



OPAL NEWSLETTER

A PRODUCTION OF MEMBERS NETWORKING MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Editor: Anwaar Al Yahyaee (anwaar.alyahyaee@opaloman.org) Assistant Editor: Shooq Al Zaabi (shooq.alzaabi@opaloman.org) Supervisor: Ismail Al Balushi (ismail.albalushi@opaloman.org)

General Supervisor: Mohammed Al Naabi (mohammed.alnaabi@opaloman.org)

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Dear Valued OPAL Members

As the final days of 2024 unfold, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable journey we've shared since I began my tenure as CEO a few months ago. It has been an inspiring experience to witness the passion and dedication within our community, and I am immensely proud of the milestones we've achieved together. This year has not only been one of progress but also of renewed energy and vision for OPAL's future.

In December, we've celebrated initiatives that reflect our unwavering commitment to empowering Oman's workforce, enhancing safety standards, and advancing sustainability. From launching innovative training programs to hosting impactful forums on workforce alignment and the green economy, OPAL continues to set benchmarks for excellence in the energy and minerals sectors.

Looking back, I am filled with gratitude for the trust and collaboration of our members and stakeholders. Together, we've strengthened the foundation of our industry while laying the groundwork for transformative growth.

Empowering Oman's Workforce: Training and Skill Development Initiatives

On December 1st, OPAL, in collaboration with Mwasalat Training Institute and the Ministry of Labor, launched a pioneering training program aimed at qualifying light vehicle inspectors in the energy sector. This initiative represents a critical step in the Road Safety Strategy (2023-2030), designed to develop national competencies and improve the roadworthiness of vehicles across Oman's energy sector. The program not only strengthens safety standards but also enhances job opportunities for Omani graduates, reinforcing our commitment to developing local talent

The momentum continued on December 2nd, as OPAL, in partnership with Oman Oil Marketing Company (COM-CO) and OQ, participated in a Road Safety Campaign at the OQ Sohar Terminal. This campaign, which included spot checkpoints for fuel tankers, was designed to assess the roadworthiness of vehicles and ensure compliance with OPAL's Road Safety Standards. Through this initiative, we continue to build a culture of safety and vehicle inspection within Oman's oil and gas industry, which is essential for the overall safety of our commu-

Advancing Health, Safety, and Environmental (HSE)

On December 5th, I am pleased to announce that Valiant Oman Oilfield Services has officially adopted OPAL's Himaya HSE Digital platform, marking a major step in enhancing HSE practices through technological innovation. This move underscores our commitment to driving digital transformation within the sector and equipping industry leaders with advanced tools to manage HSE performance effectively.

Later that same day, OPAL also hosted a HSE Leadership Program workshop, part of our Continuous Professional Development (CPD) series. The workshop aimed at enhancing the skills and competencies of HSE trainers and aligning them with OPAL's Unified HSE Passport (UHSEP) standard. This initiative is yet another example of our relentless pursuit of safety excellence and our dedication to elevating the capabilities of HSE professionals in the sector.

Workforce Alignment and Green Economy

The Energy and Minerals Sector Skills Unit (EMSSU) Governing Board met on December 8th to review the progress of 2024 and approve the business plan for 2025. This strategic meeting will allow us to expand the unit's scope and services to better serve OPAL members, while focusing on critical workforce development initiatives.

On December 12th, OPAL, under the patronage of H.E. Mohsen Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, hosted the National Forum on Oman's Green Economy and Workforce Alignment in collaboration with Majlis Majan. The forum, which presented the Labour Market Intelligence Analysis (LMIA) results, provided valuable insights into emerging job opportunities in clean industries and the alignment of educational systems with future sector demands.

Knowledge Exchange and Strategic Partnerships

On December 10th, OPAL proudly participated as a strategic partner in the 2024 IADC Drilling Middle East Conference & Exhibition, an event of historic significance for Oman. Hosted in the Sultanate for the very first time, this prestigious gathering brought together over 260 global industry leaders, innovators, and professionals to explore the latest advancements in drilling technologies and safety strategies.

The conference was more than an industry milestoneit was a defining moment for Oman's energy sector. By welcoming such a prominent global event, we showcased our nation's growing influence and capabilities on the international stage. As a strategic partner, OPAL played a vital role in facilitating knowledge exchange and fostering collaboration among key stakeholders, ensuring that Oman continues to lead in driving industry best practices.

Further enhancing our knowledge-sharing initiatives, OPAL hosted the OPAL Knowledge Exchange Forum on December 16th, focused on Subcontractors HSE Management. This forum brought together key stakeholders to address common challenges and develop strategies to improve subcontractor HSE management, an essential component of achieving overall sector safety goals.

Strategic Workforce Development Initiatives

In partnership with Oman LNG and Innovative Technology for Innovation LLC, OPAL signed an agreement on December 17th to provide an internship training program for graduates. This partnership is a testament to our ongoing commitment to workforce development, providing Omani graduates with valuable hands-on experience and advancing Oman's In-Country Value (ICV) strategy.

That same day, we also celebrated the graduation of participants in the HSE Upskilling Program, implemented by the National Training Institute (NTI). This milestone marks the successful upskilling of professionals, ensuring a skilled and capable workforce ready to meet the energy sector's evolving needs.

Supporting Sector Development and HSE Excellence

On December 19th, OPAL conducted the third workshop in its series of CPD workshops, focused on Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) Awareness & Management. These workshops are designed to strengthen the technical knowledge and practical skills of health and safety trainers, ensuring alignment with OPAL's Unified HSE Passport (UHSEP) standard.

