



Oman Energy Association

# Newsletter

July, 2025

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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,

July was a month of wide-reaching engagement, new milestones, from training program inductions to international cooperation, OPAL continued to drive initiatives that shape a more resilient and future-ready energy and minerals sector.

### Expanding Technical and Safety Training Opportunities

On July 1, OPAL proudly launched two new training programs in collaboration with our partners. The HSE Apprenticeship Program, supported by PDO's Emdad initiative and Arabian Industries Projects, will equip 20 Omani engineering graduates with critical HSE knowledge through 18 months of training delivered by NTI. On the same day, we also marked the induction of technician programs in Mechanical, Electrical Engineering, and HSE, funded by KBR. These programs support 20 diploma graduates and reflect our joint efforts to bridge skills gaps and create sustainable employment pathways.

### Strengthening HSE Culture through Forums and Campaigns

In partnership with Nama Water Services, OPAL hosted a Contracts HSE Management Forum, highlighting the role of contract holders in driving safety performance across subcontractors and SMEs. We also collaborated with Oman Oil Marketing Company in a road safety campaign for fuel tanker drivers, held at OQ Raysut Terminal, to reinforce the application of OPAL's Road Safety Standard. Later in the month, we joined PDO in the Darb Al Salama campaign in Ad Dakhiliyah Governorate, focusing on traveler safety during the Khareef season in coordination with the Royal Oman Police.

### Championing Training Quality and Workforce Standards

Throughout July, we deepened our commitment to training quality and professional licensing. We convened a meeting with the OPAL STAR Committee to align on standards for training centers and program effectiveness. OPAL also organized the fifth session of the CPD workshop series for Defensive Driving Instructors, reinforcing the importance of high assessment standards for heavy vehicle licensing.

### Fostering Strategic Dialogue and Regional Cooperation

On July 13, OPAL participated as a supporting partner in the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Development Conference under the patronage of H.H. Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said. During the event, I had the honor of joining a panel discussion focused on integrating the roles of government, training institutions, and professional associations. On July 23, OPAL welcomed a high-level delegation from Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development. The visit offered an opportunity to exchange insights on workforce skills development and showcase our experience managing the Sector Skills Unit.

### Enhancing Worker Welfare and Medical Fitness Standards

We continued our efforts to elevate workforce wellbeing by holding a meeting on July 24 with medical service providers to review the implementation of the Fitness to Work standard. The meeting emphasized the importance of pre-employment medical examinations in ensuring a safe and capable workforce. Additionally, on July 28, OPAL partnered with Badr Al Samaa Royal Hospital to conduct a Health Awareness Campaign that offered free medical consultations and wellness checks to OPAL employees and partners.

### Driving Governance and Strategic Oversight

We concluded the month with OPAL's second Board of Directors meeting for the year on July 31. The Board reviewed achievements from the first half of 2025, assessed upcoming initiatives, and provided guidance to help steer the Association's continued contributions to the sector.

### Looking Ahead

This month's achievements reflect the strength of our partnerships and the collective determination to elevate standards across training, safety, and workforce wellbeing. As we enter the latter half of the year, I thank all our members for their steadfast collaboration and look forward to building on this momentum together.

Warm regards,  
**Eng. Mohammed Al Naabi**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Oman Energy Association (OPAL)





**Tuesday, 1 July 2025**, Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with PDO under the "Emdad" program and Arabian Industry Projects, organized the official induction of "HSE Apprenticeship program", Funded by Ministry of Labor. The program aims to enhance employment opportunities for 20 Omani job seekers with bachelor's degrees in engineering. The program will be delivered by National Training Institute (NTI) for period of 18 Months. The trainees will be employed directly after successfully completing the requirement of the program.



**Tuesday, 1 July 2025**, Oman Energy Association OPAL, in collaboration with KBR, organized the official induction of technicians programs in Mechanical, Electrical Engineering, and HSE. The programs are funded by KBR and aim to support 20 diploma graduates. The program will be delivered by the National Training Institute over a period of 18 months, aiming to equip trainees with technical skills and support their qualification to join the labor market efficiently.



**Tuesday, 1 July 2025**, Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with Nama Water Services (NWS), organized a Contracts HSE Management Forum with the NWS Contracts Management Team and senior managers. The forum included a panel on challenges in contract and contractor HSE management, with a focus on subcontractors and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). It underscored the vital role of Contract Holders in driving HSE performance, strengthening safety culture, and achieving HSE Goal Zero. Thanks to NWS leadership for their strong commitment to HSE excellence across all levels of their operations.



**Wednesday, 2 July 2025**, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held a meeting with the OPAL STAR Committee members, marking a significant step towards strengthening the quality of training across the sector. The meeting brought together experts and specialists for in-depth discussions focused on establishing strong standards for training centres and enhancing the effectiveness of training programs. This initiative highlights OPAL's commitment to developing skills, improving workforce efficiency, and ensuring that training initiatives align with the evolving requirements of the energy sector.



**Sunday, 13 July 2025**, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) participated as a supporting partner in the 11th Annual Human Development Conference, held under the patronage of H.H Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said. The conference aimed to highlight best practices in the field of human resource development and to strengthen partnerships among stakeholders involved in training and qualification, in alignment with the aspirations of Oman Vision 2040. Eng. Mohammed Al-Naabi, CEO of OPAL, took part in a session titled "Integration of Roles Between Government Entities, Training Institutions, and Professional Associations", where he emphasized the importance of joint collaboration to enhance the effectiveness of national training efforts and to build a qualified workforce capable of meeting the demands of the Omani labor market.



**Wednesday, 9 July 2025**, Oman Energy Association (OPAL) in collaboration with Oman Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO) participated in the road safety campaign for fuel tanker drivers. The campaign was held at the OQ Raysut Terminal and aimed to provide a clear guidelines and practical resources to help assess the roadworthiness of vehicles. As part of the campaign, OPAL organized spot checkpoints for fuel tanker drivers to ensure compliance with the OPAL Road Safety Standard, which is designed to create a safe and accident-free environment and to reinforce the importance of regular vehicle inspections across the energy and minerals sector.





**Monday, 21 July 2025,** Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized the fifth session of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) workshop series for Defensive Driving Instructors under the Heavy Vehicle License Driver Assessment Program. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with RTITB and hosted by Safety Cooperation Services (SCS). It focused on enhancing the competencies of OPAL-certified defensive driving instructors, with particular emphasis on developing assessment skills for heavy vehicle licensing. The CPD workshop series aims to build knowledge and practical skills by providing clear guidance on OPAL's updated Defensive Driving Program, with a focus on strategic and operational improvements in training methodologies. This initiative is part of OPAL's ongoing efforts to promote a culture of excellence in defensive driving and to support the growth and development of the sector.



