



Oman Energy Association

# Newsletter

June, 2025

Editor: Anwaar Al Yahyaee | anwaar.Alyahyaee@opaloman.org  
Supervisor: Ismail Al Balushi | ismail.albalushi@opaloman.org



The editorial team reserves the right to adapt the texts to specify the coordinate format and improve the quality of the publication.

## CEO Message



Dear Esteemed OPAL Members,

June marked a pivotal moment not just in the calendar, but in our journey. With half the year behind us, OPAL is moving forward with renewed momentum, delivering real impact through collaboration, innovation, and purpose. This month highlighted the strength of our partnerships and the collective drive to elevate Oman's energy and minerals sector.

### Investing in People. Creating Opportunity.

We began the month with the launch of the Mechanical Technician Program, in collaboration with PDO's Emdad team, Occidental Oman (OXY), and several of our member companies. Funded by the Ministry of Labour and delivered by NTI, this 18-month program equips 27 Omani diploma holders with the training and employment opportunities they deserve. This is not just a program, it's a national investment in talent and future leadership.

### Designing the Future Through Digital Innovation

On June 3, OPAL signed a landmark funding agreement with Mitsui & Co. to support the development of the Occupational Maps Platform. This AI powered initiative will provide clear, accessible career pathways aligned with national occupational standards empowering students, jobseekers, and employers to navigate the future of work with confidence. Developed in partnership with the Energy and Minerals Sector Skills Unit (EMSSU), the platform is a cornerstone of our vision for a future ready workforce.

### Driving a Culture of Safety

Mid-month, OPAL proudly hosted the Oman Road Safety Forum 2025, under the patronage of H.E. Mohsin Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals. The forum brought together over 180 industry leaders, policymakers, and safety experts to explore how leadership, technology, and culture can transform road safety across the sector. Our Road Safety Strategy 2023–2030 and the OPAL Road Safety Standard continue to guide this vital national effort.

### Greening Our Ambition

On June 22, we convened a working session with the Green Alliance Initiative, uniting key partners to reflect on sustainability progress and challenges. Insightful contributions, including case studies from Bauer Nimr's environmental projects, reaffirmed that coordinated, data driven action is essential to delivering on our environmental commitments.

### Elevating Technical Education

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, OPAL successfully oversaw the end of semester examinations for 578 Grade 11 students enrolled in vocational and technical programs across Muscat and North Al Batinah. This milestone reflects our continued investment in nurturing young talent and building a technically skilled, work ready generation.

### Aligning Skills with Sector Needs

We concluded the month with a high impact webinar led by EMSSU, focusing on Oman's Energy and Minerals Skills Development Ecosystem. Participants engaged with key frameworks, including National Occupational Standards, Qualification Profiles, and the Skills Assessment and Certification Framework demonstrating the sector's growing commitment to standards-based workforce development.

### Forward with Purpose

June has shown us what is possible when vision, action, and alignment come together. As we step into the second half of the year, I invite all our members to remain actively engaged, push boundaries, and continue shaping a safer, smarter, and more sustainable energy future for Oman.

With appreciation and resolve,

Eng. Mohammed Al Naabi

Chief Executive Officer

Oman Energy Association (OPAL)





**Sunday, 1 June 2025** - Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with the PDO "Emdad Team," Occidental Petroleum Corporation (OXY) under the "Is'ham" program, Arabian Industries Projects, Al Shawamikh Oil Services SAOC, and Al Ghalbi International Engineering and Contracting, organized the official induction of the Mechanical Technician Program, funded by the Ministry of Labor. The program aims to enhance employment opportunities for 27 Omani job seekers holding diploma degrees in Mechanical Engineering. It will be delivered by the National Training Institute (NTI) over a period of 18 months. Trainees will be directly employed upon successfully completing the program requirements.



**Wednesday, June 11, 2025** - under the patronage of H.E. Mohsin bin Hamad Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with Oman Shell, hosted the Oman Road Safety Forum 2025. Attended by over 180 industry leaders, the forum emphasized the critical role of leadership in road safety, addressed key challenges, and explored cultural transformation and technology-driven improvements. It also reviewed national accident trends, shared best practices, and highlighted progress in implementing OPAL's Road Safety Standard and the Road Safety Strategy (2023-2030).



