



Oman Energy Association

Newsletter

August, 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,

August was a month defined by action, innovation, and collaboration. From the launch of new training programs to advancing local content, supporting safety culture, and exploring the role of technology, OPAL continued its mission to serve as a driving force for Oman's energy and minerals sector.

Creating Opportunities Through Training-for-Employment

On August 3, OPAL held the induction of the Mobile Crane Operator Training Program in partnership with PDO's Emdad initiative, Occidental Oman's Is'haam program, and several of our member companies. Funded by the Ministry of Labour, the program provides 20 Omani youth with practical training over 13 months and direct employment opportunities upon completion. Later in the month, on August 24–25, OPAL partnered with the Ministry of Education to host a workshop for vocational trainers in engineering and industrial disciplines. The session supported preparations for the 2025/2026 academic year, strengthening Oman's technical education system and improving the quality of learning for both the first and second cohorts of students.

Driving Local Content and Economic Sustainability

As part of our strategic partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, OPAL held several awareness sessions under the Local Content Certification Scheme. Sessions on August 4, 6, 10, and 26 engaged drilling contractors, service providers, equipment sellers, consultants, and operators. These efforts aim to enhance supplier readiness, strengthen compliance, and support Oman's national objectives for economic diversification and sustainability.

Championing Skills and Safety Standards

On August 6, the OPAL STAR Committee held its regular meeting to align training center standards and program quality. The same week, OPAL also participated in the Training of Trainers in Occupational Health and Safety program during the Labour Forum in Dhofar on August 13, reinforcing our commitment to building national HSE capabilities. Later in the month, on August 28, OPAL organized the 17th Senior Leaders' Safety Forum, hosted by OQ and chaired by H.E. Eng. Salim Al Aufi. The forum, held under the theme of Emergency and Crisis Management, featured a national-level crisis management exercise, underscoring the importance of preparedness and collaboration.

Fostering Human Capital Development

On August 19, I had the privilege of addressing the Leading from the Heart Forum organized by OSHRM, where I spoke about the role of emotional and social intelligence in enhancing workplace performance. This was followed by OPAL's participation in the 14th GCC Conference on Human Capital Productivity Development on August 20–21 in Salalah, held under the patronage of H.H. Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said. The conference provided a platform for regional dialogue on the link between emotional intelligence and productivity.

Shaping the Future of the Green Economy

On August 27, OPAL, through EMSSU, convened the inaugural meeting of the OPAL Green Industry HR Committee. This committee will play a central role in shaping workforce readiness for the renewable energy sector and building a resilient green economy.

Exploring Digital Transformation

On August 31, OPAL hosted a webinar on Artificial Intelligence Solutions for the Oil and Gas Sector. The session provided industry professionals with insights on how AI can drive safety, efficiency, and innovation across operations. It highlighted the role of digital solutions in enabling organizations to align with international best practices while unlocking new opportunities for sustainability and performance improvement.

Strengthening Institutional Partnerships

Also on August 31, OPAL signed a cooperation program with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion during the Sustainable Business Environment event. The program focuses on regulating the construction and consultancy sector, enhancing technical skills development, and advancing occupational health and safety practices. It also supports the application of national occupational standards and promotes best practices in accreditation and licensing. This collaboration reflects a strong public-private partnership that contributes to economic development and the growth of national talent.

Looking Ahead

This month also marks a personal milestone as I complete my first year serving as CEO of OPAL. It has been a privilege to work alongside our members, partners, and stakeholders in advancing the goals of our sector. The achievements of August reflect the power of collaboration and our collective vision for a competitive and sustainable industry. By advancing training, strengthening local content, embedding safety, and embracing innovation, we continue to build the foundations for Oman's energy future. Thank you all for your continued support and look forward to the journey ahead.

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



Sunday, August 3, 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized the official induction for the “Mobile Crane Operator” training-for-employment program, in collaboration with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) under the Emdad program, Occidental Oman, Inc. under the Is’haam program, Arabian Industries Projects LLC, Gulf Petrochemical Services & Trading LLC, and funded by the Ministry of Labor. The program aims to enhance employment opportunities for 20 Omani job seekers who hold a General Education Diploma. It will be delivered by Al Sarooj Training Institute over a period of 13 months. The trainees will be directly employed after successfully completing the program requirements.



Wednesday, 6 August 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, organized several workshops on the “TAQA” Platform. The initiative aimed to familiarize companies operating in the mining sector in Muscat Governorate with the digital services offered by the platform, enabling them to make optimal use of these services to streamline their procedures and enhance operational efficiency.



Wednesday, 06 August 2025 – In support of the Local Content Certification Scheme, the Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in strategic partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, conducted an awareness session for equipment sellers aimed at enhancing suppliers’ understanding of the certification process and supporting their readiness to comply with local content requirements. This initiative aligns with Oman’s national objectives for economic diversification, sustainability, and the localization of goods and services.