**Thursday, 24 July 2025,** Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held a meeting with medical service institutions to review the implementation mechanism of the unified Fitness To Work (FTW) standard in the energy sector. The pre-employment medical examination is a critical measure to ensure the health and safety of employees and the workplace. It aims to verify that individuals are medically fit to carry out their job responsibilities, identify any health conditions that could impact their performance or pose risks, and safeguard colleagues from potential health hazards. This program represents a strategic step toward standardizing medical examination procedures, enhancing workforce safety, and ensuring sustained performance in critical operational environments across the energy sector.



**Wednesday, 30 July 2025,** Oman Energy Association (OPAL) participated in the "Darb Al Salama" campaign organized by Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) in the Awfiyah area of Ad Dakhiliyah Governorate. The campaign aimed to raise awareness of road safety for travelers heading to Dhofar during the Khareef season. OPAL's role focused on educating travelers about the importance of adhering to road safety guidelines and conducting regular vehicle inspections, in collaboration with the Royal Oman Police (ROP). This participation reflects OPAL's ongoing commitment to promoting a culture of road safety and reinforcing the values of social responsibility within the community.



**Wednesday, 23 July 2025,** The Oman Energy Association (OPAL) was honored to host the delegation from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, chaired by H.E. Dr. Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Zahrani, Deputy Minister for Labor Affairs at Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, as part of a GCC cooperation initiative on workforce skills development. The delegation included Dr. Khalid Al-Shahrani, Mr. Mohammed Al-Harthy, Mr. Badr Al-Tuwaili, and Mr. Abdullah Al-Sudaib. During the meeting, OPAL presented its experience in managing the Sector Skills Unit for the energy and minerals sectors, covering the unit's organizational structure, the services it provides to address skills gaps, and its mechanisms for forecasting sector labour market needs. The Association also showcased its approach to aligning education and training programs with the unit's outputs, as well as the professional licensing framework derived from the National Occupational Standards.



**Monday, 28 July 2025,** As part of OPAL's ongoing commitment to promoting employee wellness and the early detection of potential health issues, Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with Badr Al Samaa Royal Hospital, conducted a Health Awareness Campaign offering health services such as: Internal Medicine Doctor Consultation, Random Blood Sugar Test, Blood Pressure Measurement, Body Mass Index (BMI) Assessment, Dental Consultation, Gynecology Consultation, and Dietitian Consultation.



**Thursday, July 31, 2025,** the Board of Directors of Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held its third meeting of the year. The Board reviewed the Association's key achievements during the first and second quarters of 2025. Additionally, the Board assessed the full-year financial forecast, new initiative proposals, and market challenges as part of OPAL's continued efforts to enhance efficiency and achieve its strategic goals in serving the energy and minerals sector.





Oman Energy Association (OPAL) extends its sincere congratulations to the first batch of students in the Engineering and Industrial specializations under the Vocational and Technical Education track, on successfully completing Grade 11 for the academic year 2024-2025!

This academic year has been marked by dedication, perseverance, and discipline, and we are proud of the outstanding achievements accomplished by these students. We wish them continued success and look forward to their progression into Grade 12 in the upcoming academic year 2025-2026.



# How to Master Event Planning from Concept to Closure

At OPAL, events play a vital role in how we communicate with our members. They are more than just gatherings, they are opportunities to connect, exchange best practices, and spotlight key topics that matter to the industry. Whether it's championing Worker Welfare or celebrating sector achievements, we believe events are a powerful platform to spark dialogue and drive progress.

However, those of us who manage the logistics behind the scenes know that planning a successful event is no small feat. That's why OPAL adopts a structured approach based on four core stages of event planning: Conceptualization, Planning, Execution, and Closure. This framework serves as a practical roadmap, ensuring that each event is purposeful, well-organized, and impactful.

Behind every successful event is thoughtful preparation, strategic coordination, and a clear understanding of objectives. The OPAL Pre-Events Planning Sheet was designed to guide teams through each step of the process and build confidence in execution.

In this article, we'll take a closer look at each of these four stages and explore how following them can lead to consistently successful events.

## Stage 1: Conceptualization – Laying the Groundwork

Every successful event starts with a clear idea. In this first stage, you figure out why you're holding the event, who it's for, and what you want to achieve. It's also the time to come up with a theme, choose a format, think about the budget, and identify who needs to be involved. This is the foundation that gives your event direction and meaning.

## Stage 2: Planning – Making the Idea Happen

Once your idea is clear, it's time to get organized. In this stage, you book the venue, confirm the date, get any necessary permits, and work with suppliers or vendors. You'll also plan all the logistics (things like transport, accommodation, and event materials) and make sure your team or volunteers are ready and trained. It's where your idea starts taking shape.

## Stage 3: Execution – Bringing Everything to Life

This is when the actual event takes place. All the planning now comes together: setting up the venue, checking people in, coordinating with vendors, and making sure everything runs smoothly. It's a busy, high-energy time where you stay alert, solve

problems on the spot, and interact with attendees. It's also a good time to collect feedback from participants.

## Stage 4: Closure – Wrapping It All Up

Even after the event ends, there's still work to do. This stage is all about gathering feedback, thanking guests and sponsors, and settling any payments. You'll review how the event went with your teams, reflect on what worked well, and what could be done better next time. Keeping records and lessons learned will make your next event even easier to manage, especially when it comes to annual events!

## Final Thoughts

Event planning can often feel overwhelming, but keeping these four core stages in mind can help bring clarity and structure to the process. Whether you're organizing a corporate function or a personal gathering, these steps serve as a helpful guide to ensure nothing important is overlooked. By following this framework, you can reduce stress and focus on creating a successful, well-executed event.

**Below are four key questions to bear in mind before starting your event planning process:**

- **Conceptualization:** What is the main goal of this event, and who is it for?
- **Planning:** What are the key logistics I need to confirm early (venue, date, vendors)?
- **Execution:** Who is responsible for managing on-the-day tasks and solving issues in real time?
- **Closure:** How will I collect feedback and document lessons learned for the next event?

