

KUWAIT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Economy & projects update – Issue 20



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MACROFCONOMIC UPDATE

The inflation levels measured by consumer price index (CPI) stood at 2.7% YoY in May 2017 as compared to 3.2% YoY in February 2017.

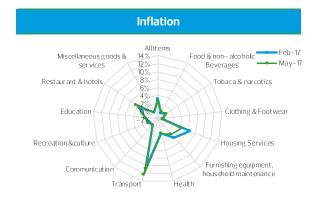
- Food and beverages prices rose by 0.1% YoY in May 2017 as compared to 0.3% YoY decline in February 2017. Thus, the moderate food prices were in line with the upward trend in local food inflation attributed to increased demand during the Holy Month of Ramadan in May and June 2017.
- ❖ The transport inflation witnessed a major increase to reach 12.3% YoY in May 2017 as compared to 10.7% YoY in February 2017. Furthermore, the prices of tobacco & narcotics, health and restaurant & hotels increased by 0.6%, 1.7% and 4.5% YoY respectively in May 2017 as compared to 0.4%, 1.5% and 3.4% YoY respectively in February 2017.
- Furthermore, the prices of recreational & culture slightly increased by 0.6% YoY as compared to 0.2% YoY in February 2017.
- However, the prices of housing services and furnishing equipment & household maintenance decreased by 4.3% and 2.9% YoY respectively in May 2017 as compared to 6.4% and 4.1% YoY respectively in February 2017.
- Components such as clothing & footwear, communication and miscellaneous goods & services also declined further in May 2017 compared to February 2017.

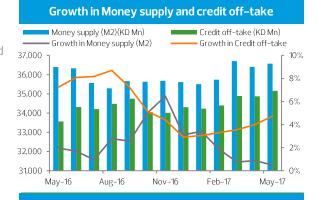
Money supply (M2) growth eased to 0.5% in May 2017 compared with February 2017

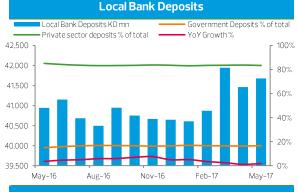
- Kuwait's broad measure of money supply (M2) increased by KD 0.84 billion from February 2017 to reach KD 36.57 billion in May 2017, a YoY growth of 0.5%. The rise in M2 is mainly attributed to the increase in sight deposits which grew by KD 0.58 billion from February 2017 to reach KD 8.77 billion in May 2017.
- Credit facilities extended by local banks to residents increased by KD 0.75 billion from February 2017, to reach KD 35.15 billion in May 2017. The personal facilities were up by KD 0.21 billion during the same period, mainly due to increase in installment loans by KD 0.25 billion. Real estate sector also formed main source of credit growth with an increase of KD 0.19 billion in May 2017, from February 2017.
- Bank deposits at local banks increased by 1.8 YoY to reach KD 41.68 billion in May 2017. Private sector deposits constitute 83% of the bank deposits, at KD 34.76 billion in May 2017.

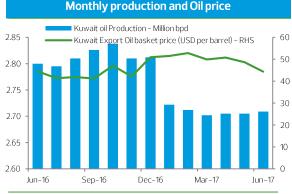
Kuwait export oil price continues to decline this quarter

- The average price of Kuwait crude oil in June 2017 reached about USD 44.37 per barrel (p/b), below March 2017 average price of USD 49.87 per barrel. The decrease was due to an increase in US crude reserves as a result of continuous rise in US crude production, which reached a high of 9.35 million barrels per day (mb/d) in June 2017.
- Kuwait's crude oil production averaged 2.709 million b/d in June 2017, a slight increase from 2.702 million b/d in March 2017.









Source: Central Bank of Kuwait, OPEC

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MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE

A. Kuwait Authority For Partnership (KAPP) projects

List of Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) projects in Kuwait							
Proje	ct Name	Sector	Project Value (USD Mn)	Current Status			
Project updates in 2 nd quarter 2017							
1	Al–Zour North Independent Water and Power Project (IWPP) – Phase 2	Power	1,400	Remaining 2 bidders awaiting project's owner to open the commercial prices			
2	Al–AbdaliyahIntegrated Solar Combined Cycle (ISCC)	Power	720	Prequalification process is expected to begin by August 2017			
3	South Al–Jahra Labour City	Real Estate Development	500	RFQ is expected to be submitted by 2 nd July 2017			
Othe	r projects as mentioned in our previous edition						
4	Kuwait National Rail Road (KNRR)	Transportation	10,000	Issue of Eol postponed			
5	Kuwait Metropolitan Rapid Transit System (KMRT)	Transportation	7,000	Review of FS completed			
6	Kuwait Failaka Island Development	Real Estate Development	3,300	Consultancy Bids under Evaluation			
7	Al–Zour North Independent Water and Power Project (IWPP) – Phase 1	Power	2,700	Construction works completed, commercial operation started			
8	Al–KhairanIndependent Water and Power Project (IWPP)	Power	2,400	RFP submission delayed			
9	Umm Al-Hayman Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP)	Water & Wastewater Management	1,190	KAPP received lowest bids. Financial bids opened on 16 th March 2017			
10	Municipal Solid Waste Treatment Facility – Kabd	Solid Waste Management	215	KAPP received lowest bidders			
11	Rest Houses And Doha Chalet's Service Centers	Real Estate Development	50	RFQ and RFP			
12	Service and Entertainment Center–Egaila	RealEstate	N/A	Prequalified7 Consortiums			
13	Kuwait Schools Development Program	Education	N/A	Evaluation of the financial bids			
14	Commercial, Educational, Cultural and Entertainment Center in Abdulla Al Ahmad Street	Real Estate Development	N/A	Pre-tendering			