Finally, on December 29th, the OPAL Board of Directors convened for its fourth meeting of the year to review our key achievements in 2024 and outline the next steps for enhancing our services. The Board's continued support is a testament to our collective commitment to building a sustainable and innovative energy sector in Oman.

Looking Ahead

As we close the year, I am deeply grateful to our members, partners, and stakeholders for your continued support. Together, we have made significant strides toward a safer, more sustainable, and forward-thinking energy sector. As we look ahead to 2025, let us continue to work in unison to drive innovation, foster talent, and build a future defined by growth, sustainability, and excellence.

Warm regards,

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















Sunday, December 1, 2024, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) in collaboration with Mwasalat Training institute and the Ministry of Labor, lunched a training program aimed at qualifying light vehicles inspectors in the energy sector, establishing necessary guidelines, and enhancing job opportunities for Omani graduates. This program represents a significant step towards implementing OPAL Road Safety Strategy (2023-2030) that aims to develop the national competencies in the energy sector.



Thursday, 5 December 2024, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) announces that Valiant Oman Oilfield Services has adopted the OPAL Himaya HSE Digital platform. Valiant Oman Oilfield Services subscription represents a significant endorsement of OPALs advanced HSE systems and underscores their commitment to embracing technological innovations for enhanced HSE practices.



Sunday, December 8, 2024, the Energy and Minerals Sector Skills Unit (EMSSU) Governing Board held its fourth quarterly meeting. During the meeting, the unit's performance for 2024 was reviewed, and the proposed business plan for 2025 was discussed and officially approved, which will enable the unit to commence work on the agreed-upon projects and expand the scope of its services and products to better serve the sector with a particular focus on OPAL members.



Monday, December 2, 2024, Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with the Oman Oil Marketing Company (COMCO) and OQ, participated in a Road Safety Campaign held at the OQ Sohar Terminal. The campaign aimed to provide clear guidelines and practical resources to assess the roadworthiness of vehicles. As part of the initiative, OPAL organized spot checkpoints for fuel tankers to ensure compliance with the OPAL Road Safety Standard requirements, which is designed to enhance road safety and promote a culture of vehicle inspection within the oil and gas industry.



Thursday, December 5, 2024, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) conducted a workshop on HSE Leadership Program as part of its Continuous Professional Development (CPD) series for the Unified Health, Safety and environment Passport Level 2, aimed at enhancing the competencies of HSE trainers. The workshops focus on developing technical knowledge and practical skills while ensuring alignment with OPAL's Unified HSE Passport (UHSEP) standard. This initiative reflects OPAL's commitment to fostering safety excellence and supporting the growth of the energy sector.



Monday, 9 December 2024, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) announces that Shaleem Petroleum Company has adopted the OPAL Himaya HSE Digital platform. Shaleem Petroleum Company subscription represents a significant endorsement of OPALs advanced HSE systems and underscores their commitment to embracing technological innovations for enhanced HSE practices.













Under the patronage of H.E. Mohsin bin Hamed Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) is proud to participate as a strategic partner in the 2024 IADC Drilling Middle East Conference & Exhibition. This prestigious event is being held for the first time in Oman from 10–11 December, 2024, at the Sheraton Oman Hotel. The conference will gather over 260 industry leaders and drilling professionals from more than 20 countries to discuss key challenges in the drilling sector and share best practices. Participants will delve into cutting-edge advancements, such as drilling automation, and explore evolving strategies for safety and training. The event will also provide practical insights into innovative tools and processes designed to enhance HSE performance.



Thursday, 12th December 2024, under the patronage of H.E. Mohsen Al Hadrami, Undersecretary of Energy and Minerals, the Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with Majlis Majan, hosted the National Forum on Oman's Green Economy and Workforce Alignment. The event featured the presentation of the Labour Market Intelligence Analysis (LMIA) results, with active participation from the public sector, private sector, and sectoral societies. The study highlighted emerging job opportunities in clean industries, the readiness of industries to meet future demands, and the alignment of education systems to support workforce development in these industries.



Tuesday, 17 December 2024, Oman Energy Association (OPAL), Oman LNG, and Innovative Technology for Innovation LLC signed an agreement to provide an internship training program for graduates and enhance the capabilities of the nation's workforce. This strategic partnership underscores a shared commitment to equipping Oman's talent pool with advanced skills, fostering job creation, utilizing cutting-edge tools, and bolstering In-Country Value (ICV).



Thursday, December 12, 2024, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) conducted the second workshop as part of the series of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) workshops hosted by Safety Cooperation Services (SCS). The workshop aimed to enhance the competency of health and safety trainers for "Authorized Gas Tester" and "Risk Assessment" training as part of the OPAL Unified HSE Passport (UHSEP) Level 2 program. The (CPD) workshops focus on developing technical knowledge and practical skills while ensuring alignment with OPAL's Unified HSE Passport (UHSEP) standard. This initiative reflects OPAL's commitment to fostering safety excellence and supporting the growth of the energy sector.



Monday, December 16, 2024, Under the patronage of H.E. Mohsin bin Hamed Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, the Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with OQ, organized the OPAL Knowledge Exchange Forum titled "Subcontractors HSE Management." The forum brought together industry stakeholders to address challenges in health, safety, and environment (HSE) management for subcontractors, focusing on strategies to enhance standards and practices across the energy sector.



Tuesday, December 17, 2024, under the patronage of H.E. Mohsin Al-Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) and Oman LNG celebrated the graduation of participants in the HSE Upskilling Program, which was implemented by the National Training Institute (NTI).











