

**Embassy of India
Kuwait

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Kuwait tenders consultancy contract for refinery project

Kuwait's National Petroleum Company (KNPC) has tendered a contract for the provision of consultancy services for a front-end engineering and design (feed) study for coke handling facilities at Kuwait's Mina Abdullah refinery. A pre-tender meeting is due to take place on 9 September and bids are due to be submitted by 10 October 2024. A total of six companies have pre-qualified to bid on the project, i.e., Toyo Engineering Corporation (Japan); Technip Energies (France); Worley Engineering (Australia); KBR (USA); Wood (UK) and Engineers India Limited (India). As reported earlier, a committee has been created to oversee the merger of three Kuwait's state-owned oil companies in an effort to streamline operations.

Four companies bid for Kuwait refinery project

It has been reported that bids have been submitted for a project by Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) to deliver alternative feed systems for the hydrogen production unit at its Al-Zour refinery. Bids were submitted ahead of the deadline of 27 August 2024. The four companies successfully submitted bids are: China Tianchen Engineering (China); Gulf Spic General Trading & Contracting (Kuwait); Jereh Oil & Gas; Engineering Corporation (China); Heisco (Kuwait). It is also reported that China's Sinopec Luoyang Engineering was excluded from the bidding process. Project has been delayed several times since June 2023 before bids were eventually submitted. Scope of the the contract includes engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) work, pre-commissioning, start-up and quality testing. It has also been reported that to seek their interest in the planned project, KIPIC had contacted the following contractors: Hyundai Engineering & Construction (South Korea), Larsen & Toubro Energy Hydrocarbon (India), Petrofac (UK), Samsung Engineering (South Korea), SK Engineering & Contracting (South Korea). The project had an estimated budget of \$150m and was expected to take 36 months to complete.

Mandatory disclosure of Commercial License real beneficiary

Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced that commercial licenses will not be issued or renewed for any companies, including sole proprietorships and closed joint-stock companies, unless they comply with the requirement to disclose the beneficial owner through the commercial registry portal on the Ministry of Commerce's website. The Ministry has declared that this new legal procedure is mandatory for all companies and commercial institutions to identify the natural person who holds actual and final control over the company.

Public Works Minister discusses Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port Project with Chinese delegation

Kuwait's Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashan accompanied by a high-level Chinese technical delegation comprising experts and engineers specialized in mega development projects, held a visit to site of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port on Boubyan Island. The delegation also visited Shuaiba, Shuwaikh and Doha ports. The visit is in pursuance of memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries in 2023. It is worth highlighting that the Mubarak Port project is today at the forefront of the Kuwaiti development and economic scene. It is also reported that Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment also held discussions with the visiting Chinese delegation on details and mechanisms for implementing the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project in all its phases.

Kuwait real estate transaction value drops 22% in August 2024

Kuwait real estate market faced 22% decrease in the value of real estate transactions in August 2024. Total value of real estate transactions in August was approximately KD 296 million (US\$960m) for 407 transactions with a breakup of KD 130 million for household, KD 119 million for investment in real estate and KD 42 million for commercial transactions. Surprisingly, an 8% increase has been noted in the value of real estate transactions in the investment sector for August 2024 which reached KD 105 million (US\$343m) compared to July 2024.

New airport project to support Kuwait's economic growth

Minister of Public Works of Kuwait Dr Noura Al-Mashaan has said that the new airport project (T2) confirms the commitment to developing the civil aviation sector and its vital role in supporting the country's economic growth. She emphasized that project T2 is one of the ambitious national projects to develop and will modernize the country's infrastructure as envisaged under Kuwait Vision 2035. It will transform the country into a regional, global financial and commercial hub and will attract investments. She stressed the government's keenness to harness all capabilities and facilities to complete the airport project according to the schedule.

Kuwait extends gas project bid deadline

Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) has extended the bid deadline for its project to install depletion compression systems and sulphur recovery units (SRUs) at two key facilities in North of Kuwait. The project involves installing the new units at the facilities known as Early Production Facility 50 (EPF-50) and Jurassic Production Facility 3 (JPF-3). Tender documents were originally made available on 17 September 2023 with a bid deadline of 17 December 2023. Due to scope changes, the deadline has been extended several

times. The latest extension has pushed the bid deadline from 10 September 2024 to 1 October 2024. The estimated budget for the project had been increased from about \$380m to \$460m. The project will use a build-own-operate-transfer contract model. The scope of contract includes installing the new medium-pressure (MP) compression system and SRU at EPF-50 and installing the new MP compression system and SRU at JPF-3. EPF-50 facility currently process 200 million (scf/d) of gas, 50,000 barrels a day (b/d) of oil and 130 tonnes a day (t/d) of sulphur. The JPF-3 facility currently process 150 million scf/d, 50,000 b/d and 200 t/d of sulphur.

KNPC to increase local fuel sales in 3 years

Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) plans to increase its local annual fuel sales to 17 billion liters in the next three years in response to the growing local demand for high-quality automotive fuel. KNPC's local fuel sales in 2023 were approximately 14.617 billion liters. KNPC is working to increase its production capacity for diesel fuel that meets international environmental standards. Kuwaiti diesel is preferred in European markets due to its compliance with international environmental protection requirements.

With regards,

(Davinder Punj)
Second Secretary (Commerce)