Monday, 04 August 2025 – In support of the Local Content Certification Scheme, the Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in strategic partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, held two awareness sessions—one targeted drilling contractors and the other for engineering service providers. These sessions were designed to enhance suppliers’ understanding of the certification process and to support their readiness to comply with local content requirements. This initiative aligns with Oman’s national objectives for economic diversification, sustainability, and the localization of goods and services.



Wednesday, 6 August 2025 - Oman Energy Association (OPAL) held its regular 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, 10 August 2025 – In support of the Local Content Certification Scheme, the Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in strategic partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, conducted an awareness session for construction and consultancy agencies aimed at enhancing suppliers’ understanding of the certification process and supporting their readiness to comply with local content requirements. This initiative aligns with Oman’s national objectives for economic diversification, sustainability, and the localization of goods and services.



Tuesday, 13 August 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL) participated in the “Training of Trainers in Occupational Health and Safety” (TOT) program, held in the Governorate of Dhofar at Salalah Rotana Resort, as part of the Labour Forum 2025 organized by the Ministry of Labour in collaboration with the Labour Centre of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The program aims to prepare national talents capable of designing and delivering specialized training programs in occupational health and safety, enabling them to transfer knowledge and apply the latest interactive and practical training methods within their organizations. OPAL’s participation reflects its ongoing commitment to supporting and developing occupational health and safety standards, and to promoting a culture of safety in line with international best practices.



The Oman Energy Association (OPAL) participated as a supporting partner in the 14th GCC Conference on Human Capital Productivity Development, held this year under the theme “The Impact of Emotional Intelligence on Enhancing Productivity”, held at the Sultan Qaboos Complex Youth Culture & Entertainment at Salalah from 20 to 21 August 2025, under the patronage of H.H Sayyid Marwan Bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar. The conference aims to highlight the role of emotional intelligence in improving performance and productivity by presenting practical strategies and tools, while also providing a platform for professionals and experts to exchange experiences, connect productivity with emotional intelligence, and review leading regional and international case studies in this field.



Tuesday, 26 August 2025 – In support of the Local Content Certification Scheme, the Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in strategic partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, conducted the first targeted awareness session for Energy and Minerals Operators. The session aimed to enhance suppliers’ understanding of the certification process and support their readiness to comply with local content requirements. This initiative aligns with Oman’s national objectives for economic diversification, sustainability, and the localization of goods and services.



Tuesday, August 19, 2025 – The Oman Energy Association (OPAL) participated in the Leading from the Heart Forum, organized by the Omani Society for Human Resource Management (OSHRM) under the theme The Power of Social and Emotional Intelligence in Communities, held at the Millennium Resort Salalah.

Eng. Mohammed Al Naabi, CEO of OPAL, delivered a presentation titled “The Role of Emotional and Social Intelligence in Enhancing Performance and Productivity”, in which he emphasized the importance of emotional and social intelligence as a key factor and its impact on modern workplaces.



Sunday, August 24, 2025 - Oman Energy Association (OPAL), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, organized a specialized workshop for trainers of engineering and industrial disciplines from the vocational and technical education track. The two-day workshop was held at the Knowledge Grid Academy from August 24-25, 2025, and attracted 50 participants from four training institutions in Muscat. This workshop is part of the preparations for implementing the program during the 2025/2026 academic year. The workshop aimed to develop trainers' skills in using modern educational methods and to provide them with practical tools that contribute to improving the learning environment and enhancing the efficiency of the teaching process. This training is expected to have a positive impact on the quality of vocational education in the participating institutions. This year marks the second edition of the engineering and industrial disciplines program, as a new cohort of 11th-grade students will begin their training. The first cohort of students will also continue their program in the 12th grade in the governorates of Muscat and North Al Batinah.



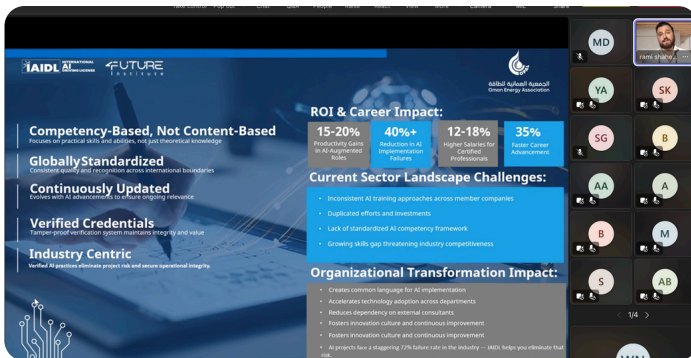
Wednesday, 27 August 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL), represented by the Energy & Minerals Sector Skills Unit (EMSSU), convened the inaugural meeting of the OPAL Green Industry HR Committee. The committee is dedicated to empowering the renewable energy workforce, addressing key challenges, and co-creating unified industry standards. It will bring together employers, training providers, and regulators to close skills gaps, enhance safety and productivity, and support the development of a resilient green economy in Oman.