Thursday, December 19, 2024, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) conducted the third workshop of the series of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) workshop hosted by Institute of Modern Science for Admin & Technical Training to enhance the competency of health and safety trainers for Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) for Awareness & Management Level training as part of the OPAL Unified HSE Passport (UHSEP) Level 2. The workshops focus on developing technical knowledge and practical skills while ensuring alignment with OPAL's Unified HSE Passport (UHSEP) standard. This initiative reflects OPAL's commitment to fostering safety excellence and supporting the growth of the energy sector.



Sunday, December 22, 2024, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized the official induction funded by Oman LNG. The program aims to empower graduates and equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the job market. Innovative Technology for Innovation LLC (Innotech) will oversee the training of graduates for 18 months in the fields of engineering and technology, focusing on developing their capabilities and providing them with the expertise required to ensure their professional success.



Thursday, December 26, 2024, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) conducted the fourth workshop of the series of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) workshop hosted by Safety Cooperation Services to enhance the competency of health and safety trainers for Chemical Handling Awareness & Management Level training as part of the OPAL Unified HSE Passport (UHSEP) Level 2. The workshops focus on developing technical knowledge and practical skills while ensuring alignment with OPAL's Unified HSE Passport (UHSEP) standard. This initiative reflects OPAL's commitment to fostering safety excellence and supporting the growth of the energy sector.





Sunday, December 22, 2024, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized the induction session for the "Assistant Trainer" on-the-job training program, funded by the Ministry of Labour. The program targets bachelor's degree holders in the fields of engineering and health and safety. The National Training Institute (NTI) will oversee the implementation of the program for a period of 12 months. The trainees will be directly employed by NTI upon successfully completing the program's requirements.



Tuesday, December 24, 2024, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized the second workshop in its series of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) workshops for Defensive Driving Trainers, hosted by Safety Cooperative Services (SCS). The workshop focused on enhancing the efficiency of OPAL-certified defensive driving trainers. The CPD workshop series aims to develop knowledge and practical skills in delivering a clear approach to OPAL updated defensive driving program, with an emphasis on strategic and operational improvements in training methods. This initiative is part of OPAL's efforts to promote a culture of excellence in defensive driving and support the growth and development of the



Sunday, December 29, 2024, the Board of Directors of the Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held its fourth meeting of the year. The Board reviewed the Association's most notable achievements in 2024. In addition, the Board directed the management to implement several measures to improve the services provided to the sector. The Board members also commended the efforts of the executive management and OPAL team in supporting the energy and minerals sector in particular, as well as national initiatives in general.



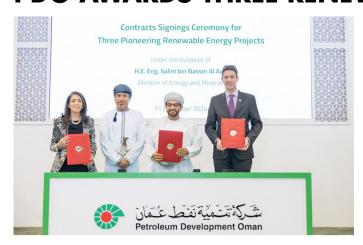








PDO AWARDS THREE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS



Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) signed landmark agreements on Wednesday with OQ Alternative Energy (OQAE) and TotalEnergies to develop three key renewable Independent Power Producer (IPP) projects: North Solar 100MW PV IPP, Riyah-1 Wind 100MW IPP, and Riyah-2 Wind 100MW IPP. These projects represent a significant step in PDO's commitment to sustainability, aligning with Oman's Vision 2040 and the national target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. The North Solar IPP, spanning an area of 3 sqkm - equivalent to 468 football pitches - will generate 100MW of clean, renewable energy. This utility-scale solar photovoltaic farm, which is scheduled to be commercially operational in Q2 2026, marks a major milestone in PDO's renewable energy journey. By harnessing solar power, the project will reduce CO2 emissions by over 220,000 tonnes annually and save millions of cubic metres of natural gas each year. The Riyah-1 and Riyah-2 wind farms, located in Amin and Nimr West, will collectively produce 200MW of clean energy. These two projects, covering an area equivalent to 1,870 football pitches, are expected to be commercially operational by Q4 2026. Both onshore wind projects will set a remarkable global precedent, with the first oil and gas company as the sole buyer integrating a wind farm into its grid. The wind farms will save millions of cubic metres of gas annually, contributing significantly to cost savings and a substantial reduction in CO2 emissions – collectively by approximately 740,000 tonnes. H E Eng Salim Nasser al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, commended PDO's leadership in advancing the energy transition. He said, "PDO's commitment and collaboration with key energy sector partners reflect our collective efforts to achieve the nation's vision and goals. Today's event highlights the strength of our national partnership in reducing carbon emissions and advancing the transition to clean energy sources, in line with global trends toward a more sustainable future. This project also reinforces the trust placed in OQ Alternative Energy as a leading developer for this and future initiatives." Dr Aflah al Hadhrami, Managing Director of PDO, emphasised the company's critical role in supporting Oman's net-zero ambitions, saying, "We are delighted to sign these agreements, which further reinforce our steadfast commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, particularly the diversification of energy sources to ensure sustainable energy security." Najla Zuhair al Jamali, Chief Executive of OQ Alternative Energy, said, "Today, we witness a significant milestone in OQAE's journey as we step forward as the appointed National Champion for Clean Energy in Oman. The energy transition is a significant journey for everyone, but we are actively engaged in planning this journey for Oman, with over 7GW of projects in our pipeline. At OQ, we focus on sustainable growth in Oman's energy sector and foster partnerships for a smooth energy transition." Olivier Jouny, Senior Vice President of Renewables at TotalEnergies, reaffirmed the company's dedication to advancing the energy transition. He said, "This collaboration affirms our ambition to be a key partner in the energy transition and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. By collaborating with PDO and OQAE, we are proud to contribute to Oman's sustainable energy future and set a precedent for innovation and environmental stewardship for generations to come."

