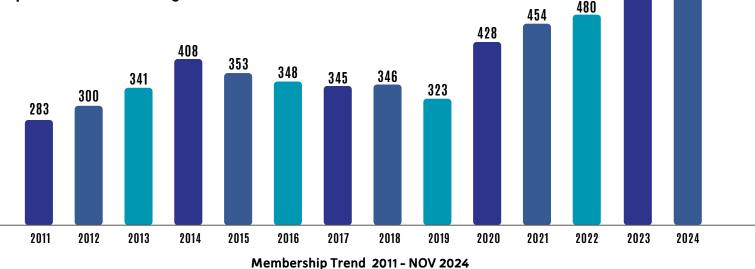






OPAL currently serves over **h** member companies.

These companies represent tens of thousands of employees across Oman's sector, thus making OPAL the Sultanate's premier Energy & Minerals association that offers unparalleled access to the industry expertise, collaborative outreach strategies, and professional networking.



## **ADVERTISE YOUR PRODUCTS & SERVICES THROUGH OPAL**



## NEWSLETTER

OPAL newsletter is a monthly report containing news about activities of our members. It is very good platform for you to showcase to OPAL fraternity about your company, events, etc.

Send us any news you would like to share with our members at (Media@opaloman.org)



## **EVENTS**

Gaining access to exclusive networking opportunities and on-stage recognition as a sponsor during events. For further details, feel free to reach out to us at (Media@opaloman.org)



## **DIRECT E-MAILS**

Email marketing allows you to segment your customers into different lists based on their preferences to send highly personalized content. Your emailer will be shared with around 2.5k email addresses

Send Your Emailer Requests to (Media@opaloman.org)



SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media advertising has been gaining popularity as the number of people using these platforms is increasing considerably.

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