Thursday, August 28, 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL) organized the 17th Senior Leaders' Safety Forum, hosted by with OQ and chaired by H.E. Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals. The forum, held under the theme "Emergency and Crisis Management" featured discussions on industry challenges, best practices, and strategies to enhance crisis preparedness. It also included a National Level 3 desktop crisis management exercise.



Sunday, 31 August 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL) and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion signed a cooperation program during the "Sustainable Business Environment" event. The initiative aims to enhance institutional coordination and exchange expertise across multiple fields. The program focuses on regulating the construction and engineering consultancy sector, establishing a sustainable framework for technical skills development, and implementing training initiatives to build national capabilities in line with labor market needs. It also includes the development and application of national occupational standards, the enhancement of occupational health and safety practices, and the promotion of best practices in professional accreditation and licensing. This collaboration reflects a strategic partnership between the public and private sectors, contributing to economic development goals and supporting the advancement of national talent in the energy sector and related industries.



Sunday, 31 August 2025 – Oman Energy Association (OPAL) hosted a webinar titled "Artificial Intelligence Solutions for the Oil & Gas Sector," highlighting the transformative role of artificial intelligence in the industry. The session addressed key applications of AI, including predictive maintenance, drilling optimization, enhanced safety, and data-driven decision-making. It offered professionals valuable insights into practical solutions and emerging trends that are driving efficiency, innovation, and sustainability across the sector. This initiative underscores OPAL's commitment to advancing the energy sector through knowledge sharing and capacity building, enabling organizations to harness modern technologies in alignment with global best practices.

The Journey to Excellence: Bridging the Green Industries Skill Gaps

The global transition towards green energy is not just a shift in technology but a profound transformation in how we work, live, and sustain our planet. In Oman, this journey is marked by ambitious goals to diversify the energy sector, aligning with Vision 2040 and Oman Net-Zero Vision. As the representative of the energy Industry, Oman Energy Association (OPAL), puts an emphasis on building a skilled and competent workforce is the cornerstone of this transformation. OPAL's commitment to equipping Oman's workforce for a sustainable future is rooted in fostering innovation, building strategic partnerships, and ensuring alignment between educational programs and the evolving needs of the energy sector.

Critical insights from the Renewable Energy Labour Market Intelligence Analysis (LMIA) reveal the current state of workforce readiness in Oman, highlighting opportunities and challenges as we navigate the energy transition. By evaluating and prioritizing 30 energy-related sectors, the study guides Oman's strategic decisions by focusing on market viability, socio-economic impact, and investment trade-offs. The outstanding sectors include Energy Management, Hydrogen Production, Solar PV Development and Wind Power Development. Considering the current distribution of the workforce, meeting the expectations of those industries will require not just creating jobs in green industries, but also ensuring that Omani nationals are equipped and positioned to take on these roles.

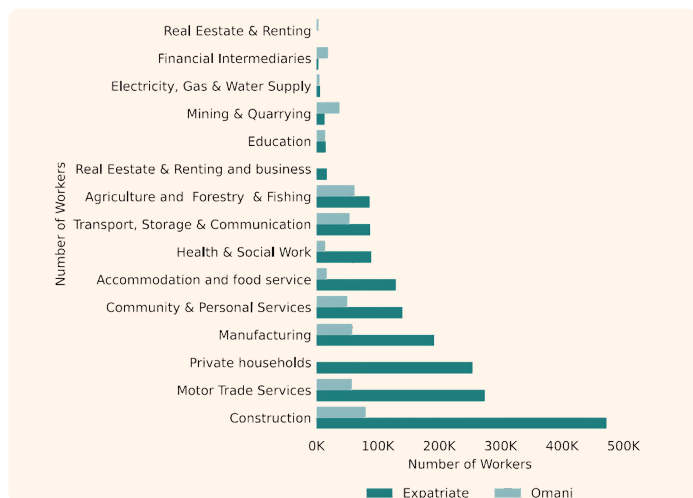


Figure 1: Workforce by origin across different business activities. (Ministry of Labour, 2024)

Addressing Limited Green Skills Coverage

As green sectors develop and diversify, the education and training systems must adapt to ensure that both new entrants and existing workers are prepared for emerging roles. This includes not only technical capabilities but also broader competencies in sustainability, systems thinking, and environmental responsibility. **Four distinct stages of education prepare students for jobs in the green economy:**

- School education
- Vocational colleges and training centres
- Higher education institutions
- Continuing education and professional development

While energy-efficiency topics are relatively well targeted, manufacturing-oriented domains such as solar panel and wind turbine production, electrolyser fabrication, and advanced materials processing remain underrepresented. Mid-stream and downstream hydrogen activities are also only partially addressed. These gaps point to the need for targeted content within general engineering programmes to ensure graduates are equipped for the demands of emerging clean industries. An initial review of current course content shows that some green-sector topics are already integrated into existing programmes, but gaps remain significant in many areas.