Source: MEED, Thomson Reuters Zawya

Note: EOI – Expression of Interest, EPĆ – Engineering, Procurement and Construction, RFQ – Request for Qualification, RFP – Request for Proposal, TA – Transaction Advisory, FS – Feasibility Study, BOT – Build, Operate and Transfer, DBOT – Design, Build, Operate and Transfer

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A. Kuwait Authority For Partnership (KAPP) projects... Cont'd.

Firms waiting to open Al-Zour North 2 IWPP bids

The two bidders remain in the running for independent water and power project are:

- Marubeni Corporation (Japan) / Fouad al-Ghanim & Sons (Kuwait)
- Sumitomo Corporation (Japan) / Osaka Gas Company (Japan) / National Industries Holding Group (Kuwait)

In April 2017, KAPP was initially set to open commercial prices for the scheme, after having recently asked the 2 remaining bidders to extend bid bonds by 6 months (to October 2017). The bidders for the contract are still waiting for the scheme owner to open the commercial prices.

Recently, KAPP had requested the firms for the scheme to submit further clarifications and additional papers on their technical proposals, which were submitted in May 2017. The scheme will have a power generation capacity of 1,500MW and a desalination component of at least 102 million imperial gallons a day (MIGD).

Kuwait to retender Al-Abdaliyah ISCC plant

KAPP is planning to retender the contract for Al-Abdaliyah Integrated Solar Combined-Cycle (ISCC) plant, after cancelling the existing tender 16 months subsequent to the Request for Proposals (RFP) that had been issued in November 2015. The prequalification process is expected to begin by August 2017.

The bid deadline for the scheme has witnessed several delays, with the most recent deadline due on 2nd April 2017. The extension is due to KAPP's main focus being on the Al–Zour North 2 IWPP bid evaluation and also to allow bidders more time to work on prices due to the technical complexity of the ISCC project. The project involves developing an Integrated Solar Combined Cycle plant to generate power with a capacity of 280MW, including a 60MW solar energy component on a Build–Own–Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis.

Request for RFQ for Kuwait South Jahra Labour City project

KAPP in collaboration with the Kuwait Municipality (KM), has invited firms to submit Request for Qualification (RFQ) for the development of South Jahra Labour City project. The RFQ for the project was to be submitted by 2nd July 2017.

KAPP had invited companies to submit Expression of Interest (EoI) for the Transaction Advisory Services related to the project. The scope of work involves design, financing, construction, operation, maintenance and transfer of a 1,015,000 m2 labor city, which aims to provide adequate and affordable housing for 20,000 male bachelor laborers. The tenure of the PPP agreement with the KM will be 40 years including a 3-year construction period.

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B. Infrastructure and development projects

PAHW tenders Kuwait's Jaber Al-Ahmad and Sabah Al-Ahmad Cities development

Kuwait's Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has invited the private sector to submit Request for Qualification (RFQ) for the mixed-use real estate development at the Jaber Al-Ahmad and Sabah Al-Ahmad cities in Kuwait. The deadline for submitting RFQs is 24th August 2017. Post evaluation, qualified bidders would be invited to purchase the Request For Proposal (RFP) by Q3 2017 (tentatively). The areas have been divided into 5 Investment Opportunities as described below. The PAHW is seeking suitably qualified private sector partners to design, finance, construct, operate, maintain and transfer various developments within these Investment Opportunities.

1) Investment opportunities in Jaber Al-Ahmad City:

- Residential units for sale and retail spaces for lease which includes public parks, restaurants, cafes and lifestyle facilities.
- Business center and a retail area for lease, which include offices, retail units, restaurants and a park.
- Residential units for lease, retail shops, a park and a mall.

2) Investment opportunities in Sabah Al-Ahmad City:

- Residential units for lease, a retail center, a kids' club and a park.
- Industrial area for light/medium industries, workshops for repair services and storage areas. The area includes a government complex comprising of three (3) government buildings and a labor accommodation.

The infrastructure facilities are currently under construction by the Authority with a 90% completion status to date at both cities. The terms of the projects range from 20 to 40 years, following which the projects will be transferred to the Authority.