**Wednesday, June 18, 2025** - Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, successfully conducted the end-of-semester examinations for engineering and industrial specializations under the Vocational and Technical Education for Grade 11. A total of 578 students from various institutes in the Governorates of Muscat and North Al Batinah took part in the examinations. The exams were carefully organized and supervised in coordination with the training institutions implementing the program, ensuring the highest standards of quality and credibility throughout the process.



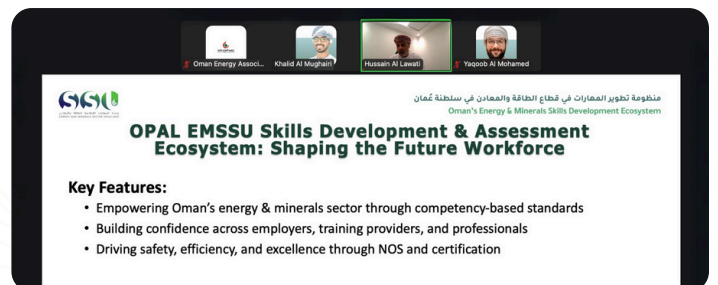
**Tuesday, 3 June 2025** - Oman Energy Association (OPAL) signed a funding agreement with (Mitsui & Co. Ltd) to support the development of the Occupational Maps Platform, a strategic initiative designed to enhance workforce alignment across Oman's energy and minerals sector. This partnership marks a significant milestone in the joint efforts of OPAL and the Energy & Minerals Sector Skills Unit (EMSSU) to empower job seekers, students, and industry stakeholders. The platform will provide clear structured and AI-powered career pathways, built upon national occupational standards.



**Monday, 16th June 2025** - Oman Energy Association (OPAL), along with the RTITB Middle East team, visited the RTITB headquarters in Telford, United Kingdom, as part of the ongoing collaboration aimed at local talent development and skills transfer. This visit served as a platform for aligning strategies and strengthening the partnership between both entities. It also reinforced the shared commitment to bringing world-class training standards to the Sultanate of Oman, with a focus on enhancing the skills of the national workforce.



**Sunday, 22nd June 2025** - Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held a meeting with the Green Alliance Initiative working group to discuss the initiative's progress, challenges, and opportunities. The meeting facilitated collaboration and knowledge exchange, drawing on past experiences and lessons learned from Bauer Nimr's projects.



**Wednesday, 25 June 2025** - Oman Energy Association (OPAL), represented by the Energy & Minerals Sector Skills Unit, hosted a webinar on Oman's Energy & Minerals Skills Development Ecosystem. The webinar covered the role and structure of National Occupational Standards (NOS) in defining job competence, how Qualification Profiles translate industry needs into learning pathways, and the Skills Assessment and Certification Framework used to ensure workforce readiness and industry alignment. The webinar was attended by a large number of industry representatives, reflecting the growing interest in upskilling and national workforce development.



# The Hidden Risks of Leadership: Why Blind Spots Undermine Safety and Resilience



In energy operations, leadership extends far beyond delivering normal business results. It is about safeguarding lives, protecting assets, preserving the license to operate, fulfilling legal obligations, and upholding a strong duty of care to protect people and communities in high-risk environments.

In Oman's energy sector so critical to national prosperity leadership vigilance is non-negotiable. Every day, operations involve hazards such as long distance driving, hazardous substances, working at height, heavy lifting, confined spaces, extreme weather, and remote sites—among many others. While many risks are managed through robust systems, the most dangerous threats often come from what leaders fail to see: their own blind spots.

## How Blind Spots Undermine Resilience

Leadership blind spots are not mechanical failures or process flaws; they are cognitive and cultural vulnerabilities. Senior leaders, distanced from daily operations, may hold assumptions that quietly weaken resilience. Confidence in low incident rates can mask growing exposure. Compliance might be mistaken for true cultural strength. Near misses may be dismissed as minor. Leaders may believe open-door policies guarantee honesty.

Unchecked, these hidden risks can escalate from minor oversights to incidents that take lives, harm communities, disrupt business, erode reputation, breach legal responsibilities, and invite regulatory scrutiny.

As small deviations become routine, the gap between documented systems and real practice quietly widens. Long periods without incidents can mislead leaders into believing everything is safe, even as hidden risks build unnoticed.