Green skills in higher education

The current landscape of green-related education in Oman's higher education institutions includes 27 sub-majors and specialisations spanning five broad categories: Engineering and Technology, Renewable Energy and Sustainability, Environmental Sciences, Project Management and Surveying, and Specialised Science and Earth Studies.

Specialized fields such as hydrogen energy, solar PV manufacturing, and energy management are critical to Oman's renewable energy ambitions. However, current curricula lack the depth and alignment needed to prepare graduates for these emerging sectors. Collaborative efforts between academic institutions, industry leaders, and regulatory bodies can address these gaps, ensuring the development of targeted, future-ready training programs.

Some of the proposed measures to overcome those challenges include;

- 1.General streamlining:** Reducing or simplifying accreditation requirements for certain types of programme adjustments, especially minor up-dates that do not fundamentally change the programme's scope or objectives.
- 2.Structural streamlining:** Moving curriculum accreditation checks into regular and periodic institutional review cycles—for example, every five years instead of requiring separate approvals for every new curriculum adjustment. This approach relies more heavily on internal quality assurance mechanisms while maintaining standards.
- 3.Process innovation:** Introducing fast-track accreditation pathways for programmes directly aligned with national strategic priorities—such as green economy sectors where institutions could follow a simplified approval process if specific quality benchmarks are met.

The Road Ahead

As Oman navigates its energy transition, the importance of a skilled and competent workforce cannot be overstated. OPAL will serve as a key enabler and will continue to champion initiatives that address the challenges outlined above, fostering innovation, collaboration, and resilience in the energy sector. Building competencies today ensures a prosperous, sustainable tomorrow. The energy transition is not merely about technological advancement but about empowering people. Together, through education, partnerships, and strategic investment, we can drive Oman's green economy forward.

Written By Ali Al Wardi

Head of Research & Development



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OQGN gets IGC approval for 193km Fahud-Suhar gas pipeline project



Integrated Gas Company (IGC), the state-owned entity overseeing Oman's entire gas supply chain, has announced its approval for the implementation of a major new gas pipeline project to meet the growing industrial demand in Sohar Port and Ibri.

The project, which will be executed by OQ Gas Networks (OQGN), involves the construction of a 42-inch diameter, 193km gas pipeline extending from Fahud in Ibri to Suhar, with an additional lateral connection serving the Ibri Industrial Area.

IGC has granted full approval for this project as the exclusive authority responsible for issuing gas transmission directives in Oman and has assigned the implementation to OQ Gas Networks, the owner and operator of the gas transmission infrastructure under its jurisdiction.

This new pipeline will enhance the reliability and availability of natural gas supplies to key economic zones, supporting sustainable industrial growth both now and in the future.

Following a competitive tender process, OQ Gas Networks awarded a contract worth RO105mn in June for the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) works to Petrojet & Partners. The pipeline supply contract was awarded to Jindal Saw Limited. The project is expected to be completed within 24 months.

The pipeline will increase the length of the national gas network by 4.5% and accounts for approximately 9.5% of the base value of regulated assets, underlining its significance to Oman's energy infrastructure.

In a statement to the Oman News Agency, Abdulrahman bin Humaid al Yahyai, CEO of Integrated Gas Company, said, "This strategic project represents a significant milestone in the company's long-term vision to develop an efficient, flexible, and future-ready national gas network." He explained that the project enhances Oman's capacity to meet its growing industrial energy requirements and strengthens its position as a regional energy hub.

He added that the project embodies the role of the Integrated Gas Company in building a reliable energy system that supports the industrial and economic aspirations of the sultanate, promoting investment, local content, employment opportunities, and the transition to clean energy.

Yahyai noted that the gas pipeline will supply the Suhar Industrial Port with approximately 13mn cubic metres of gas per day to meet the requirements of upcoming industrial projects. Part of this supply will also serve Ibri Industrial City to support planned developments there.

Reference: [Oman Observer](#)



bp Oman appoints Najla al Jamali as president

Global energy giant bp announced that Najla Zuhair al Jamali has been appointed as President of bp Oman. She joins bp from OQ where she served as Chief Executive of OQ Alternative Energy.

Najla started her global career as a reservoir engineer in Oman and brings over two decades of energy sector experience to bp. Her career spans upstream, downstream and commercial roles across companies including Shell, Schlumberger and Takamul Investment Company (as subsidiary of what was Oman Oil Company). Najla will be the first woman to serve as the President of bp Oman.

In a press statement, Nader Zaki, bp's regional president Middle East and North Africa said, "I am very pleased to welcome Najla to our team as President of bp Oman. Her wealth of experience will greatly benefit us as we continue to support the growth of the energy sector in Oman. This is a historic milestone for bp as Najla is the first female Omani country manager for bp in the country. I would also like to thank Yousuf al Ojaili for his leadership and congratulate him on his retirement after a decade of excellence with our company and 39 years in the energy sector."