**Written By Sama Al Zadjali**

Events & Media Specialist at OPAL

## Pre-Event Planning Sheet Stages of Event



### Conceptualization

- Define event goals and objectives
- Identify target audience
- Conduct initial feasibility study
- Brainstorm event theme and format
- Develop preliminary budget
- Identify key stakeholders



### Planning

- Create detailed event plan and timeline
- Secure venue and date (C&P)
- Arrange for necessary permits
- Coordinate with vendors and suppliers
- Plan logistics (transportation, accommodation, etc.)
- Recruit and train staff/volunteers



### Execution

- Venue setup & equipment needed
- Event registration and check-in
- Ensure vendors & suppliers co-ordination
- Oversee all activities, everything is smooth
- Handle any issues or emergencies that arise
- Engage with attendees and gather feedback



### Closure

- Post-event evaluation and gather feedback
- Finalize financials
- Send thank-you notes to attendees, sponsors
- Compile and analyze event data
- Prepare a final report and document lessons learned
- Archive event materials and records





## The 11th Edition of the OPAL Award for Best Practices 2025

# Open For Submissions!



Submit Your  
Application Now:

**CLICK HERE**



<https://www.opal-award-for-best-practice.com>

**Deadline: 1st September 2025**



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Oman Energy Association

[www.opaloman.om](http://www.opaloman.om)



# PDO's contribution climbs to \$22.5 billion in 2024



Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), the largest producer of oil and gas in the Sultanate of Oman, generated approximately \$22.5 billion in revenue for the government in 2024, up from around \$22 billion the previous year.

Fueling this increase was a significant rise in crude oil production, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals noted in its newly published 2024 Annual Report.

"In 2024, PDO recorded its highest oil production in 20 years, exceeding its target and reinforcing its role as a key contributor to the nation's energy supply," the Ministry stated in the report. "Gas output remained stable, in line with customer demand, while the company continued to serve as the country's swing producer for gas — requiring it to operate in a highly dynamic mode. The combined daily production of oil, condensate, and non-associated gas remained strong throughout the year."

It further added: "In a fast-changing energy landscape, the company stayed the course by significantly boosting its contribution to the nation's revenue — amounting to approximately \$22.5 billion."

While corresponding production figures for 2024 were not immediately disclosed, PDO's crude oil production averaged 657,599 barrels per day (bpd) in 2023. Condensate output averaged 97,426 bpd, while gas production stood at 58.26 million m<sup>3</sup>/day, reflecting lower customer demand.

According to the report, PDO is focused on sustaining the momentum of its 2024 production performance. "The Exploration Directorate also delivered another strong year, with several important oil and gas discoveries made across various geological formations in both the northern and southern parts of the concession," it stated.

Enhancing cost competitiveness has been identified as a strategic priority, with a strong commitment to optimizing Unit Operating Cost (UOC), PDO

noted. To this end, a range of initiatives has been implemented across the company to reduce operating expenditure (Opex) while maintaining a sharp focus on safety and value creation.

"In 2024, PDO's UOC was \$7.4/bbl, reflecting ongoing efforts in cost control, enhanced collaboration, an improved operating model, and streamlined processes. Additionally, the company has prioritized deferment reduction and improving facility availability, aiming to reduce total deferments to below 5% by 2030. Total capital and operating expenditure amounted to US\$7.264 billion," the report added.

On the technology front, PDO achieved a number of significant milestones in 2024, launching 18 transformative initiatives aimed at unlocking new growth opportunities and addressing critical operational challenges. These initiatives targeted areas such as produced water and energy management, artificial lifting, enhanced oil recovery (EOR), well construction, and production measurement.

Of these, 13 technologies were successfully deployed, providing practical solutions in water and energy management, artificial lifting, and well construction. In addition, 15 technology trials were completed, demonstrating strong value potential and paving the way for broader deployment and operational efficiency gains.

Further advancing innovation, five joint academia-industry research projects were awarded to Omani universities, targeting priority areas aligned with PDO's long-term goals and Oman's economic diversification agenda. These projects focus on energy efficiency, water management, EOR, bioenergy, materials and corrosion science, and renewable energy.

Reference: [Oman Observer](#)



## Oman's total oil exports exceed 126 million barrels

Oman's total oil exports by the end of May 2025 amounted to approximately 126,056,900 barrels, a 2.3 percent decrease compared to the same period in 2024, which amounted to 128,991,500 barrels.

Preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information indicated that the average price of crude oil decreased by 6.9 percent to reach \$75.2 per barrel by the end of May 2025, compared to \$80.8 per barrel during the same period last year.

Statistics showed that average daily oil production fell to 987,600 barrels per day by the end of May 2025, compared to 996,100 barrels per day during the same period in 2024.

Statistics also showed that Oman's total oil production declined by 1.5 percent, recording 149,133,700 barrels by the end of May 2025, compared to 151,401,200 barrels during the same period in 2024.

Reference: [Oman Observer](#)





# Announcement

## Regarding the Implementation of Licensing Requirements for Practising Certain Professions

As part of the ongoing efforts to regulate the labour market and enhance the efficiency of the national workforce, the Ministry of Labour announces the commencement of implementing licensing requirements for practising the professions listed in the attached schedule.

Accordingly, all individuals currently employed or those who are to be appointed in the mentioned professions must apply to the competent authority — the Oman Energy Association, represented by the Sector Skills Unit for the Energy and Minerals Sector — to complete the procedures for obtaining a professional practice licence. This will be considered a prerequisite for the issuance or renewal of work permits.

The acquisition of a professional practice licence issued by the Sector Skills Unit for the Energy and Minerals Sector shall become a mandatory requirement for the issuance or renewal of work permits, **effective from 1 September 2025**. The **Ministry of Labour will not grant any such permits unless the approved licence is duly submitted**.

All establishments are kindly requested to comply with the above and take the necessary measures to ensure its implementation.