## Lessons from Industry Disasters

Disasters like Piper Alpha, Texas City, and Deepwater Horizon demonstrate how early warnings were filtered, rationalized, or ignored. Cognitive biases reinforced existing assumptions, blinding leaders to early warning signs, while steep authority gradients discouraged employees from speaking up. An intense focus on performance targets often diverted leadership attention from critical dialogue and adaptive learning.

## What Effective Safety Leadership Demands

Leadership blind spots can have severe consequences. Near misses may go unreported. Minor deviations normalize. Hidden weaknesses build quietly until exposed by a major event. Perhaps most damaging is the erosion of psychological safety—when employees fear that speaking up will be ignored or punished, critical information remains buried.

Effective safety leadership goes beyond compliance. It requires transparent feedback systems independent safety assessments, regular site visits, and candid dialogue with frontline teams. Leaders must continually ask: What am I not hearing? Where could our confidence in existing systems blind us to emerging threats?

In Oman's energy sector, where high-risk operations directly impact workforce well-being and organizational morale, such leadership behaviors are even more critical. Establishing psychological safety is essential. When employees trust that raising concerns will lead to constructive action, weak signals surface sooner, enabling timely intervention. Leaders must consistently show that transparency matters and that difficult truths will be addressed without blame demonstrating a genuine commitment to duty of care and protecting every individual.

## Building a Resilient Culture

Beyond lagging indicators like injury rates, true safety leadership concentrates on leading signals such as procedural compliance, proactive safety observations, near-miss and hazard reporting, timely closure of corrective actions, and genuine workforce involvement in identifying risks and driving continuous improvement, among other vital signs that reveal the strength of a safety culture. Competence and effective training ensure people have the skills and judgment to work safely.

Equally important is sensing subtle cultural shifts changes in attitudes or decision-making that hint at emerging risks. Through regular site engagements, independent audits, and open dialogue, leaders gain a clear view of frontline realities and surface hidden risks before they escalate strengthening resilience across the organization.

## The Lasting Responsibility

Safety leadership is not about short-term metrics. Leaders are accountable for the cultures they create, tolerate, or fail to challenge. It demands disciplined self-reflection, unwavering vigilance, and the courage to confront uncomfortable truths—even when everything appears stable.

Exceptional leaders welcome scrutiny. They embrace independent audits, diverse perspectives, and direct engagement to uncover vulnerabilities before they become systemic. Industry tragedies remind us that safety leadership is never complete—it is a continual, uncompromising duty.

Ultimately, employees experience leadership as it is lived, not as intended. In that gap, hidden risks quietly grow. What leaders fail to see today may spark tomorrow's crisis—or undermine future opportunities. True leadership is ultimately measured by resilient cultures where safety is lived daily, trust runs deep, and every individual owns the mission to safeguard lives, assets, and long-term integrity.

This is the true test of leadership: to act before hidden risks demand a cost no one is willing to pay.

**By Humaid Al Bulushi**

**GM HSE & Standardization  
OPAL**

## be'ah, OQ sign deal for biogas project



Oman Environmental Services Holding Company (be'ah) and OQ Trading have signed a cooperation agreement to develop a national project focused on producing biogas (biomethane) and bio-carbon dioxide by processing organic waste from landfills and future biofacilities managed by be'ah.

This collaboration aims to turn environmental challenges into promising economic opportunities by utilising approximately 20mn cubic metres of biogas extracted from these sites – comprising around 40% biomethane (a renewable fuel) and 60% bio-CO<sub>2</sub> for sustainable industrial applications. The agreement sets out a roadmap for conducting technical and economic feasibility studies, infrastructure assessments, and exploring commercial marketing opportunities for the project's outputs. It also aims to create attractive local investment prospects aligned with the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

Both companies highlighted that this partnership represents an integrated national collaboration between the energy and environmental sectors. It combines be'ah's expertise in waste and resource management with OQ Trading's global energy capabilities to reinforce Oman's position as a regional hub for clean energy.

Eng Tariq Ali al Amri, CEO of be'ah, stated that the project marks a new milestone in energy recovery from organic waste through sustainable methods – converting environmental challenges into developmental and economic opportunities. He noted that biogas and bio-CO<sub>2</sub> production would reduce emissions, support Oman's net-zero goals, enhance waste management efficiency, and provide alternative energy sources.