OQBI SHARES FALL 3.6% ON MARKET DEBUT AFTER RO188M IPORENEWABLE **ENERGY PROJECTS**

Shares of OQ Base Industries (OQBI) fell in their debut on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) on Sunday, following the company's RO188mn initial public offering (IPO), which was oversubscribed by 2.1 times. OQBI shares opened at 100bz per share on the first day of trading, nearly 10% lower than the offer price of 111bz. The shares closed 3.6% down at 107bz, compared with the offer price, which was at the top of the range. More than 62mn OQBI shares changed hands on the debut day, with total turnover reaching RO6.55mn, according to data from the MSX. The IPO, which offered around 1.69bn ordinary shares, represents 49% of OQBI's share capital. At the time of listing, the company's market capitalisation was approximately RO384mn (around \$1bn), based on the final offer price of 111bz per share. The listing was formally launched with a bell-ringing ceremony on the trading floor at the MSX, marking the start of OQBI's shares trading under the ticker symbol OQBI. In a press statement, Ali al Lawati, Chairman of OQBI, said, "Today marks an important milestone as OQ Base Industries transitions from a private to a publicly listed company. The IPO is the culmination of the hard work and dedication of our exceptional team, and it reflects the deep strategic value that OQBI holds within Oman and beyond. Our investors' trust fuels our mission to drive sustainable growth and deliver innovative excellence in our field. As we embark on this new journey, OQ Base Industries remains committed to creating enduring value for all." Khalid al Asmi, CEO of OQBI, added, "We are proud to have successfully delivered on this IPO. Its success



reflects strong investor confidence in our diversified portfolio and strategically positioned assets. We have shown investors that OQBI exemplifies operational excellence and strategic innovation. Our business model is supported by Oman's strategic advantages, including a stable industrial environment and a favourable position within a thriving economic framework, as outlined in Oman Vision 2040." Haitham al Salmi, CEO of the Muscat Stock Exchange, noted that with the listing of OQBI shares, the market capitalisation of the MSX now stands at approximately RO27.532bn. He said, "The listing of OQBI marks the second listing by the OQ Group this year and is a valuable addition to the industrial sector. The company is one of the most prominent industrial entities in Oman, playing a significant role in the country's basic industries. This listing aligns with the ongoing efforts of the Oman Investment Authority to enhance private sector participation, in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040. It further strengthens the Sultanate's position as an investment destination, supports economic diversification, and helps empower the Muscat Stock Exchange to attract investment opportunities." OQBI plans to distribute RO32.7mn in dividends for the fiscal year 2024. Additionally, the company intends to distribute dividends twice each fiscal year following the IPO, reflecting its expectation of strong cash flow and long-term earnings potential.









OMANTEL'S TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION HONOURED AT CXO AWARDSHONOURED AT CXO AWARDS



Omantel, the leading telecommunications service provider in the sultanate, has been recognised at the Business Today CXO Awards by Apex Media for its remarkable achievements in driving innovation, digital transformation, and technological advancement. The awards celebrated Omantel's pivotal role in positioning the sultanate as a regional leader in the telecom industry. At the awards ceremony, Omantel's Chief Executive Officer, Talal al Mamari and Chief Financial Officer,

Ghassan al Hashar were individually honoured as CEO of The Year in Telecom Sector and CFO of The Year in Telecom Sector respectively, for their exceptional leadership, which has been instrumental in shaping Omantel's transformational journey and its continued success. Under the visionary leadership of Mamari and the strategic financial stewardship of Hashar, Omantel has reached significant milestones that reflect its commitment to excellence and sustainable growth. Mamari's leadership has guided Omantel through transformative projects, including the integration of fixed and mobile operations, the acquisition of a controlling stake in Kuwait's Zain Group, and the creation of Zain Omantel International (ZOI), a joint venture serving over 55mn customers across eight markets. Hashar has been instrumental in optimising Omantel's operations to support innovation and growth. His financial strategies have enabled key investments in cutting-edge technologies and infrastructure, ensuring that Omantel remains competitive and forward-looking in a dynamic market. Omantel's achievements are further underscored by its partnerships with global technology leaders, including Huawei, AWS, and Google, which have accelerated advancements in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and digital transformation. These collaborations have enabled the company to deliver innovative solutions that empower businesses and enhance connectivity across Oman and beyond.

OMAN'S LASAIL MINE PROJECT STARTS COPPER EXPORTS AFTER 30-YEAR BREAK

Minerals Development Oman (MDO), the sultanate's flagship mining company, marked a major milestone on Monday with the first shipment of copper concentrates exported from the Lasail mine in Sohar. This achievement signals the revival of Oman's copper mining industry after a 30-year gap and highlights the country's commitment to developing this important sector. 'Reviving the legacy of copper mining after a 30-year pause, MDO announces the export of the first shipment of copper concentrates from the Lasail mine in Sohar. This milestone reflects MDO's dedication to advancing Oman's mining sector and promoting sustainable growth,' MDO said in a post on X (formerly Twitter). The Lasail and Al-Baydha mines together hold 2.78mn tonnes of copper ore reserves, producing copper concentrates with a concentration of 18% to 22%. According to MDO, the Lasail mine produces nearly 500,000 tonnes of copper ore each year. Preparations are also underway to start operations at the Al-Baydha mine in Liwa by 2025-2026, the company added. 'This project is a key part of MDO's ambitious development plan and reflects its commitment to advancing Oman's mining sector,' MDO noted. Earlier this year, in February, MDO marked the beginning of the redevelopment project for the Lasail and Al-Baydha copper mines, located in Block 4 of the Sohar and Liwa. The redevelopment of these mines is MDO's first copper project, following an extensive exploration programme in 2022 that revealed commercial reserves of copper ore, estimated at around 2.78mn tonnes in Block 4, part of the Oman Mining Company's assets. The joint project aims to produce approximately 800,000 tonnes of copper ore per year. The first phase of the project is expected to last four years, based on the current reserves. However, MDO is continuing exploration in the surrounding areas to potentially find new reserves and extend the production period. In a statement on February 26, 2024, during the