## List of Occupational Classifications under the Professional Accreditation System

Job Title (English)	المسمى بالعماني	الرمز	م
HSE Advisor	منفذ صحة وسلامة مهنية	5221044	1
Mobile Crane Operator	مشغل رافعة متحركة ونش	8143104	2
Telescopic Handler Operator	مشغل رافعة تلسكوبية	8143184	3
Forklift Operator	سائق رافعة شوكة	8143095	4
Excavator Operator	مشغل حفارة	8143055	5
MEWP Operator	مشغل منصة رفع متحركة	8143194	6
Slinger/Signaller/RNB	منسق وموجه حركة رافعة	8143173	7
Overhead crane operator	مشغل الرافعة العلوية	8143204	8
Vehicle Marshaller	منسق حركة مركبات ثقيلة	3223073	9
Lifting Supervisor	مشرف عمليات الرفع	1217091	10
Appointed Person	موجه معدات	8143213	11
Mud Tester	فاحص طين	7213134	12
Facilities Maintenance Craftsperson	مساعد فني صيانة المرافق العامة	8411273	13
Manual Welder	لحام / عام	8116013	14
Mechanical Craftsperson	فني ميكانيك / صيانة عامة	2215282	15
Assistant Driller	مساعد حفار	7213095	16
Building Maintenance Technician	فني صيانة أبنية	2215372	17
Automated Mechanized Welding Operator	مشغل آلة لحام كهرباء أوتوماتيكية	8116105	18
Machine Operator	مشغل مكائن	8113164	19
CNC Machine Operator	مشغل مخرطة أوتوماتيكية	8113135	20
Electrical Craftsperson	كهربائي آلات كهربائية / عام	8213053	21
Facilities Maintenance Fitter	مساعد فني تركيب معدات خدمات المرافق	8134093	22
Sheet Metalworker	حداد ألواح معدنية / عام	8114073	23
Driller	حفار آبار / نفط وغاز	7213114	24
Production Assembler	عامل تجميع آلات التشغيل	8511015	25
Machinist	خراط	8113024	26
Instrument Craftsperson	كهربائي صيانة أجهزة دقيقة / عام	8212163	27
Roustabout	عامل أرضي حفر آبار	7213124	28
Facilities Maintenance Technician	مساعد فني صيانة المرافق العامة	8411273	29
Plate Worker	حداد/ صفائح معدني	8114173	30
Mechanical Technician	فني ميكانيك / صيانة عامة	2215282	31
Floorman	مجهز سطح جهاز الحفر	7213013	32
Structural Steelworker	مركب انشاءات معدنية	8115104	33
CNC Machinist	مشغل آلة تشغيل مبرمجة	8113135	34
Electrical Technician	فني كهربائي / صيانة آلات	2213102	35
Pipe and Tube Fabricator	براد انابيب	8114144	36
Derrickman	مشغل أبراج حفر آبار	7213104	37
Instrument Technician	فني كهربائي / أجهزة دقيقة	2213112	38
Tool Pusher	مدير حفر آبار نفط	211071	39
Welding Assistant	مساعد لحام	8116115	40
Machine Tool Technician	فني الكروني / آلات مبرمجة	2214072	41
Fitting and Assembly Technician	فراز	8113114	42
Pipe and Fitting Assembling Technician	براد انابيب / عام	8114133	43



## OQ investments boost Oman fuel storage capacity



Major investments by OQ the integrated energy group of Oman in the country's fuel storage infrastructure are set to strengthen its pivotal role in strategic fuel logistics, according to the Ministry of Energy and Minerals. Last year, the state-owned energy company — part of the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) — commenced work on two key fuel storage hubs located in strategically important regions of the Sultanate, committing a total investment of \$328 million to the projects.

The larger of the two hubs is under construction in Musandam Governorate, with a budget of \$204 million. Work on the 14,536-cubic-metre capacity facility began in October 2024.

Underscoring the importance of the project, the Ministry stated: "The Strategic Fuel Reserve is part of the Group's commitment to sustainable economic development and to addressing the rising demand for petroleum products driven by population growth and increased commercial activities. The storage facility will serve as a strategic reserve for various fuels, including gasoline and aviation fuel, ensuring an uninterrupted supply during emergencies," the Ministry added in its recently published 2024 Annual Report.

Earlier, in August 2024, OQ broke ground on a separate Strategic Fuel Reserve located in Dhofar Governorate, in the far south of the Sultanate. The facility, with a planned capacity of 110,000 cubic metres, will enhance the governorate's resilience to potential energy disruptions, the Ministry said. "The project aims to strengthen the local fuel supply in Dhofar and ensure preparedness for emergency situations by storing key petroleum derivatives," it added.

When fully operational — targeted for around April 2027 — the two hubs will significantly boost Oman's strategic fuel reserve capacity, which is currently overseen entirely by OQ Group subsidiaries. They will complement the central national fuel storage terminal operated by wholly owned OQ Logistics at Al Jifnain, just outside the capital, Muscat.

With a capacity of approximately 170,000 cubic metres, the Jifnain terminal is the largest fuel storage facility in Oman, meeting over 70 percent of the nation's refined fuel consumption. It is supplied via pipelines connected to OQ's refineries at Mina Al Fahal (Muscat) and Suhar, as well as to Muscat International Airport.

Another vital component of Oman's fuel storage ecosystem is the Ras Markaz Crude Oil Terminal, located near Duqm and overseen by Oman Tank Terminal Company (OTTCO). Connected to the Duqm Refinery via an 80-kilometre pipeline, the terminal functions both as a regional crude storage facility and an export terminal.

Since commencing operations just over two years ago, Ras Markaz has handled 491 vessels as of the end of April 2025. In this period, it imported over 950 million barrels of crude oil and exported approximately 17 million metric tonnes of petroleum products.

Earlier this year, OTTCO signed a strategic partnership with Royal Vopak, the leading Dutch fuel logistics company, aimed at transforming Duqm into a global hub for storage services. The company is also exploring opportunities to support the development of advanced infrastructure for the storage, handling, and export of green ammonia.

Reference: [Oman Observer](#)

## Sohar International, Liva sign RO63mn loan deal



In line with its commitment to enabling strategic partnerships that support sustainable business growth, Sohar International has signed a consolidated loan agreement with Liva Group, a leading multi-line insurance provider operating across the GCC.

The RO63mn facility reflects Sohar International's growing role as a trusted financial partner for regional corporates seeking to optimise capital structures and scale with resilience. The signing ceremony took place at Sohar International's Waterfront Office and was attended by Abdulwahid Mohamed al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, and Martin Rueegg, Chief Executive Officer of Liva Group.

Commenting on the strategic partnership, Abdulwahid Mohamed al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, stated: "At Sohar International, we are focused on fostering strategic partnerships that create long-term value. Our agreement with Liva Group is a testament to our commitment to supporting ambitious, high-performing organizations with customised financial solutions that drive sustainable growth."

"This facility not only enhances Liva's financial flexibility but also reflects our shared commitment for regional progress, innovation, and long-term value creation. We are proud to partner with Liva on its journey to scale, diversify, and lead with purpose."

The facility consolidates Liva's existing borrowings into a single, streamlined structure – reducing financing costs, enhancing cash flow management, and increasing agility in capital deployment across the Group's operations. The agreement also provides a robust financial framework aligned with Liva's long-term growth strategy, particularly as it expands its presence across key regional markets.

Martin Rueegg, Chief Executive Officer of Liva Group, added that this agreement is about more than refinancing; it represents a proactive step in strengthening our capital efficiency and readiness for the future.

"Sohar International stood out as a strategic partner that understands our operational landscape and shares our ambitions around regional integration, digital innovation, and customer-centric growth."

This partnership further strengthens Sohar International's growing regional presence and aligns with its aspirations to support clients expanding into high-growth markets such as Saudi Arabia – where both institutions share ambitious strategic goals. This partnership further strengthens Sohar International's growing regional presence and aligns with its aspirations to support clients expanding into high-growth markets such as Saudi Arabia.

This collaboration sets the stage for broader financial engagement, including the delivery of advanced, tailored banking solutions that support Liva Group's evolving priorities across its core markets.

By forging such strategic alliances, Sohar International reaffirms its position as a trusted partner of choice – empowering clients to unlock growth opportunities, accelerate regional expansion, and contribute meaningfully to the economic transformation of the wider region.