Said Talib al Maawali, Executive Director for the Middle East at OQ Trading, described the project as an attractive opportunity to diversify Oman's energy mix in line with the 2050 carbon neutrality targets and global trends towards sustainable, low-carbon energy solutions. He regarded the initiative as a strategic nucleus that will stimulate further investment in waste-to-energy initiatives and strengthen clean energy value chains.

**Reference: Muscat Daily**

## Mining concession awarded for RO 200m sea salt production project



The Ministry of Energy and Minerals signed a mining concession agreement with Integrated Global Engineering Company to develop natural salt production in Concession Area I-51, located in Al Wusta Governorate. The concession covers a total area of 15 square kilometres. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman by Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, while Shaikh Ali bin Salim Al Junaibi, Chairman of Integrated Global Engineering Company, signed on behalf of the company.

The agreement aims to expand the production capacity of the existing salt plant and establish additional facilities to increase the annual output of natural salt to 1.2 million tonnes. The salt will be extracted through the construction of seawater storage ponds, followed by natural evaporation using wind and solar heat. The salt will then be dried, refined, and packaged. The estimated investment value of the project is RO 200 million. Al Aufi emphasised that the project represents a strategic step forward in advancing economic diversification in the Sultanate. He noted that the project is expected to create significant employment opportunities for Omani citizens. The primary objective is to boost the production of natural salt and develop its industrial derivatives for use in various projects aligned with sustainable development goals. The Minister also highlighted that this is the third sea salt production project signed in Oman, as part of the Ministry's broader strategy to promote local industries, maximise the utilisation of natural resources, and reduce dependence on imported products.

Shaikh Ali bin Salim Al Junaibi, Chairman of Integrated Global Engineering Company, stated that obtaining Concession Area I-51 in Al Wusta will help realise the company's vision of increasing production capacity to one million tonnes annually. He added that the project is expected to meet domestic market demand, as well as the needs of downstream industries currently under development, in line with the economic goals of Oman Vision 2040. The company also plans to produce multiple salt derivatives required by both local and global markets, particularly for the food processing, animal feed, and pharmaceutical industries.

Shaikh Al Junaibi further affirmed that the agreement reinforces the government's strategy to localise industries, make full use of natural resources, and reduce reliance on imports—contributing to the enhancement of the national economy and generating a range of job opportunities for Omani talent, including part-time work for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).





# CYBER SECURITY



## Program contents

- Essential Security Principles
- Basic Network Security Concepts
- Endpoint Security Concepts
- Vulnerability Assessment and Risk Management
- Incident Handling

## Program objectives

- Raise awareness throughout community
- Protect yourself and your organization
- THINK... before you click
- Don't get hooked by phishers

**Course Duration: 30 Hrs.**

**TDI certificate / Approved by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research & Innovation (MOHERI)**

**ITS - Certiport International Certificate / An International awarding body for IT certifications**

## Approved Center for IT Specialist Certifications

Cybersecurity

Networking

Artificial Intelligence

Network Security

Computational Thinking

JavaScript

Databases

Java

Device Configuration and Management

Python

HTML and CSS

Software Development

HTML5 Application Development

Cloud computing



**Training & Development Institute (TDI)**

for course details and fees inquiry :

**GSM: +968 9633 7353 | Tel: +968 24 53 7041/45 | [tditr@omantel.net.om](mailto:tditr@omantel.net.om)**





## Oman's labour force tops 1.8 million in Q1



Oman's labour market remained broadly stable in the first quarter of 2025, with the total number of workers reaching 1,808,451, reflecting a marginal increase of 0.2 per cent compared to the same period in 2024, according to the latest data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The report highlights the critical role of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in sustaining employment. Micro-enterprises, which typically employ fewer than five workers, accounted for the largest share of employment at 37.5 per cent (677,860 workers). Small enterprises followed with 29.7 per cent (537,079 workers), while large enterprises accounted for 24.3 per cent (438,212 workers), and medium-sized enterprises employed 8.5 per cent (153,094 workers).

By economic sector, the private sector continued to lead in employment with 1,409,215 workers, although this marked a slight 0.9 per cent decrease from the previous year. The family sector which includes domestic and informal workers grew by 4.7 per cent to reach 349,517 employees, while the public sector recorded a modest decline of 0.6 per cent, employing 41,815 workers.