groundbreaking ceremony for the redevelopment project, Eng Nasser Saif al Mogbali, CEO of MDO, said, "The redevelopment of the Lasail and Al-Baydha copper mines marks the beginning of a significant journey for a series of mining projects and a crucial step in reviving Oman's copper mining industry. This will help meet global demand and support local industries." The Lasail and Al-Baydha mines project aims to increase local value-added activities and optimise value chains in partnership with the private sector. MDO had awarded the mining contract to a national contractor and the processing contract to Mawarid Mining Company, which will process the copper ore at their concentrator in Wadi Al Jizzi, Sohar. This collaboration showcases the company's commitment to developing Oman's mining sector through a successful public-private partnership. The redevelopment of the Lasail and Al-Baydha copper mines is a major achievement of MDO's turnaround strategy. This strategy aims to improve the company's financial performance, utilise its human resources and technical expertise, and restore its leading position in the global copper market.















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SHELL OMAN IN TALKS FOR SALE OF STORAGE TANKS, **SUPPLY FACILITIES**



Shell Oman Marketing Company is currently engaged in discussions with multiple parties regarding the potential sale of its petroleum products storage and supply facilities in Mina Al Fahal, Muscat. This move is part of the company's broader strategy to optimise its asset portfolio and enhance returns for its shareholders, Shell Oman stated in a disclosure to the Muscat Stock Exchange. It further noted that these discussions have reached an advanced stage this week. 'These fixed assets include various petroleum products storage tanks, a Single Buoy Mooring (SBM), undersea pipelines, above-ground integrated pipelines, an 8-bay gantry, and other associated facilities,' the company explained in its disclosure. Shell Oman Marketing Company emphasised that this direction is consistent with the company's commitment to disciplined capital allocation and long-term value creation.

'Moreover, it will bolster Shell Oman's future growth plans, which are centred on energy transition, sustainable development, and the company's key role in the sector, in alignment with Oman Vision 2040,' the company added. Shell Oman confirmed that it would issue further updates as necessary, particularly upon the signing of a binding sales and purchase agreement, or should all discussions be concluded.

OPAL NEW MEMBERS

OPAL WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR FAMILY.

- **Raysut's Stormy Waves Business SPC**
- **Medilink International LLC**
- **XOM LLC**
- Allrig Middle East DMCC
- **Bukaka International LLC**
- **Torch Ezz Trading SPC**

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

ASYAD LAUNCHES ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME FOR TECH STARTUPS



Asyad Group, Oman's leading integrated logistics provider, in partnership with Omantel Innovation Labs has launched the ASYAD Accelerator programme to elevate competitiveness in Oman's logistics sector. Targeting local tech startups, the programme aims to drive innovation, enhance operational efficiency, and support the development of Oman's logistics ecosystem. The ASYAD Accelerator programme has attracted numerous tech startup projects and entrepreneurial ideas with strong potential to advance the supply chain and create innovative solutions within cold chain industry, according to a press statement. After a rigorous selection process, 29 startups were chosen to participate, bringing together a pool of promising talent prepared to make meaningful contributions and impact to the industry. Over the past two months, ASYAD Accelerator has conducted an intensive bootcamp for participating startups. Covering both theoretical and practical components, these sessions explored essential topics such as business model development, customer profiling, market assessment, financial planning, and project management. The workshops also focused on product development methods and presentation techniques to investors, empowering participants to refine their visions for their startups and prepare for market entry. Following an evaluation of top ideas and projects in the workshops, 20 tech startups progressed to a final review phase conducted by a panel of experts from Asyad Group, Omantel, and specialists from the public and private sectors. The assessment criteria included market needs, financial sustainability, and technical feasibility, ensuring alignment with Oman's logistics priorities. Four startups advanced to join the ASYAD Accelerator, selected for their market expansion potential, scalability and innovative solutions. Milestone for Omani startups Khalfan bin Khamis al Khusaibi, In-Country Value lead at Asyad Group, praised the participating tech startups for their commitment and capabilities. He also added that selection for the ASYAD Accelerator is a transformative step in these tech startups' entrepreneurial journeys, enabling them to bring significant contributions to the logistics sector. Khusaibi emphasised the importance of continued support to accelerate these startups' solutions, adding substantial value to the national economy and Asyad Group alike. The selected tech startups include eHissab, ILab Marine, Morpho Pharmaceutical, and Sayyar, each offering unique and sustainable digital solutions aimed at addressing logistics challenges.

The ASYAD Accelerator's progress reflects Asyad Group and Omantel's dedication to empowering Omani entrepreneurs and advancing technological innovation in alignment with Oman's Vision 2040. By investing in local talent and promoting eco-friendly digital solutions, the programme contributes to the growth of Oman's logistics sector and reinforces the nation's position as an innovation hub. Asyad and Omantel remain committed to supporting startups within and beyond the programme through joint initiatives and fostering collaborative networks. The culmination of this accelerator will see these entrepreneurs ready to launch their solutions, poised to redefine logistics operations within Oman and potentially on a global scale.