Reference: [Muscat Daily - An Apex Media Publication](#)



Under the patronage of  
H.H Sayyid Marwan Bin Turki Al Said  
Governor of Dhofar



تحت رعاية  
صاحب السمو السيد مروان بن تركي آل سعيد  
محافظ ظفار

الشريك الداعم



الجمعية العمانية للطاقة  
Oman Energy Association

المؤتمر الخليجي الرابع عشر لتطوير إنتاجية الكوادر البشرية

## أثر الذكاء العاطفي في تعزيز الإنتاجية

20 - 21 أغسطس 2025  
محاضرة ظفار - صلالة  
مع ترجمة فورية

إدارة وتنظيم

الأصائل للمؤتمرات  
Al-Assayel for Conferences

الشريك الاستراتيجي

OQBi

هيئة تنمية وصناعة عمان  
Oman Development & Industry  
Authority

وزارة العمل  
Ministry of Labour

بالتعاون مع

مجلس التعاون  
Cooperation Council

مجلس التعاون  
Cooperation Council

## Launch of the Unified Brand Identity for Omani Upskilling and Reskilling Programs

# ماسار

## الصناعات العربية



An Initiative by Arabian Industries

Arabian Industries proudly announces the launch of "Masar Arabian Industries", a new unified brand identity that consolidates its national workforce development initiatives. This strategic move underscores the company's long-standing commitment to building local capabilities and creating sustainable, high-quality employment opportunities within the industrial sector.

Derived from the Arabic word Masar, meaning "pathway," the brand encapsulates a clear and structured vision for empowering Omani talent. Through targeted On-the-Job Training (OJT) and competency development programmes aligned with oil and gas industry demands, Masar Arabian Industries aims to enhance the readiness and competitiveness of the national workforce.

The brand was officially unveiled in a ceremony attended by Mr. Sadiq Sulaiman, CEO of Arabian Industries – C&M Vertical, and Eng. Sulaiman Al Suleimani, Contract Manager at Arabian Industries and Board Member of OPAL, highlighting the strategic and national importance of the initiative.

Programmes under the Masar umbrella focus on reskilling and upskilling Omani employees across key technical domains such as construction, maintenance, Permit to Work Holders (PTWHs), Performing Authorities (PAs), Competent Electrical and Authorized Electrical Personnel (CEP/AEP), and others, covering all disciplines essential to the industry.

Through this forward-looking approach, Arabian Industries is redefining Omanisation—not as a numbers-driven mandate, but as a skills-centric model that ensures the development of capable, confident, and competitive Omani professionals.

"For us, Omanisation is not merely a regulatory obligation—it is a strategic vision that places people at the heart of progress. We work closely with site teams to identify and nurture promising talent, aligning their growth with the evolving needs of our sector," said Eng. Sulaiman Al Suleimani, Contract Manager at Arabian Industries and OPAL Board Member.

The launch of Masar Arabian Industries is fully aligned with Oman Vision 2040, reinforcing Arabian Industries' long-term commitment to investing in national human capital and fostering an inclusive, dynamic, and sustainable workforce ecosystem.'

Reference: Arabian Industries Projects LLC



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الغالبية العالمية للإنشاءات والتجارة...  
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## Associated gas output in Oman jumps 11 per cent



The Sultanate of Oman recorded a marginal increase of 0.3 percent in total natural gas production and imports, reaching 22.716 billion cubic metres by the end of May 2025, according to preliminary data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information.

This growth was primarily driven by a significant 11.1 percent rise in associated gas production, which reached 5.177 billion cubic metres, up from 4.658 billion cubic metres during the same period in 2024. However, non-associated gas production, including imports, declined by 2.5 percent, falling to 17.538 billion cubic metres.

In terms of consumption, gas use in industrial projects dropped by 6 percent, totaling 11.458 billion cubic metres. In contrast, power generation saw a 3 percent increase, with usage rising to 5.810 billion cubic metres.

Consumption in oil fields and related industries, including mining and cement production, surged by 13.3 percent to 5.333 billion cubic metres. Additionally, industrial zones recorded a 7 percent increase in gas consumption, reaching 113.8 million cubic metres.

## OQEP launches share buy back programme



OQ Exploration and Production Company (OQEP) on Thursday announced a share buy back programme following approval from the Financial Services Authority of Oman (FSA).

The programme is intended to further enhance OQEP's ability to deliver value to its shareholders, in addition to its current base annual dividend of \$600mn and half-yearly performance linked dividend.

The share buy back programme will be initiated 15 days after this announcement, in accordance with FSA and Muscat Stock Exchange regulations. The programme will be conducted pursuant to the company's extraordinary general meeting held on June 24, 2025, which amended its Articles of Association to enable OQEP to repurchase its shares.

Following commencement, the programme will be maintained for a period of up to six months or until the target range for share repurchases is achieved. The target range for repurchase is 45mn to 60mn ordinary shares.

Ahmed al Azkawi, CEO of OQEP, said, "The share buy back programme reflects our confidence in OQEP's strong fundamentals and long-term growth prospects. Our shareholders will now benefit from a return of capital programme which includes a base dividend of RO231mn, a performance linked dividend and share buy back programme. OQEP continues to focus on growth, operational excellence, portfolio optimisation, generating robust and predictable cash flow, and ensuring long-term value for its shareholders."

## IGC prioritises local growth, clean energy in gas strategy



Oman's gas is a national asset — and we manage it with that responsibility in mind," said Abdulrahman Al Yahyaei, CEO of Integrated Gas Company (IGC), outlining the company's strategy to use natural gas as a driver for both industrial growth and clean energy transition.

At the core of IGC's model is a clear priority: local demand comes first. "Power generation and key industries are our top priorities. Only after meeting these needs do we allocate surplus gas for export," Al Yahyaei told *\*Observer\**. "This ensures economic stability while keeping us active in the global LNG market."

IGC manages over 44 billion cubic metres of gas annually, balancing supply for 140+ domestic consumers with export flows via Oman LNG. In 2024, Oman exported 11.4 million tonnes of LNG — a figure IGC helps maintain without compromising national demand.

The company has introduced Oman's first gas spot market and digital auction platform to enhance responsiveness. "These tools help us adjust quickly to demand changes," Al Yahyaei said. IGC also launched a fully digitised Gas Applications Portal to evaluate supply requests based on economic, efficiency, and decarbonisation criteria.

IGC plays a key role in enabling green hydrogen and low-carbon industries, including supporting Vulcan Green Steel in Duqm. "We're providing transitional gas to help the plant operate while it shifts to electricity and green hydrogen," he explained.