Expatriate workers continued to make up a significant portion of the workforce, led by nationals from Bangladesh (622,078; down 9.1 per cent), India (507,956; broadly stable), and Pakistan (314,997; up 8.8 per cent). These three nationalities alone represent over 80 per cent of the expatriate labour force in Oman.

Meanwhile, the job seekers' rate stood at 4.0 per cent in May 2025. The highest levels of unemployment were observed among young people aged 15 to 24 years, as well as among those holding higher diplomas and bachelor's degrees, indicating a persistent mismatch between education outcomes and labour market needs.

These latest labour market figures come as Oman intensifies efforts to align workforce development with its economic diversification goals under Oman Vision 2040. Recent policy directions have focused on improving private sector participation, enhancing vocational and digital skills, and supporting small business development to boost job creation.

**Reference: Oman Observer**

## 'LNG from Oman': Unified brand for Oman's LNG



With two more LNG projects currently under development and construction, the Sultanate is seeking to leverage this significant expansion of its LNG industry to build a new brand around the global sales of LNG from Oman.

Stylised as LNG from Oman, this brand will encompass exports from Oman LNG's three-train complex at Qalhat, future production from the under-construction Marsa LNG bunkering project at Sohar Port, and the proposed fourth LNG train project, dubbed Sur LNG, which is currently under deliberation.

According to Hamed Al Naamany, CEO of Oman LNG, the branding initiative aims to capitalise on the strong foundations of trust, reliability, and flexibility that have characterised Oman's LNG exports over the past two decades.

"We're delivering 'LNG from Oman' because that is the brand the global market recognises and trusts," Al Naamany said. "This includes Sur LNG, our planned fourth train, and Marsa LNG in Sohar, a dedicated bunkering facility being built in partnership with TotalEnergies and our sister company OQ. Oman's market positioning is not about who operates the plant but the reliability and flexibility of the product from the country," he added in an interview with The Energy Year (formerly The Oil & Gas Year). Elaborating on this point, Al Naamany described LNG from Oman as a brand offering a differentiated value proposition. He explained: "We work closely with different types of buyers—whether in Europe, Asia, or among portfolio players—to tailor commercial flexibility to their needs and ours. We are known as one of the most agile producers globally. We listen to our customers while meeting the expectations of our government. That dual responsiveness resulted in the successful signing of long-term agreements in record time."

Majority government-owned Oman LNG will play a pivotal role in this new brand positioning, the CEO noted. To this end, the company plans to build on its recent debottlenecking efforts, which enabled it to produce a record 12 million tonnes of LNG in 2024, surpassing its nameplate capacity of 11.4 million tonnes.

This additional capacity, he added, has enhanced the company's ability to respond to spot-market demand and seasonal fluctuations. He further noted that nearly 85% of Oman LNG's volumes are now secured through term contracts ranging from three to ten years, offering a balance of stability and flexibility.

Marsa LNG, meanwhile, will serve as a differentiator, said Al Naamany. "Marsa is the world's first purpose-built LNG bunkering facility. The location is fantastic, and we're all for it. Global shipping is shifting to LNG-fuelled vessels, and Oman sits on a key trade route. The government's decision to develop Marsa sends a powerful message: Oman will participate in every LNG market segment—power, transport, bunkering as part of its growth and diversification agenda.

Also integral to the new branding is the Sur LNG project—a fourth train with a planned capacity of 3.8 million tonnes per annum, slated for launch by 2029, subject to a Final Investment Decision (FID).

"Sur LNG aims to be ready this year with a full proposal," said Al Naamany. "The final decision will rest with the government and the partners. The market clearly wants the product, and with a compelling value proposition, we could see delivery in less than four years from approval."



## Madayn attracts RO164mn in food sector investments



Total investment in the food sector within Oman's industrial cities under the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) has now exceeded RO164mn, marking a major milestone in supporting national food security and economic diversification.

Madayn currently hosts 98 food industry projects across its various industrial cities, occupying over 1.5mn square metres and providing employment for more than 3,600 workers. This achievement reflects Madayn's ongoing efforts, in cooperation with relevant bodies – chiefly the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources – to enhance local and foreign investment opportunities and attract high-quality projects that align with the sultanate's food security goals under Oman Vision 2040.