العالمية للهندسة والمقاولات شمم ALAGHALIBI 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.













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).









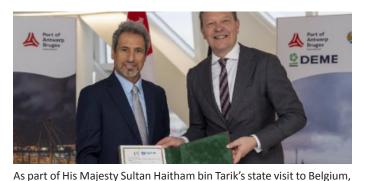


MEM SIGNS DEAL TO BOOST SALT PRODUCTION IN OMAN



The Ministry of Energy and Minerals on Wednesday signed a mining concession agreement with Naqaa Salt Company to develop a largescale salt production project in the Filim area of Al Wusta Governorate. The 109 sqkm site, located in the concession area No 51-k, aims to produce 400,000 tonnes of salt annually. The agreement was signed by H E Eng Salim Nasser al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, and Badr bin Saud al Kharousi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Minerals Development Oman (MDO). The project will use modern production methods, including natural evaporation, washing, and refining processes, to extract high-purity industrial salt. Construction is set to begin early next year, with the development phase expected to span four years. The project will be implemented in partnership with a foreign investor, reflecting the government's strategy to attract international participation in Oman's mining sector. The initiative is expected to support downstream industries that rely on salt ore, such as bromine, caustic soda, soda ash, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC). These materials play a critical role in key sectors, including chemicals, plastics, water treatment, energy, and construction. The project will also incorporate the latest technologies for the design and implementation $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1$ of evaporation basins. H E Aufi described the agreement as a strategic step in Oman's broader efforts to enhance raw material production and support the local and global demand for essential industrial products. "This year, we have achieved an important milestone by signing several mining concession agreements targeting key raw materials such as copper, chromium, and silica," he said. He added that the salt project will strengthen the link between raw material production and downstream industries, serving vital sectors such as oil and gas. The minister also highlighted the use of solar energy in the project's operations. "This project stands out for its use of sustainable technologies, including solar energy, to produce electricity, thereby increasing energy efficiency," H E Aufi said. He noted that MEM aims to position the mining sector as a key pillar of Oman's economy, supporting the country's vision for sustainable development and income diversification. Badr al Kharousi, Chairman of MDO, said the agreement reflects the collaborative efforts of the ministry and MDO to expand investments in strategic minerals. "This agreement represents a fruitful cooperation between MEM and MDO and marks a qualitative step towards expanding MDO's investment in strategic mineral resources," Kharousi said. He revealed that the project is the result of three years of exploration, prospecting, and chemical analysis. "Our studies confirmed the mining potential of sea salt ore in the concession area, enabling MDO to move forward with development procedures," he added.

OMAN, BELGIUM STRENGTHEN GREEN HYDROGEN PARTNERSHIP



Oman and Belgium signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to further strengthen their collaboration in green hydrogen. The MoU, signed between Hydrogen Oman (Hydrom) and the Belgian Hydrogen Council (BHC), sets the stage for enhanced cooperation across the hydrogen value chain, reflecting the shared commitment of both nations to advance the global hydrogen economy. Held in the presence of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the signing ceremony brought together business leaders, policymakers, and industry representatives from both nations to underscore joint efforts to align policies, promote knowledge exchange and technological advancements, as well as explore opportunities across hydrogen production, infrastructure, transportation, and utilization. "This MoU represents a defining moment in the partnership between Oman and Belgium, advancing our shared ambition to shape the future of the global hydrogen economy," said H E Salim bin Nasser al Aufi, Oman's Minister of Energy and Minerals and Chairman of Hydrom. "Oman's potential capacity as a hub for green hydrogen production, combined with Belgium's role as a promising hydrogen-based industrial hub and strategic connection point to European markets, will strengthen energy security and create a seamless hydrogen supply chain. Together, we aim to accelerate the world's transition to clean energy by fostering innovation and building the infrastructure needed to connect producers and markets worldwide," he said. The MoU builds on 46 years of strong bilateral relations between Oman and Belgium, underpinned by key milestones in the green energy sector. These include the signing in 2023 of a 47-year Project Development Agreement between Hydrom and the Hyport Duqm project, an international alliance between Oman's OQ Alternative Energy and Belgium's DEME, aimed at producing and exporting green hydrogen. This was further supported by the 2023 declaration of intent between the Ministry of Energy and Minerals in Oman and the Ministry of Energy in Belgium to advance hydrogen certification and trade frameworks. Tom Hautekiet, Chairman of the Belgian Hydrogen Council, said, "This agreement represents a significant step forward in strengthening our cooperation with Oman, a key partner in the global hydrogen supply chain. By leveraging Oman's competitive renewable energy resources and Belgium's strategic position as a hydrogen hub for Europe, we are creating a powerful platform for innovation, investment, and growth in the hydrogen economy. Together, we aim to build a sustainable energy future, unlocking new opportunities for our industries, researchers, and policymakers." The first joint milestone under the MoU will focus on key areas of collaboration including knowledge sharing, technology development, and infrastructure planning for hydrogen production, shipping, and terminal facilities. It will also expand on pathways to broader cooperation with other European countries as a part of the MoU promise to address legislative challenges and explore new opportunities for research and development. Under the visionary leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Oman continues to strengthen its position as a pioneer in hydrogen innovation. His Majesty's engagement with business leaders during the signing highlights the sultanate's commitment to fostering international partnerships that drive sustainable development and advance technological progress. Hydrom's role as the national orchestrator of Oman's green hydrogen strategy is central to this vision, enabling transformative projects and infrastructural development that position the nation as the global hydrogen hub of tomorrow.