Commenting on her appointment as President of bp Oman, Najla said, "I'm excited to join bp Oman working with the team to continue supply one-third of Oman's gas and working with the Omani government and partners to explore potential for growing our operations in country." Najla will join bp in September where she will assume full roles and responsibilities after a transition period with Yousuf al Ojaili who retires at the end of 2025.

Reference: [Muscat Daily](#)



OPAL-Approved Defensive Driving Training

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OQEP's upstream assets in Oman prepped for further development



Key assets of OQ Exploration & Production (OQEP) the majority state-owned upstream arm of the integrated energy group OQ—are currently the focus of heightened exploration and development activities aimed at bolstering their oil and gas contribution to Oman's national economy.

The publicly traded energy company, which holds interests in a portfolio of 15 licences (including operated, non-operated, and partnership interests), reported an average production of 221.2 thousand barrels of oil equivalent per day (kboepd) in Q1 2025, representing a 14% share of the country's total oil and gas output.

In updates shared this week with participants of the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX), senior officials provided an overview of ongoing efforts to increase output from existing producing assets, alongside initiatives to unlock the hydrocarbon potential of new acreage.

Participating in the presentation were Dr. Anwar Al Kharousi, Chief Executive – Commercial, and Jaber Al Namaani, Chief Financial Officer – OQEP.

Block 60: Flagship Producing Asset

First on the agenda was Block 60, OQEP's flagship producing asset, which is currently the focus of significant investment through the Bisat C expansion project. "We are happy to announce that the Block 60 expansion has been delivered ahead of schedule and within budget," said Dr. Al Kharousi. "With that, we have added an additional oil processing capacity of about 37,000 barrels per day (bpd), which will be used to connect our wells into the system—leading to an increase in production of about 10%." A key advantage, he added, is the ability to connect more high water-cut wells that produce oil alongside a large volume of water—to the processing station. The facility also includes a water processing capacity of 400,000 bpd. Significantly, additional growth projects are under consideration for Block 60. "These projects have yet to be introduced into the system—they require discussion and approval from the government. Once that happens, further production initiatives will utilize the upgraded capacity we've established," the official noted.

Block 61: Major Gas Contributor

Another key asset is Block 61, which currently contributes around one-third of Oman's total gas production. OQEP holds a 30% interest in the licence, with BP Oman as the operator. "We have updated the Field Development Plan (FDP) with the operator BP and are now preparing to advance discussions for additional gas production, which will support the planned expansion of LNG capacity. That project—the fourth LNG train—is currently being finalized with the government and is expected to be ready by early 2026," said the Chief Executive – Commercial.

Block 8: Offshore Musandam

In the far north of Oman, OQEP operates Block 8 offshore Musandam under a service-level agreement with the Omani government. A newly drilled well in this licence is currently being analysed and tested, with the potential to contribute additional gas volumes to the company's Musandam portfolio, he said.

Exploration: Blocks 54 and 47

Exploration activities have also commenced in Block 54, which was recently added to OQEP's portfolio in partnership with Genel Energy (UK). An early well test is planned before the end of 2025 or in early 2026, according to the official. In Block 47, operated by ENI (Italy) with OQEP as a partner, there are promising prospects for a new gas discovery following the drilling of the Najid-1 well earlier this year. This could potentially lead to an extension of the EPSA (Exploration and Production Sharing Agreement) covering the licence. "The well has just reached the planned target depth. We now need to analyse and study the results, and that analysis will take a few months," explained Dr. Al Kharousi. "The block's contract expires in September, so we need at least a six-month extension beyond that to allow the operator and OQEP to complete the study. That will determine whether we proceed with re-testing or well testing, or whether we exit the block altogether. At the moment, the study is ongoing, and we hope, Inshallah, for good results. The extension is essential for that," he added. OQEP expects oil and gas production for the full year 2025 to be within the range of 220–230 kboepd (net working interest). Capital expenditure for the year is projected at \$700 million to around \$1 billion.

Reference: [Oman Observer](#)



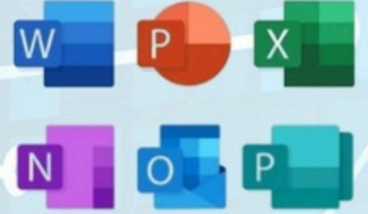
Oman oil price reaches RO 68.51 per barrel

The official price of Oman oil for October delivery reached \$67.98 on Monday. The price of Oman oil decreased by 53 cents compared to last Friday's price of \$68.51. The monthly average price of Omani crude oil for August delivery reached \$69.37 per barrel, marking an increase of \$5.75 compared to the price for July delivery. Meanwhile, international oil prices remained steady on Monday, after falling more than 4% last week, as investors looked ahead to talks between the US and Russia later this week regarding the war in Ukraine. Brent crude futures were up 5 cents to \$66.73 per barrel at 10:03 GMT, while US crude.