In a press statement, Khalid al Salehi, Director General of Marketing and Commercial Affairs at Madayn, said that 13 new food industry projects had been successfully localised during 2025, attracting investments exceeding RO14mn. These projects will cover more than 224,000 square metres and involve activities such as the production of vegetable oils, flour, tuna, bottled water, food packaging, and logistics services.

Salehi added that further efforts are under way to localise additional projects in this sector throughout 2025, with several contracts currently under review.

As part of its strategic focus on the food industry, Madayn continues to allocate dedicated plots within its industrial cities. Moreover, agricultural zones have been designated in Madayn's new industrial cities in Al Mudhaibi, Thumrait, and Al Suwaiq to support integrated agri-industrial development.

Among Madayn's key initiatives to support the sector is the Madayn Agriculture project, launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources. The initiative aims to establish greenhouses in selected industrial cities to promote local food production, foster entrepreneurship, enhance food security, and improve the trade balance by boosting exports and reducing imports.

In a step towards international collaboration, Madayn has also signed a memorandum of understanding with a South Korean company to develop a specialised food industry project in the Sultanate. The project will focus on establishing smart farms for cultivating Korean fruits, alongside launching a café centred around produce from the farms.

Salehi emphasised that Madayn has recently intensified its promotional efforts to attract investment in the food sector, both domestically and internationally, through targeted marketing campaigns and participation in specialised exhibitions.

The food industries sector is considered one of the key pillars of Oman's industrial base. It plays a vital role in the national food security system, complements other production chains, and is crucial for achieving economic diversification in line with Oman Vision 2040.

Reference: Muscat Daily

## Oman and EU target energy synergies through innovation and storage



The Sultanate of Oman and the European Union (EU) are exploring deeper collaboration to accelerate the energy transition through innovative technologies, smarter infrastructure, and long-duration storage systems.

This was the key message that emerged from a session of the EU-Oman Energy & Water Collaboration Forum, held recently in Muscat under the theme "How Can Oman and the EU Work Together to Optimise the Energy Mix?" The high-level panel brought together energy experts from Oman and Europe to explore how partnerships can help optimise energy resources, enhance grid resilience, and support Oman's ambitious sustainability targets.

Moderator Said al Kamyani, a Sustainability Specialist, set the tone by highlighting the urgency of building diversified and secure energy systems. He guided the discussion across a range of topics, including regulatory frameworks, advanced technologies, and the growing role of energy storage in stabilising renewables.

Thuraiya al Wahaibi, Senior Product Engineer at Nama Power and Water Procurement (Nama PWP), shared Oman's clean energy targets: 30% renewables by 2030 and 60% by 2040, alongside net-zero emissions by 2050. She outlined Nama PWP's roadmap, which includes more than eight upcoming solar and wind projects, as well as ongoing studies into pumped hydro and geothermal energy.

"Oman's regulatory environment and public-private partnership model are strong foundations," she said. "But scaling up will require stronger collaboration on technologies like smart grids, storage, and system integration."

Dr. Yves-Laurent Beck, Hydropower Project Manager at French utility EDF, emphasised the suitability of pumped hydro energy storage for Oman's mountainous terrain. Citing EDF's global expertise and its work on the Hatta Pumped Storage Plant in the UAE, he advocated for long-term collaboration and capacity-building in Oman.

"Pumped hydro with variable-speed turbines can offer flexibility and grid stability, particularly as renewable energy sources become dominant," Dr. Beck noted.

Storage solutions were further explored by **Paul Smith**, Senior Vice President of Global Sales at Energy Dome. He introduced the company's CO<sub>2</sub> Battery an innovative long-duration storage solution with a 30-year lifespan that uses carbon dioxide in a closed cycle.

"Our technology is a cost-effective answer to grid intermittency and is fully compatible with green hydrogen production," Smith explained. "Oman's ambition to lead in hydrogen makes it an ideal partner for such solutions."

Henrico van den Boomen, CEO of Eigenenergie.net, stressed the importance of modernising grid infrastructure alongside the rollout of renewables. Drawing from the Dutch experience, he cautioned against underestimating the complexity of grid adaptation.

"Europe faced delays due to slow planning on local balancing and smart systems," he said. "Oman has the advantage of foresight—now is the time to invest in decentralised systems and advanced energy management."