The company prioritises gas allocation to industries aligned with sustainability, such as hydrogen readiness and carbon capture. Meanwhile, development is underway for Oman's fourth LNG train, aiming for 15 million tonnes of liquefaction capacity by 2030 — without affecting domestic supply.

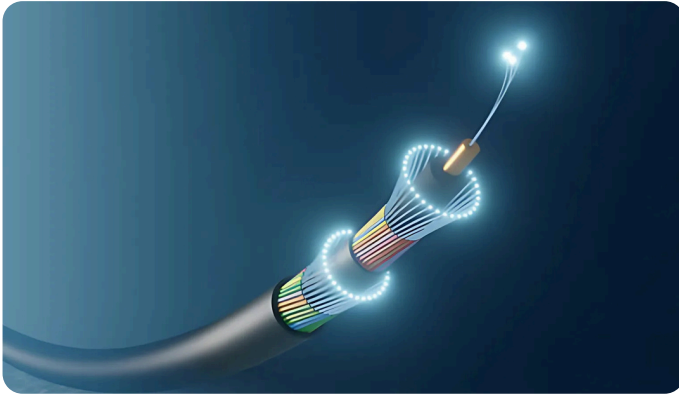
Since its founding in December 2022, IGC has centralised gas contracting and shifted the sector toward greater transparency. "We've laid the foundation. Now we're focused on refining the system and scaling clean energy," said Al Yahyaei.

Ultimately, IGC aims to evolve into a platform for managing clean molecules and enabling low-carbon growth. "Our long-term vision is to ensure every molecule of gas delivers national value — through jobs, industrial strength, or climate resilience," he concluded.

Reference : [Oman Observer](#)



# Omantel, du announce activation of Oman-UAE submarine cable



Omantel, the leading provider of integrated telecommunication services in the sultanate and a regional leading telecom and technology provider in the Middle East, has announced the activation of a fibre optic submarine cable system to enhance the connectivity between the UAE and Oman.

Omantel, together with du – the leading telecom and digital services provider in the UAE – will activate the 275km long Oman Emirates Gateway (OEG), officials informed.

The cutting-edge project connects three strategic international data centers: Equinix MC1 in Barka, datamena DX1 in Dubai, and Equinix SN1 in Salalah Oman.

OEG is set to redefine the digital landscape of the region by providing a seamless express connection and supporting the area's evolution into a global telecommunications hub.

This initiative boosts the operational efficiency of existing networks and systems while enhancing speed, expanding connectivity, and elevating customer experiences with advanced commercial offerings.

Samy al Ghassany, Chief Technology and Digital Officer at Omantel, said that the full activation of the OEG marks a pivotal milestone in our journey towards digital transformation in Oman and beyond.

"We are proud to contribute to the region's content enrichment and to establish a robust, high-capacity corridor that will empower businesses across Oman and the UAE. This achievement goes beyond mere connectivity; it propels the entire region towards innovation, growth, and global competitiveness," he added.

Karim Benkirane, Chief Commercial Officer of du, said, "The Oman Emirates Gateway is far more than just an optical cable; it is a bridge towards future-proofing the digital infrastructure of the region. This project will be a cornerstone for hyperscalers, content providers, and international carriers, empowering them to enhance their presence and operational capability to meet the growing demands of the digital era."

The activated system delivers transformative benefits such as comprehensive resilience through dual routes (terrestrial and subsea) guaranteeing unmatched reliability and optimal network performance. The state-of-the-art system infrastructure is designed to support emerging technologies, ensuring long-term sustainability and scalability.

It will provide faster cloud access, in addition to a direct connection to key data centers, providing global access to facilitate international business growth in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

The activation of OEG is an important development for du and Omantel, reinforcing their positions as leading wholesale players in the telecommunications industry. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to driving progressive change and attracting hyperscalers and global players to the region, improving the overall quality of connectivity and customer experience.

The benefits of the OEG project extend beyond enhanced network capabilities, by serving as a crucial driver for economic growth and technological innovation in both the UAE and Oman.

Reference: [Muscat Daily - An Apex Media Publication](#)

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



Oman LNG has successfully exported its 1,000th LNG cargo to Japan's Osaka Gas Co. Ltd, marking a major milestone in the longstanding energy relationship between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan.

The achievement underscores Oman LNG's role as a dependable supplier of clean energy and its efforts to establish Oman as a key hub in the global LNG sector. Japan has remained a primary destination for Omani LNG exports since the company's inception more than 25 years ago.

Hamed bin Mohammed Al Naamany, CEO of Oman LNG, said the shipment represents the company's enduring success and strong ties with partners across the gas value chain. He emphasized that the company's robust relationship with Japan is a cornerstone of its operational achievements and its vision for a reliable and sustainable LNG supply.

Al Naamany added that the milestone reflects Oman LNG's contribution to the global energy landscape and its commitment to fostering international partnerships. He also addressed the energy sector's evolving challenges, calling for the adoption of efficient practices to maintain supply reliability.

The CEO highlighted Oman LNG's ongoing sustainability initiatives and emissions-reduction projects, which align with the nation's objective of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Since its first export in 2000, Oman LNG has also made significant contributions to national development through its social investment programmes. These initiatives, he noted, have become a model for private sector involvement in corporate social responsibility, helping to strengthen collaboration between the public and private sectors in support of Oman's broader economic ambitions.

Reference: [Oman Observer](#)



## Abraj wins PDO contracts for 6 land drilling rigs in Block 6



Abraj Energy Services, Oman's leading oil and gas services provider, on Tuesday announced the signing of significant contracts with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) to provide six state-of-the-art land drilling rigs for operations in Block 6, one of the sultanate's most strategic energy assets.

The rigs are scheduled to commence operations in stages starting from Q4 2026. This milestone agreement marks a major expansion of Abraj's long-standing partnership with PDO and reflects the company's trusted capabilities in delivering safe, efficient, and high-quality drilling solutions.

"This agreement stands as a solid testament to Abraj's consistent operational excellence and the trust we have built through reliable, efficient, and safe delivery," said Hood Khalfan al Brashdi, Acting Director of Business Development at Abraj Energy Services. "With our advanced rig fleet and deep technical capabilities, we are proud to expand our collaboration with PDO, reinforcing our role as a key enabler in Oman's energy journey and fulfilling our commitment to performance without compromise."

In addition to the PDO contracts, Abraj continues to accelerate its regional growth. In May, the company signed a contract with BP Oman to supply a drilling rig for Block 61. Abraj has also secured a new contract with ARA Petroleum for drilling operations in Block 44 and signed a contract to deliver a third 3000 HP rig for the WJO field in Kuwait, further reinforcing its presence in key upstream projects across the region.