Reference: [Oman Observer](#)



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Oman aims to maintain stable oil & gas output, reserves



Oman's Ministry of Energy and Minerals is aiming to maintain stable levels of oil and gas production and reserves, striking a balance between optimal resource utilisation and long-term sustainability. Dr Saleh bin Ali al Anboori, Director General of Exploration and Production at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, confirmed that all companies operating in producing concession areas are implementing production and reserve compensation programmes throughout the year. In a statement to the Oman News Agency, he explained that the sultanate's average production of crude oil and condensates in 2024 reached approximately 993,000 barrels per day, while natural gas production averaged around 149mn cubic metres per day, indicating a stable supply trend in recent years. He noted that the ministry is actively marketing several open concession areas and seeking to attract new investment to intensify exploration and drilling operations in the coming period. These efforts are aligned with global market demand and the objectives of OPEC+ to maintain international market stability. Dr Anboori further stated that the ministry is currently prioritising the marketing of offshore blocks, which are expected to offer promising future prospects. "These areas could play a key role in sustaining production and reserves through the introduction of advanced technologies and innovative development strategies." He highlighted that Oman's investment environment in the oil and gas sectors remains highly attractive, drawing interest from both international and domestic companies. In 2024, the Ministry signed three petroleum agreements for Blocks 38, 74, and 15. Dr Anboori added that exploration is vital to boosting oil and gas reserves. "Exploration activities have continued steadily, and the ministry aims to sustain and increase this momentum in the coming years."

A total of 73 exploratory and appraisal wells were drilled last year, including 54 oil wells and 19 gas wells. Of these, Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) drilled 24 oil wells and nine gas wells as part of its annual plan. Dr Anboori reported that by the end of 2024, crude oil and condensate reserves stood at approximately 4.825bn barrels, while gas reserves reached 23.3tn cubic feet – evidence of the ongoing success in replenishing production and ensuring the sustainability of resources. He emphasised that the ministry remains committed to achieving a 100% reserve replacement rate. This is being pursued through enhanced exploration efforts, increased recovery rates via technologies such as enhanced steam and polymer injection, and by maintaining an attractive investment climate – all of which aim to secure a stable future for Oman's energy sector.

Reference: [Oman Observer](#)

Oman targets value chain for green energy manufacturing in Salalah



With three major green hydrogen projects in early development in the Dhofar Governorate in southern Oman, the Salalah Free Zone (SFZ)—which adjoins the Port of Salalah, overlooking the Indian Ocean — is positioning itself as an optimal destination for low-carbon downstream industrial investments. The promise of green molecules becoming available in Salalah starting from 2030 and beyond bodes well for investment inflows that leverage the city's geostrategic location, infrastructure, and logistical advantages, according to top SFZ officials. "Looking ahead, we also see Salalah playing a central role in Oman's green energy transition, especially in green hydrogen and related industries. The zone offers the land, infrastructure, and export access needed to support large-scale renewable projects," said Ahmed Tabook, Commercial Director of SFZ. Tabook — joined by his colleague Leena Al Kathiri, Senior Business Development Specialist, and Ahmed Aubad Qatan, Chief Commercial Officer at the Port of Salalah — shared their thoughts on the free zone's potential as an investment hub for petrochemicals, metals, and logistics during a recent webinar hosted by Energy Connects. Several factors underpin Salalah's green hydrogen potential. These include a strong government strategy and long-term support, partnerships with international markets such as the Netherlands to expand green hydrogen trade and bunkering solutions, and existing export infrastructure — including pipelines and liquid jetties at the Port of Salalah. Opportunities span the entire value chain: upstream, midstream, and downstream.

"We are also actively focusing on attracting companies in the renewable energy supply chain — including solar cell and panel production, wind turbine components, wind blade manufacturing, electrolyzers, and hydrogen-related equipment. The aim is to build a complete supply chain for green energy manufacturing within Salalah Free Zone," he stated. Currently, three gigawatt-scale projects — led by the consortiums of Salalah2, EDF / J-Power / Yara, and Actis / Fortescue — are targeting the production of green ammonia and green hydrogen, with operations expected to commence from 2030 onwards. Complementing this will be large-scale renewable energy capacity based on solar and wind power, which will also come online in the governorate, providing clean energy options for other industries in the free zone, he noted. According to the officials, downstream opportunities in the free zone include green steel and green aluminum production — both emerging as key focus areas. Initially, some projects may use a mix of hydrogen and natural gas, gradually transitioning to fully hydrogen-based processes. Another major opportunity is green bunkering. As the global shipping industry moves away from traditional fuels, demand for alternatives such as green ammonia and green methanol is expected to rise. Pipelines from the free zone will connect directly to the Port of Salalah, creating an ideal hub for green fuel supply. Strategically, Salalah is well-positioned between Rotterdam in Europe and Singapore in Asia — two of the world's largest bunkering hubs. In the future, Salalah is expected to emerge as a key player in this global value chain. This is significant, as sectors such as steelmaking and shipping fuels are among the hardest to decarbonize. With infrastructure for green hydrogen, green steel, and green bunkering in place, Salalah Free Zone is well-positioned to become a hub for the industries of the future, the officials noted. Importantly, Salalah Free Zone also maintains robust liquid logistics infrastructure. A dedicated corridor connects the Port of Salalah to the free zone for liquid customers. Liquid petrochemical products are transported through pipelines to the liquid jetty inside the port. This 4.5-kilometre pipeline corridor currently handles around 4.5 million tonnes of liquid cargo — including LPG, methanol, and ammonia — and is expected to support green hydrogen exports in the future, they added.