Khalfan Naser Said al Burtamani, Chief Commercial Officer at Nama Electricity Distribution, shared Oman's progress in digital infrastructure. He pointed to the deployment of smart meters—now covering 77% of the system—and the SABIQ prepayment platform.

"Advanced Metering Infrastructure is a game-changer," he said. "But we also need policies that keep pace with innovation, especially as grid pressure, cybersecurity, and resilience become more complex."

The session closed with a consensus on the need for flexible, forward-looking regulatory frameworks and coordinated stakeholder engagement. Panellists agreed that technologies like CO<sub>2</sub> batteries and pumped hydro are essential to support the stability and scalability of Oman's renewable energy and hydrogen ambitions.

## Oman sees sharp rise in premium fuel exports



Refinery production in the Sultanate of Oman recorded a marginal decline of 0.1% by the end of April 2025, according to preliminary data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). Despite this minor decrease, the country witnessed a substantial surge in exports of premium-grade motor fuel and several key petrochemical products.

Production of regular petrol (M91) increased by 9.8%, reaching approximately 5.78 million barrels, compared to 5.26 million barrels during the same period in 2024. Domestic sales of regular petrol also rose by 2.5% to 4.56 million barrels. On the other hand, premium petrol (M95) production saw a slight decline of 0.3%, totaling 4.11 million barrels. However, its domestic sales increased by 1.7%, reaching 4.23 million barrels.

Gas oil (diesel) production recorded a small decrease of 0.7%, falling to 10.33 million barrels. Nonetheless, domestic diesel consumption rose by 4.9%, reaching 4.67 million barrels. Jet fuel production was down by 8.1%, amounting to 3.38 million barrels, with sales also declining by 8.7% to 1.25 million barrels.

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) production declined by 6.7% to 2.36 million barrels, compared to 2.53 million barrels during the same period last year. In contrast, LPG sales grew by 20.2%, reaching 1.30 million barrels. This rise in consumption suggests a strengthening domestic demand for gas-based fuels.

In terms of petrochemicals, production of gasoline derivatives rose by 8.7% to 59,500 metric tonnes, while paraxylene output increased by 10.5% to 196,700 metric tonnes. Polypropylene production, however, decreased by 6.9%, totaling 112,400 metric tonnes. Despite this decline, polypropylene exports witnessed a dramatic increase of 461.9%, reaching 10,800 metric tonnes, up from just 1,900 metric tonnes in the previous year.

Oman's exports of regular petrol (M91) increased by 4.7% to reach 1.04 million barrels, while exports of premium petrol (M95) surged by 66.3%, totaling 690,700 barrels compared to 415,400 barrels in April 2024. Conversely, diesel exports fell sharply by 23.4%, dropping to 4.56 million barrels from 5.96 million barrels a year earlier. Jet fuel exports also declined by 7%, reaching 2.05 million barrels, while LPG exports plummeted by 69.8% to just 53,500 barrels.

Petrochemical exports showed a mixed performance. Gasoline exports increased by 3.6% to 58,200 metric tonnes. Paraxylene exports surged by 29.2% to 228,100 metric tonnes, while polypropylene exports rose by 3.8% to 79,200 metric tonnes.

Overall, while Oman's total refinery output experienced a minor decline, the significant growth in premium petrol exports and petrochemical sales highlights the continued strength of the country's downstream sector in international markets.



## OQGN awards RO 105m gas pipeline contract

OQ Gas Networks SAOG (OQGN), the owner and operator of Oman's gas transportation system, has announced the award of a contract worth RO 105 million for the implementation of the Second Loop Line Fahud–Suhar project a key initiative aimed at boosting the country's gas supply network.

In a filing to the Omani bourse on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, OQGN—part of the OQ Group stated that the contract, covering the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) of the 193-kilometer, 42-inch pipeline, was awarded to Petroleum Projects Company Petrojet and Partners LLC.

As part of the project execution strategy, a related contract for the supply of 193 kilometers of line pipe was awarded to Jindal Saw Limited. The planned execution period for the project is 24 months.




"The project aligns with the company's growth strategy and vision of leading in energy infrastructure," OQGN added.

