

LR2 Refinery project achieves significant safety milestone

LR2 Refinery Project has accomplished a major milestone in the construction phase by achieving 5mn man-hours without a lost time injury (LTI).

A celebration to mark the occasion was held in this connection.

LR2 Refinery Project is part of Qatar's National Vision 2030 for ensuring efficient energy supplies for the country and meeting the most stringent environmental specifications.

The project will contribute to maximise the opportunities from the development of the North Field to produce high quality refined products from condensate. It will also have significant integration with existing facilities such as Laffan Refinery 1 (LR1), tank farm and jetty.

LR2 Refinery will effectively double the condensate refining capacity of the existing operating LR1 to a total of 300,000 barrels per day (bpd), solidifying Qatar's unique position as the largest condensate processor in the world.

Qatargas CEO Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa al-Thani said, "Safety is a core value for Qatargas and a key part of our mission. This achievement is yet more evidence of our strong and continuous commitment to ensure the safety of our most important asset, our people. Our incident and injury-free culture is woven into everything we do and as we continue our journey as the world's premier LNG company, we will set ever higher safety standards and strive to reach new milestones."

"I wish to express my thanks and congratulations to all Laffan Refinery 2 employees and contractors for their support in reaching this important milestone," he added.

Salman Ashkanani, chief operating officer (Refinery Ventures) said, "This milestone



The LR2 Refinery project site at Ras Laffan. The refinery will effectively double the condensate refining capacity of the existing operating LR1 to a total of 300,000 barrels per day.

was achieved not only by the implementation of the Qatargas Incident and Injury Free Programme (IIF) and vigorous Heat Stress Programme, but also by the hard work, integration, dedication and continuous focus on total safety by CCJV (Chiyoda and CTCI Corporation Joint Venture), Consolidated Contractors Group (main general subcontractor) and the LR2 Project Management Team. I look forward to maintaining this excellent standard through to the completion of the project."

Manickam Ravichandran, acting project manager said, "This achievement we have

celebrated on LR2 Project is a major safety milestone and it is clearly based on the commitment towards safety that I have seen within the teams. The safety philosophy in the project is multi-faceted. We take a standards-based approach. The Project Management Team supports and provides oversight to the contractor's safety teams but we are also supported by Qatargas Safety, Environment and Quality Department. We have benefited a great deal from various safety campaigns which have included the fundamental "Qatargas Ten Life Saving Rules".

LR2 is a joint venture between

Qatar Petroleum, Total, Idemitsu, Cosmo, Marubeni and Mitsui. LR2, like the existing LR1 Refinery, will be operated by Qatargas Operating Company.

The construction works are scheduled to be completed on the first half of 2016 and the expected start-up date is set for the third quarter of 2016.

The LR2 Refinery Project is led by a Qatargas Project Management Team (PMT) with CCJV being the Engineering, Procurement, Supply, Construction and Commissioning (EPSCC) contractor.

CCJV is a robust joint venture between CHIYODA and CTCI Corporation. Consolidated

Contractors Groups is the main general subcontractor.

The Qatargas PMT together with the EPSCC main general contractors and Consolidated Contractors Groups have adopted an integrated approach to safety that involves working closely with the workforce in a collaborative manner to ensure the health and safety of all employees.

Having commenced construction activities in November 2013, the current activities on site, with a multi-cultured workforce of approximately 3,500 workers, are mainly civil engineering and the early stages of steel structure and piping works.



Qatargas Refinery Ventures chief operating officer Salman Ashkanani delivers a keynote speech.

Qatargas underscores Laffan refinery's role in diversification

An official of Qatargas has underscored the importance of the Laffan Refinery and its contribution to diversifying the country's energy mix during the 18th Annual Condesate and Naphtha Forum held on November 3 and 4 in Doha. "The Laffan Refinery is of strategic importance as it will contribute to diversifying Qatar's energy mix and further strengthens the capacity to respond to the country's changing needs and future challenges," said Qatargas CEO Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa al-Thani. Held under the patronage of HE the Minister of Energy and Industry Dr Mohamed bin Saleh al-Sada, the forum provides a platform for discussion of the latest developments and dissemination of key market trends, opportunities, and challenges of the industry. Qatargas, which was the Gold Sponsor for the event, joined other national oil companies, oil majors, leading consultants, refiners, traders, and feedstock players from more than 45 countries during the forum. Al-Thani said the Laffan Refinery "is yet another step in realising the Qatar National Vision 2030 through achieving sustainable development by ensuring the optimisation of Qatar's natural resources."

He added, "The successful delivery and efficient operation of Laffan Refinery 1 and a host of other major projects has

proved that Qatargas has the infrastructure, leadership, and expertise to lead the world in projects of this kind."

In a keynote speech entitled "Laffan Refinery - Driving Sustainability Through Diversification," Qatargas Refinery Ventures chief operating officer Salman Ashkanani said the Laffan Refinery 1 and Laffan Refinery 2 project, which is the second condensate refinery being built in Qatar, will double the current condensate refining capacity to 300,000bpd, confirming its position as the largest condensate refinery in the world.