OMAN ANNOUNCES THIRD AUCTION ROUND FOR GREEN HYDROGEN BLOCKS



Hydrom, the national orchestrator of Oman's green hydrogen strategy and green hydrogen economy development, on Wednesday concluded its inaugural gH2 Investor Day with a landmark announcement of its third green hydrogen auction round, set to launch in early 2025. The event brought together more than 400 global stakeholders, investors, and industry leaders to explore Oman's advancements in green hydrogen and its role in driving the global energy transition. Building on the outcomes of the first two rounds, the third auction round incorporates lessons learned to optimise bidder participation and enhance competitiveness. These include refined block allocation strategies, streamlined auction processes, and the exploration of innovative mechanisms such as double-sided auctions to align upstream hydrogen production with downstream industries like green steel and fertilisers. Designed to attract a diverse pool of global and local stakeholders, the upcoming auction round emphasises localisation, infrastructure readiness, and alignment with global market trends, all of which will further strengthen Oman's hydrogen ecosystem and contribute to its long-term renewable energy goals. Bids for the third auction round will open in the first quarter of 2025, with project awards anticipated by the fourth guarter of 2025 and the first guarter of 2026. H E Eng Salim bin Nasser al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals and Chairman of Hydrom, said, "With this third auction round, Oman is taking a measured and strategic step forward in advancing its green hydrogen ambitions. Our focus is not only on scaling production but also on ensuring that each project is grounded in sustainability, technological innovation, and tangible economic value." He further said, "By leveraging Oman's competitive renewable resources and strategic geographic position, we aim to create opportunities that resonate globally, attract meaningful partnerships, and contribute to a robust and reliable green hydrogen supply chain. This is about delivering real impact - locally and internationally - while positioning Oman as a trusted and capable leader in the global hydrogen economy." The inaugural gH2 Investor Day featured engaging discussions and updates on Oman's progress in green hydrogen. One of the event's key discussions focused on the ongoing liquid hydrogen corridor collaboration, launched during COP28 through an agreement with the Port of Amsterdam, Ecolog, and EnBW. The partnership recently achieved a significant milestone with the completion of a joint study, which confirmed the feasibility of specialised vessels and advanced infrastructure for liquid hydrogen exports. Central to these efforts is the Port of Duqm, positioning Oman as a critical hub for green hydrogen exports to Europe via the Port of Amsterdam and to Asia-Pacific markets through Singapore. Eng Abdulaziz Said al Shidhani, Managing Director of Hydrom, said, "Hydrom's inaugural gH2 Investor Day has been a powerful demonstration of global interest and trust in Oman's green hydrogen vision. The insights shared and partnerships explored reflect not only the progress we have made but also the immense potential that lies ahead. Our role at Hydrom is to turn this momentum into action, delivering tangible results through the third auction round and beyond." As Hydrom's inaugural Investor Day drew to a close, it left a clear message: Oman is not just advancing in the green hydrogen space but leading the charge with purpose and strategy. The discussions and announcements made during the event have laid the groundwork for what is to come and reinforced Oman's commitment to delivering sustainable solutions that meet global.

HYDROM, GERMAN FIRM SIGN MOU TO EXPLORE ELECTROLYSER PRODUCTION IN OMAN

Hydrogen Oman (Hydrom), the national orchestrator of Oman's green hydrogen strategy, and German technology company thyssenkrupp nucera have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate in supporting the fast-growing green hydrogen sector in the sultanate, with the aim of fostering future cooperation. Under the terms of the MoU, Hydrom and thyssenkrupp nucera plan to explore the potential for localising the assembly and service hubs for water electrolyser production. Identifying opportunities for localisation and exploring further development prospects are key elements of the intended partnership. The MoU was signed in the presence of Oman's Minister of Energy and Minerals, H E Salim Nasser al Aufi, during Hydrom's inaugural gH2 Investor Day in Muscat. "Hydrom is coordinating all green hydrogen activities, including the master plan for the sector in Oman. At thyssenkrupp nucera, we are committed to bringing our extensive expertise in electrolysis technology to support this ambition. With decades of experience and innovative solutions in the electrolysis business, we are well-equipped to strengthen our presence in the Middle East and lay the foundation for a successful green hydrogen sector in Oman in partnership with Hydrom," said Dr Werner Ponikwar, CEO of thyssenkrupp nucera, in the press statement. Eng Abdulaziz Said al Shidhani, Managing Director of Hydrom, said, "Green hydrogen has the potential to be a central element in Oman's clean economy, supporting a more sustainable and decarbonised future. By developing a competitive and sustainable green hydrogen ecosystem, we aim to position the sultanate as a leading global green hydrogen hub. Collaborating with thyssenkrupp nucera is another significant step towards achieving our ambition." Thyssenkrupp nucera offers world-leading technologies for high-efficiency electrolysis plants. The company possesses extensive knowledge in the engineering, procurement, and construction of electrochemical plants.