Omantel Group's net profit rises 46% to RO161mn in H1



Omantel Group's net profit surged by 46.2% to RO161.1mn in the first half of 2025, compared with RO110.2mn in the corresponding period of 2024. The increase was primarily driven by positive EBITDA performance across all operations and higher investment income, Omantel said in its financial report submitted to the Muscat Stock Exchange. Net profit attributable to the company's shareholders for the first six months of 2025 stood at RO34.9mn, up 25.5% from RO27.8mn in the same period of 2024. Omantel Group's revenue for the six months ended June 2025 reached RO1.609bn, compared with RO1.469bn in the first half of 2024, representing a 9.5% increase. The group's consolidated revenue includes Zain Group revenues which accounted for RO1.341bn. 'Group revenue increased across all operations, with growth recorded in Oman (8%), Sudan (97%), Iraq (16%), Bahrain (7%), Jordan (7%) and Saudi Arabia (5%),' Omantel noted in its report. 'In the first half of 2025, the region's telecommunications sector experienced continued strong momentum in its transition towards smart solutions and emerging technologies, fuelled by growing demand for integrated connectivity, cloud computing and AI-driven services. Amid intensifying competition and a regional drive to diversify business models, Omantel Group continued to take bold strategic steps to reinforce its position as a leading player in this evolving landscape, both in Oman and across the region,' the company said. Omantel Group's total expenses (including depreciation) rose to RO1.372bn from RO1.273bn in the corresponding period of 2024, an increase of 7.7%.

Domestic performance

Omantel's domestic revenue increased by 8% to RO321.3mn in the first half of 2025, compared with RO297.7mn in the same period of 2024.

The company said the year-on-year domestic revenue increase of RO23.6mn was mainly driven by strong growth in telco revenues, which rose by RO14.3mn, supported by robust performance across multiple segments. This included an increase in fixed revenues by RO2.4mn, device revenues by RO6.1mn and wholesale revenues by RO5.8mn.

In addition, revenues from smart solutions rose by RO6.3mn, while hosting and cloud-related services contributed a further RO2.6mn. Net profit attributable to Omantel shareholders for the first half of 2025 stood at RO34.7mn, compared with RO38.9mn in the same period of 2024. The company reported that its domestic EBITDA increased by RO2.7mn in the first half of 2025, supported by stronger gross margins resulting from top-line growth and a reduction in royalty rates on mobile services from 12% to 10%. 'Net profit decreased by RO4.1mn due to higher depreciation costs of RO5.4mn, reflecting increased investment in networks and digital channels to enhance customer experience. Additional investments undertaken as part of the Tech Co strategy also contributed to higher capital expenditure and depreciation charges,' Omantel stated.

Omantel's total domestic mobile subscriber base as of June 30, 2025 was 3.8mn (including mobile resellers), compared with 3.1mn in the corresponding period of 2024, driven by growth in post-paid mobile connections, particularly M2M SIMs. The company's domestic mobile market share (excluding mobile resellers) stood at 40.3% as of June 2025, while its fixed broadband market share was 54.6%.

Reference: [Muscat Daily](#)