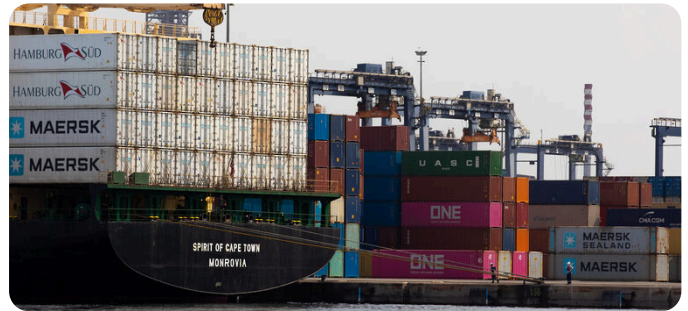
Eng Sulaiman Abdullah al Salmi, PDO Gas Drilling Team Leader, said, "We value our partnership with Abraj, a company that consistently aligns with our operational and HSE (health, safety and environmental) standards. This contract reaffirms our joint commitment to empowering the national energy sector with safe, efficient, and high-performance solutions."

Since 2020, Abraj has delivered over RO850mn in In-Country Value (ICV), with an Omanisation rate nearing 93%. Within PDO-related operations over the past three years alone, the company generated RO79.1mn in ICV – representing 78% of total spend – including RO20.5mn in 'Made in Oman' procurement and RO33.3mn directed to SMEs and local community contractors. These figures reaffirm Abraj's alignment with national priorities and its role as a key enabler of Oman's energy sector development.

In 2024, Abraj recorded a strong financial performance with revenues reaching RO151.6mn, EBITDA of RO53mn, and profit after tax of RO16.9mn. The company maintains industry-leading safety standards, achieving zero Lost Time Incidents (LTI) for the third consecutive year. Rig utilisation remained high, with over 86% for drilling rigs and 100% for workover rigs. Abraj's contractual backlog now exceeds RO500mn, highlighting long-term business resilience and deep customer trust.

Reference: [Oman Observer](#)

## Oman's trade surplus drops 40% to RO1.85bn



Oman's trade surplus fell sharply by 40.4% to RO1.849bn by the end of April this year, compared to RO3.1bn recorded during the same period in 2024, according to preliminary data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The decline comes amid a 9.3% drop in the total value of commodity exports, which stood at RO7.516bn till April 2025, compared to RO8.289bn during the same period last year.

The drop in exports is mainly attributed to a 15% decrease in oil and gas shipments, which totalled RO4.872bn by April 2025, down from RO5.730bn in 2024.

Crude oil exports declined 16.2% to RO2.911bn, while LNG exports fell 15.3% to RO752mn. Refined oil exports also dropped 11.8%, reaching RO1.209bn.

### Non-oil exports

In contrast, non-oil commodity exports rose 9% year-on-year, reaching RO2.183bn by the end of April 2025, compared to RO2.002bn in the previous year.

Live animals and animal products topped the list, increasing 9.7% to RO133mn. Chemical and related industry products followed, growing 6.3% to RO268mn. Base metals and their products rose 5.5% to RO471mn, while mineral product exports grew 2.7% to RO589mn. Exports of plastics and rubber inched up by 0.6% to RO312mn. Exports of other products saw strong growth of 37.1%, reaching RO410mn in April this year from RO299mn in April 2024.

### Re-exports decline

The total value of re-exports declined by 17.1%, falling to RO462mn from RO557mn during the same period in 2024.

Re-exported metal products plummeted by 55.5% to RO23mn, while transport equipment dropped 40.9% to RO94mn. Re-exports of precious metals and stones declined 19.8% to RO27mn.

Machinery, electrical appliances and sound equipment re-exports dropped 3.5% to RO128mn. Other re-exports slipped 1.9% to RO131mn. However, food, beverage, and liquid product re-exports rose significantly by 24.2% to RO60mn.

### Imports rise 9.2%

The total value of merchandise imports to Oman increased 9.2%, reaching RO5.667bn by the end of April 2025, up from RO5.189bn during the same period in 2024.

Mineral products led the list of imports at RO1.521bn, rising 1.9% from the previous year. Machinery, electrical appliances, and related devices followed at RO975mn, growing by 16.5%.

Transport equipment imports surged 21.3% to RO562mn. Chemical industry products reached RO544mn, up 12%, while base metals and their products increased 8.9% to RO539mn. Imports of other products totalled RO1.526bn.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) remained Oman's top non-oil trading partner, with exports to the UAE rising 24.9% to RO390mn. The UAE also led in re-exports from Oman (RO171mn) and remained the largest source of imports at RO1.283bn.

# Oman's refinery output edges up 1.6%



The total refinery output in the Sultanate of Oman rose by 1.6 per cent by the end of June 2025, according to preliminary statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). Despite this modest overall increase, automotive fuel production fell sharply by 17.1 per cent in June 2025 compared to the previous month.

Production of regular motor fuel (91) increased by 11.5 per cent to 8,659,500 barrels, up from 7,767,900 barrels during the same period in 2024. Sales rose by 2 per cent to 6,964,500 barrels, while exports climbed by 6.1 per cent to 1,494,600 barrels. In contrast, premium motor fuel (95) production declined by 2.2 per cent to 6,418,400 barrels, down from 6,559,500 barrels a year earlier. However, sales edged up by 0.9 per cent to 6,469,600 barrels, and exports surged by 20.6 per cent to 690,700 barrels.

Gas oil (diesel) production saw a 3.8 per cent rise, reaching 16,621,400 barrels, compared to 16,166,600 barrels last year. Sales increased by 5.8 per cent to 7,213,700 barrels, although exports dropped by 5.5 per cent to 8,550,600 barrels.

Jet fuel output decreased by 13.1 per cent to 4,945,800 barrels, while sales fell by 6.4 per cent to 1,867,600 barrels. Exports also declined by 16.3 per cent to 3,019,000 barrels.

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) production remained nearly steady, registering a marginal increase of 0.2 per cent to 3,764,500 barrels. However, sales rose significantly by 22.2 per cent to 1,944,400 barrels, while exports dropped sharply by 60.3 per cent to 111,500 barrels, down from 280,700 barrels a year earlier.

In the petrochemicals segment, benzene production rose by 3.1 per cent to 86,000 metric tonnes. Paraxylene output increased by 6.8 per cent to 283,000 metric tonnes, while polypropylene production recorded the highest growth, jumping by 73.4 per cent to 176,600 metric tonnes. Despite this rise, polypropylene sales dropped by 9.2 per cent to 15,400 metric tonnes.

On the export front, gasoline exports edged up slightly by 0.4 per cent to 81,900 metric tonnes. Paraxylene exports recorded strong growth of 22.8 per cent, reaching 312,700 metric tonnes, while polypropylene exports soared by 61.6 per cent to 131,200 metric tonnes, indicating robust international demand for these products.