Laffan Refinery was designed to meet the most stringent environmental standards and all of its refined products are treated to obtain ultra-low sulfur content to achieve the highest quality in the market. The production of refined products from condensate provides an opportunity for Qatar as the largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) and condensate producer in the world to become a leading producer of cleaner fuels and firmly position the country as the largest condensate processor in the world. Held annually since 1996 in Asia, Middle East, and Australia, the Condensate and Naphtha Forum is the only one of its kind and was held again in Qatar this year.

QDB trains bankers to strengthen SME lending in Qatar



To enhance lending to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and support sustainable private sector growth in Qatar, Qatar Development Bank (QDB) recently concluded its annual training workshop for managers and credit officers at partner banks of its Al Dhameen indirect lending programme. The workshop, held on October 26 and 27, supports 14 Islamic and conventional commercial banks in the Al Dhameen network to grow financing opportunities for SMEs in Qatar. The training was attended by customer relationship managers in order to help improve their skills in the field of credit and project evaluation. QDB CEO Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa said, "This annual training shows our efforts to support and strengthen Al Dhameen by working with our partners, helping relationship managers and credit officers and provide the right resources to SMEs and entrepreneurs in Qatar." He added, "We know that financial institutions and banks in Qatar have a key role to play in promoting SMEs and private sector growth and we are proud to be partners, not competitors, with them in that mission." Al-Khalifa noted that banks are "generally very cautious" when dealing with SMEs due to higher perceived risks. "But QDB seeks to educate and inform our partners by clarifying the level of profitability and providing insight into the unique needs of SMEs," he said. Picture shows one of the participants receiving a certificate after the annual training programme.

Al khaliji extends financing for Al Rayyan Road construction project

Al Khalij Commercial Bank (al khaliji) has extended financing facility for a QR1bn contract awarded to a joint venture between Boom Construction Company and Six Construct Qatar for the Al Rayyan Road construction project.

The contract involves the construction and development of Al Rayyan Road (Project 7) stretching from West of New Rayyan roundabout to East of Bani Hajer roundabout, together with the construction and upgrade of associated side roads and service roads. al khaliji's financing facilities will help meet the bonding and funding requirement for this project.

The project is one of the recently awarded projects by Public Works Authority (Ashghal) under the Expressway Programme and the roads and infrastructure projects in the Local Areas Programme. It is a significant infrastructure plan being carried out in Doha, which will connect the south of Doha with the north, and the east with the west.

al khaliji Group chief executive officer Fahad al-Khalifa said, "We are proud of our contribution to Qatar's infrastructure development. Being involved in this key project, enhancing the country's future transportation landscape with the collaboration of well-known local and international contractors, comes as part of al khaliji's innovative mid-term strategy."

"We will continue to broaden our future projects focusing on infrastructure financing leading up to the 2022 World Cup and the 2030 National Vision."

al khaliji has long been involved in supporting projects that would help develop the infrastructure of the country. Financing such projects was made possible by the fact that contracting is a key focus area



The al khaliji headquarters at West Bay. Upgraded to an 'A' credit rating by Fitch in 2014, al khaliji has access to international financial markets.

in the bank's mid-term strategy. As part of this, a dedicated contracting team specifically caters to the needs of large local and international contractors operating in Qatar, working across diverse business sectors that include, but not limited to, infrastructure and other mega projects.

Recently upgraded to an 'A' credit rating by international rating firm Fitch in 2014, al khaliji has access to international

financial markets; to provide long-term financing solutions to support large-scale Government infrastructure development projects.

This coupled with al khaliji's know-how and understanding of the requirements of its preferred clients, through its select group of banking professionals, ensures that al khaliji is well-placed to harness the tremendous potential of the Qatari economy in the coming years.

Boeing to display CST-100 Spacecraft in Abu Dhabi

Boeing's Crew Space Transportation (CST)-100 spacecraft yesterday made its international debut in Abu Dhabi at an Innovation Summit organised by The Atlantic and underwritten by Boeing.

Accompanying the full-scale CST-100 mock-up, was Chris Ferguson, Boeing's Commercial Crew director and former NASA Space Shuttle Commander, who discussed the next-generation of human space flight.

In keeping with its continued efforts to develop science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in the UAE, ADEC will be exhibiting the CST-100 mock-up at the Mubarak bin Mohamed School on November 9 and 10.



The CST-100 will launch its first "uncrewed" flight in early 2017 and its first crewed flight to the ISS later that year.

"We are at an inflection point in the space business. The trend is for commercial companies, like Boeing, to manage cargo and crew transportation to low-Earth orbit destinations, while NASA focuses on longer-range exploration missions like sending humans

to Mars," said Ferguson. "It's extremely important to have venues like the Innovation Summit where leaders in multiple industries can share how big ideas are revolutionising global industries."

In September, Boeing was awarded a \$4.2bn contract from

NASA to build the next generation of human spacecraft. Boeing's CST-100 is designed to transport up to seven passengers or a mix of crew and cargo to low-Earth orbit destinations such as the International Space Station (ISS) and the planned Bigelow station. The CST-100 will launch its first "uncrewed" flight in early 2017 and its first crewed flight to the ISS later that year.

Ferguson holds an essential role in Boeing's human spaceflight programme, having oversight for crew interface in the design of the CST-100 system. He also plays a key leadership role in the development and testing of system concepts and key technologies for the spacecraft and integrated launch and ground systems.