ENHANCING WORKFORCE IN THE ENERGY SECTOR



The Sultanate of Oman plays a crucial role in the clean energy sector and is steadily advancing towards becoming a regional hub for energy and minerals, leveraging its vast natural and human resources. This growth highlights the pressing need for specialised professionals who can manage, develop and harness the full potential of Oman's energy sector. In this context, the Oman Energy Institute was established with the goal of training and qualifying specialised human resources to contribute to the development of the energy sector at both local and regional levels. Eng Naser bin Nasser al Siyabi, Director General of the Oman Energy Institute, stated that the institute was founded in 2018 under the name "Oman Oil and Gas Institute." and in November 2024, it celebrated the launch of its new identity as the "Oman Energy Institute." This strategic move aims to broaden its scope to include all energy sectors, from oil and gas to renewable energy sources such as solar and wind energy, as well as emerging fields like green hydrogen and various mining sectors. He added that the institute offers specialised training programmes covering oil, gas and renewable energy, with a focus on hydrogen, as well as professional safety management and soft skills. The programmes aim to qualify both national and regional talents to meet the global shifts in the energy sector. These programmes stand out by using advanced technologies, including simulations and virtual reality, in collaboration with international

institutions to enhance training quality and align with global developments. The programmes blend theoretical education with practical application. Since its inception, the institute has conducted over 1,000 training courses, benefiting more than 8,000 trainees. This reflects the growing interest from individuals and institutions in learning and training in various energy fields. The institute has also bolstered employment opportunities for Omani youth by offering specialised courses for graduates and job seekers, preparing them for entry into the workforce in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals. The institute aims to become a leading reference for energy in the region by building strategic local and international partnerships that ensure the implementation of the latest standards and best practices through investing in human capital. The Director General further explained that Oman continues to develop its human resources through education and vocational training at the Oman Energy Institute to meet the increasing demand for specialised skills in various energy sectors, including both traditional and renewable energy. This strengthens Oman's position as a regional hub for human resources development in this vital sector. It is worth noting that amid global energy transformations, Oman has adopted a comprehensive strategy to develop its energy sector and reduce dependence on fossil fuels, with a strong focus on advancing solar and wind energy projects.

FIRST-EVER BATTERY STORAGE OPTION FOR OMAN'S IBRI ILL SOLAR PROJECT

A new solar PV based Independent Power Project (PP), set to come up at Ibri in Al Dhahirah Governorate, is expected to be integrated with utility-scale battery storage in a first for Oman's rapidly expanding renewable energy sector. Battery storage allows solar power plants to store excess energy generated during the day for use at night or when demand is higher. Storage is key to balancing electricity supply and demand, while also supporting the grid. According to a senior official of Nama Power and Water Procurement Company (PWP), the single procurer of power and water capacity in the Sultanate of Oman, the upcoming 500 MW Ibri III Solar IPP - currently in the early stages of procurement - will include a sizable battery storage option. "The unique thing about the Ibri III PV project is that it will have two options: It will be a solar PV as a standalone and also come with an option of 100 MW of battery storage the first renewable project that will have this option," said Eng Said al Abri, General Manager - Planning and Project Development, PWP. Speaking at the 'Korea-Oman Renewable Energy Business Round-table and KSP (Knowledge Sharing Programme) meeting held here on Thursday, December 12, 2024, Eng Al Abri said a Reguest for Proposals (RfP) for the Ibri III Solar IPP was issued in July

this year. An award is anticipated in Q1 2025, with all 500 MW of capacity scheduled to come online in Q 2027. Total investment in the project is estimated at \$380 - 400 million. In June, PW named nine international bidders as having pre-qualified to compete for the contract to build, own and operate the Ibri III Solar IPP under a 20-year Power

Purchase Agreement (PPA). KPMG is PWP's Financial Advisor for the project, with CMS as Legal Advisor and IF Consulting as Technical Advisor. At the same forum on Thursday, Nama's Eng Al Abri announced plans for the development of a swathe of new Solar IPPs with a capacity aggregating around 4,500 megawatts (MW) and entailing an estimated investment of \$2.8 billion. Notable is 'Solar PV IPPs 2030' with a combined capacity of a 3 gigawatts (GW), and estimated to cost between \$1 billion - \$1.5 billion. Commercial operation is slated during Q1 2030. It will be preceded by Solar PV IPPs 2029 centring on a 1 GW capacity PV project, estimated to cost around \$600 - 800 million and planned to come online in Q1 2029. Sinaw in Al Shargiyah North Governorate is tipped to host a 250 - 300 MW solar PV project worth around \$200 250 million in investment and slated to be operational in Q2 2028. Taken together with parallel plans for the implementation of a raft of Wind IPPs and combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power projects, total investment in Oman's power sector is set to balloon to well over \$5 billion over the next six years through to 2030. These projects will help broadly achieve the nation's goal of securing at least 30 per cent of electricity consumption from renewables.















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 Dashboards
- Comprehensive Reports
- Customizable Email Router
- Unlimited Users
- Unlimited Training



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 and 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.



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

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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







Value Creation CSR activities should generate tangible social and environmental value.

Sustainability & Transparency Our practices uphold key principles of sustainability and transparency.



Ethical Business

We adhere to ethical business practices, enhancing awareness and brand value through publicizing











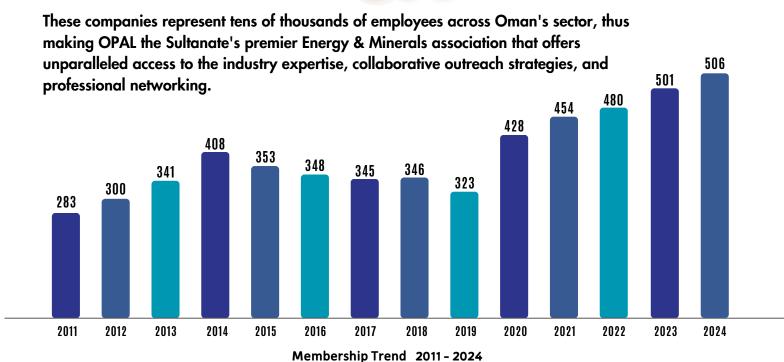








OPAL currently serves over member companies.



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