Reference: Oman Observer



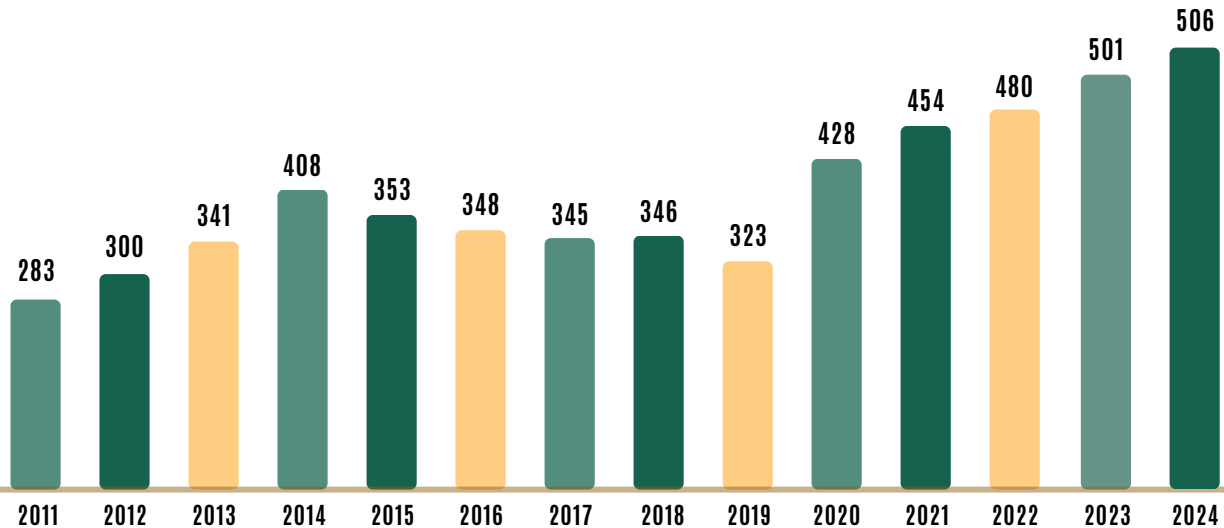


# OPAL 2025 Events Calendar

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
 2024 Best Practices Award (15 Jan)	EMSSU SMEs Appreciation Ceremony (5th Feb)	Annual General Meeting Online (27th Mar)	Worker Welfare & Mental Wellbeing Forum (22nd April)	 Oman Sustainability Week (11-15th May)	Road Safety Forum (June 11th)
Senior Leaders Safety Forum 15th Edition (23rd Jan)			Summer Heat Stress Management (30th Apr online)	 OPAL (12-14th May)	Oman's Energy & Minerals Skills Development Ecosystem Webinar (25th June)
			Quarterly Senior Leaders Safety Forums (24th April)	Global HSE Forum Bahrain (19-22nd May)	
				INTI& OPAL Tech Day (25th May)	
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
		Quarterly Senior Leaders Safety Forums (TBC)	Digitalization & AI Forum (1st Oct)	BP Ruwad Graduation Ceremony (TBC)	Green Hydrogen Summit Oman (1-3rd Dec)
		TFE Graduation Ceremony (TBC)	Oman Road Safety & Accident Prevention Summit (15th - 18th Oct)	Learning from Incidents & Best Practices DROPS (5th Nov)	Quarterly Senior Leaders Safety Forums (TBC)
		Learning from Incidents & Best Practices Forum (17th Sep)			2nd Mining Safety Leadership Forum (3rd Dec)
					100 Year Event

OPAL currently serves over **500** member companies.

Comprising tens of thousands of dedicated professionals, these companies form the backbone of Oman's energy and minerals sector. As a member of OPAL, the Sultanate of Oman's premier energy and minerals society, they gain access to a wealth of industry expertise, collaborative outreach strategies, and invaluable professional networks. OPAL's modest membership fees support impactful annual programs that directly benefit member companies and foster a thriving energy and minerals industry in Oman. Additionally, a diverse range of companies providing vital services that support the industry's growth and innovation contribute to OPAL's vibrant membership community.



OPAL Membership Trend 2011 - 2024

**Advertise**  
Your Products & Services

## 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 ([opal@opaloman.org](mailto:opal@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 ([opal@opaloman.org](mailto:opal@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.

Send Your Emailer Requests to ([opal@opaloman.org](mailto:opal@opaloman.org))

## Social Media

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

OPALOMAN opalsocietyoman opal\_oman





الجمعية العمانية للطاقة  
Oman Energy Association