Oman announces new fiscal incentives for third green hydrogen auction



Hydrom, the orchestrator of Oman's national Green Hydrogen Strategy, on Wednesday announced new fiscal incentives designed to enhance the commercial viability of projects that will be awarded through the ongoing third green hydrogen auction round. The measures represent a targeted response to a market sounding exercise conducted by Hydrom earlier this year and evolving global market dynamics, reaffirming Oman's position as one of the world's most structured and investment-ready hydrogen ecosystems. The new incentive includes a 90% reduction in land lease fees during the development stage with potential for further relief during the Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) phase, alongside significant reductions in base royalties during the initial years of production, and corporate tax exemptions for up to ten years. Together, these measures are designed to support early-stage project economics, improve internal rates of return, and facilitate accelerated progress towards final investment decisions. Eng Abdulaziz al Shidhani, Managing Director of Hydrom said, "The global hydrogen landscape is entering a phase of consolidation, with developers prioritising jurisdictions that provide regulatory certainty, strong project economics, and credible offtake potential. The newly introduced incentives reflect Hydrom's proactive approach to evolving market dynamics, reaffirming Oman's position as a delivery-focused, investment-ready destination for large-scale hydrogen development." Designed with flexibility, transparency, and scalability at its core, Oman's third green hydrogen projects auction round is progressing with strong momentum, offering a land block of up to 300sqkm in Duqm and inviting proposals for projects covering a minimum of 100sqkm. Bidders have the flexibility in defining their project footprint within the block, enabling tailored configurations that align with individual development strategies and market requirements. To date, almost 100 registrations have been received from major industry players and consortia across the green hydrogen value chain. This strong market response underscores a sustained appetite for structured, policy-backed green hydrogen development opportunities. The third auction round continues to attract serious first movers and institutional investors seeking to scale up operations in a competitive and structured environment. The Statement of Qualification (SoQ) submission window remains open until October 31, 2025, and Hydrom encourages all interested parties to register and submit their documents via the dedicated platform. To support the formation of strong consortia in Round 3, Hydrom will launch an updated consortium matchmaking list, an established tool that has successfully connected qualified participants seeking strategic project partnerships.

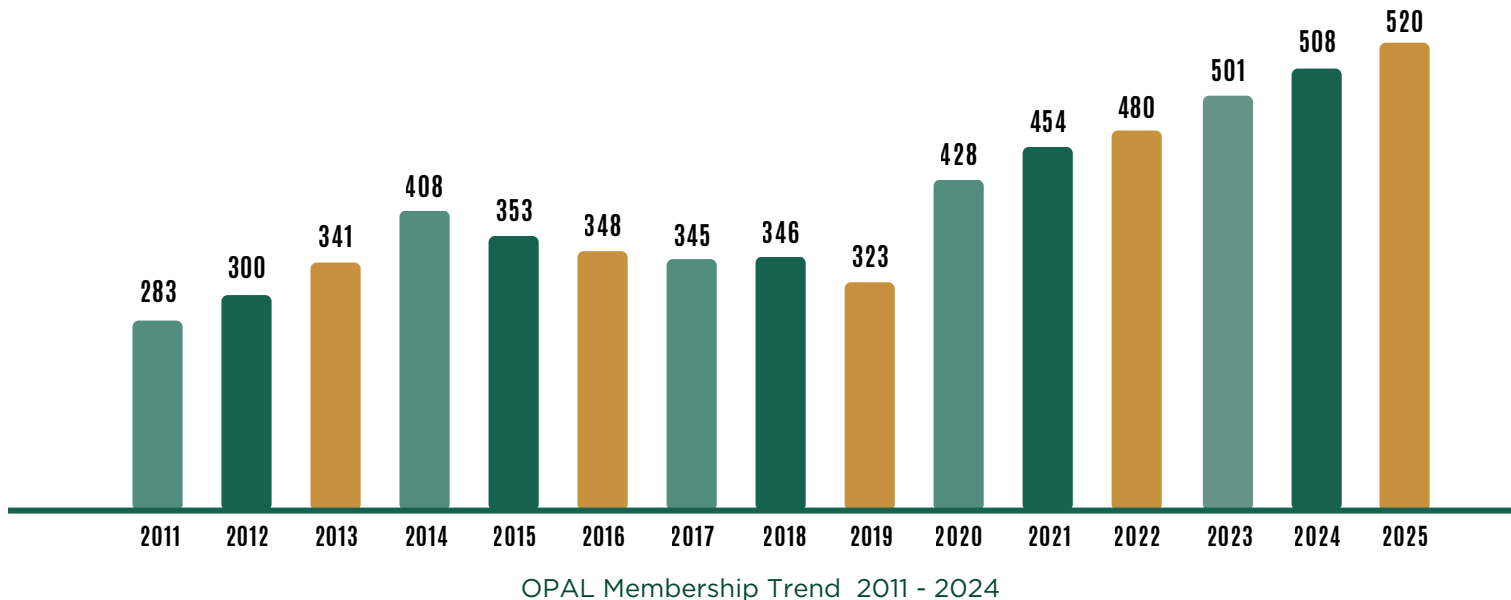
Reference: [Muscat Daily](#)

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 (21st April)	 Oman Sustainability Week (11-15th May)	Oman Road Safety Forum (June 11th)
Senior Leaders Safety Forum 15th Edition (23rd Jan)			Summer Heat Stress Management (30th Apr online)	 OMAN PETROLEUM & ENERGY SHOW (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 (28th Aug)	Learning from Incidents & Best Practices Forum (24th Sept)	Oman Road Safety & Accident Prevention Summit (15th - 18th Oct)	Ruwad Graduation Ceremony (TBC)	Digitalization & AI Forum (10th Dec)
				Learning from Incidents & Best Practices DROPS (5th Nov)	

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