Reference: [Oman Observer](#)

## Duqm Refinery marks 500th export shipmen



Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Company LLC (Duqm Refinery) has marked the export of its 500th shipment of petroleum products via the Duqm Export Terminal, underscoring its rapid progress and pivotal role as a strategic energy hub. This milestone reaffirms the refinery's operational excellence and its commitment to the safe, consistent delivery of high-quality fuels to global markets.

Eng. Abdullah Al Ajmi, CEO of Duqm Refinery, stated that since the first shipment in May 2023, the refinery has exported more than 19 million tonnes of refined products worldwide while maintaining an exemplary safety record. This achievement reflects the company's agility, efficiency, and growth, driven by strong operational momentum.

He remarked that reaching the 500th vessel milestone demonstrates what is possible when vision, collaboration, and performance align. The refinery has set new benchmarks in operational excellence, including exceptional loading rates of 130,000 barrels per hour across five berths simultaneously a clear indicator of advanced logistics and operational precision.

Al Ajmi noted that the refinery has also demonstrated impressive logistical capabilities by exporting 304,388 metric tonnes of LPG and efficiently handling vessels ranging from small tankers to large LR2 carriers. Notably, it has managed petroleum coke loadings of up to 50,000 tonnes in under 120 hours per shipment.




After more than two years of operations, the night-time berthing and unloading of crude oil at the Ras Markaz terminal have become routine, showcasing the refinery's 24/7 logistics capabilities. Located outside the Strait of Hormuz, the Duqm Export Terminal offers a key competitive advantage, ensuring seamless access to markets across East Africa, South Asia, the Gulf of Mexico, and Europe.

Al Ajmi emphasized that the refinery is diversifying its export portfolio, with plans underway to increase sulphur shipments, enhancing its ability to respond to shifting global market demands with flexibility and innovation. He affirmed that the rapid achievements made by Duqm Refinery reinforce its strategic importance in advancing Oman's industrial ambitions and boosting international trust in the country as a dependable energy partner. The refinery has exceeded expectations, scaling its production capacity from 230,000 barrels per day to 255,000 barrels over 110% of its design output in record time.

Reference: [Oman Observer](#)

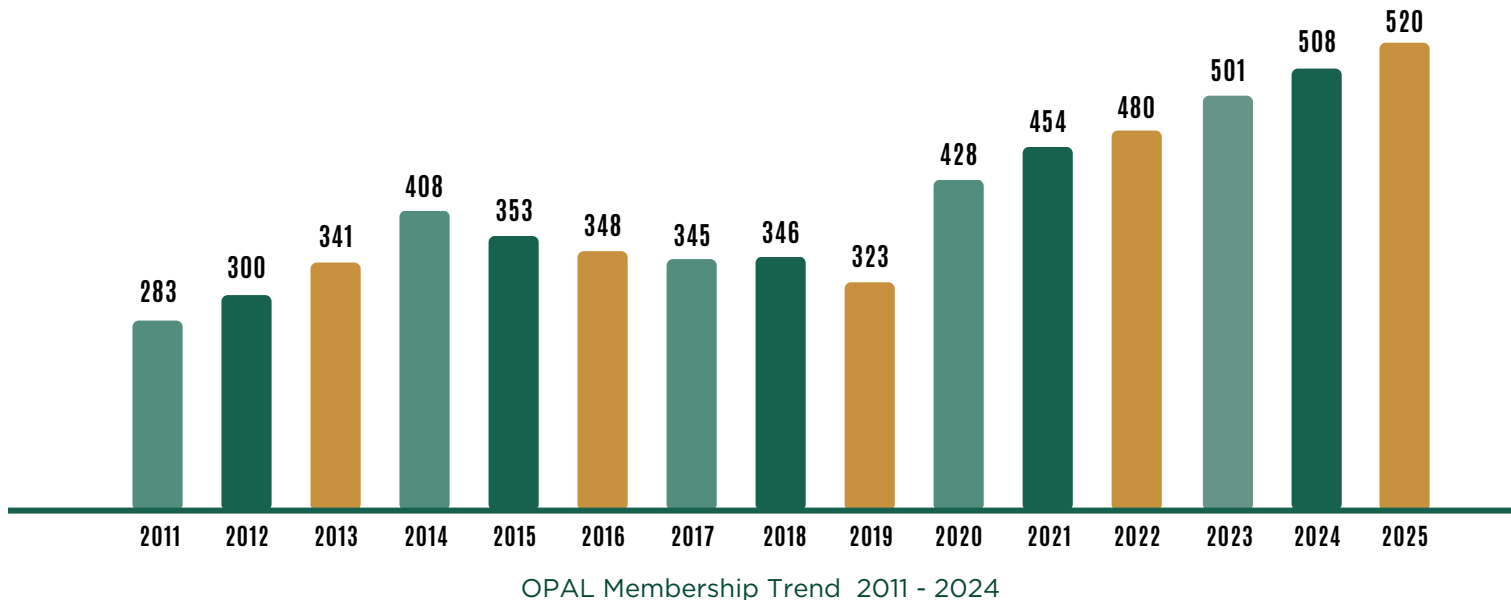


# OPAL 2025 Events Calendar

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
 <p>2024 Best Practices Award (15 Jan)</p>	<p>EMSSU SMEs Appreciation Ceremony (5th Feb)</p>	<p>Annual General Meeting Online (27th Mar)</p>	<p>Worker Welfare &amp; Mental Wellbeing Forum (21st April)</p>	 <p>Oman Sustainability Week (11-15th May)</p>	<p>Oman Road Safety Forum (June 11th)</p>
<p>Senior Leaders Safety Forum 15th Edition (23rd Jan)</p>			<p>Summer Heat Stress Management (30th Apr online)</p>	 <p>OMAN PETROLEUM &amp; ENERGY SHOW (12-14th May)</p>	<p>Oman's Energy &amp; Minerals Skills Development Ecosystem Webinar (25th June)</p>
			<p>Quarterly Senior Leaders Safety Forums (24th April)</p>	<p>Global HSE Forum Bahrain (19-22nd May)</p>	
				<p>INTI &amp; OPAL Tech Day (25th May)</p>	
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
	<p>Quarterly Senior Leaders Safety Forums (28th Aug)</p>		<p>Oman Road Safety &amp; Accident Prevention Summit (15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Oct)</p>	<p>Ruwad Graduation Ceremony (TBC)</p>	<p>Digitalization &amp; AI Forum (1st week)</p>
		<p>TFE Graduation Ceremony (TBC)</p>		<p>Learning from Incidents &amp; Best Practices DROPS (5th Nov)</p>	
		<p>Learning from Incidents &amp; Best Practices Forum (24th Sept)</p>			

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