Kuwait to tender Mubarak al-Kabeer Seaport project

Kuwait's Ministry of Public Works (MPW) is planning to tender a key dredging and reclamation package for the construction of Mubarak al–Kabeer Seaport project at Bubiyan Island within the 3rd quarter of 2017. The schedule for the release of the tender is still tentative and highly contingent upon the government. The next packages entail dredging works as well as the construction of a basin and a container yard. The 1st construction package of the Phase 1 of the scheme is expected to be completed before the end of 2017.

Itinera wins Kuwait road contract

Italy's Itinera, a division of ASTM Group, was awarded a USD 306 million contract to upgrade a section of Abdaly Highway, which will link Kuwait City with the under-construction South Al-Mutlaa City. The highway segment extends for 25km and has 3 lanes in each direction. The work entails increasing the number of lanes to 5 lanes in each direction as well as the inclusion of emergency lanes. The project construction is set to start by August 2017, with completion scheduled by 2020.

Copri bids low for Northern Regional Road scheme

Kuwait's Copri Construction Enterprises Company has submitted the lowest bid of KD 61.8 million (USD 203 million) for the construction of a road segment on the Northern Regional Road extending from the Abdaly Expressway to future crossroads that link with the Subiya Expressway.

MPW had invited firms to submit bids for the construction of a road segment on the Northern Regional Road scheme. Currently, the bidders are waiting for the contact to be awarded.

Lowest bidders for Northern Region Road scheme

- Copri Construction Enterprises Co (Kuwait) USD 203 mn
- Galfar Engineering & Contracting (Oman) USD 205.5 mn
- United Gulf Construction (Kuwait) USD 218.85 mn
- Mohammed Abdulmohsin al-Kharafi & Sons (Kuwait)
 USD 222.7 mn
- Alghanim International General Trading & Contracting (Kuwait)
 USD 229.7 mn
- Canar Trading & Contracting (Kuwait) USD 242.9 mn
- Consolidated Contractors (Kuwait subsidiary) USD 244.6 mn
- Kuwait Arab Contractors (Kuwait) USD 251.5 mn
- Green Line General Trading & Contracting (Kuwait)
 USD 263 mn
- Combined Group Contracting (Kuwait) USD 298 mn

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B. Infrastructure and development projects ... cont'd.

Al-Kharafibids low for Palace of Justice project

Kuwait's Al-Kharafi & Sons General Contracting Company has submitted the lowest bid of USD 948 million for the construction of a proposed new Palace of Justice being developed by the MPW located in Kuwait City, next to the existing Palace of Justice.

The scope of work involves the construction of 2 towers, which are expected to be the world's tallest and largest judicial buildings once completed by 2019.

Lowest bidders for Palace of Justice project

- Al-Kharafi & Sons General Contracting Company
- ❖ Al-GhanimInetrnational General Trading & Contracting Company
- Al-Ahmadiah Contracting & Trading Company
- Al-Hani Construction & Trading Company
- Combined Group Contracting Company
- Sayed Hameed Behbehani & Sons Company

Kuwait earmarks a KD 94 million for South Surra roads scheme

Kuwait's government intends to spend KD 94 million (USD 309 million) to develop roads and other infrastructure located in South Surra area. The scheme will cover construction and maintenance of roads, overpasses in areas in the vicinity of Sheikh Jaber Hospital and some parts of the 6th Ring Road, which is being executed by MPW.

79% accomplished on Doha Link scheme

MPW announced the completion of about 79% of Sheik Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Jaber Causeway Project (Doha Link) as of June 2017. The project involves the design, build, completion and maintenance of Doha Link which spans across Kuwait Bay between Kuwait City and the Subiyah area. The project is expected to be completed by 2018.

South Korean contractors to work on Kuwait's Smart City project

Kuwait's Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) and South Korea's Korea Land & Housing Corporation (LH) has announced that a consortium of South Korean contractors: POSCO Engineering & Construction and Hyundai Architects and Engineers will work on the planned Smart City, called "South Saad al-Abdullah New Town" project. As mentioned in one of our previous editions – Issue 16, PAHW and LH had agreed to form the joint construction company mandated to plan, design and construct up to 30,000 housing units and will cover 59 square kilometers to accommodate 400,000 people.

The estimated cost of the project is expected to range between USD 10 to 15 billion. The work is expected to begin by 2019, once all the design and feasibility studies are completed.

MPW signs major infrastructure deals

Kuwait's MPW has signed contracts worth KD 9.8 million (USD 32.17 million) dealing with the construction of major infrastructure projects in Kuwait. One contract, aggregating to cost a total of KD 1 million, entails the overhaul of a rainwater network located in Al-Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer area.

While, a 2^{nd} contract, aggregating to a cost of KD 7.8 million involves the repair of the 6th Ring Road, which includes bridges and overpasses.

WSP/Parsons wins Kuwait road contract

MPW has awarded a KD 7.67 million (USD 24.9 million) contract to a consortium of Canada–based WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff and Kuwait's Gulf Consult Company for the conceptual design and construction supervision of Package 3 of the 1st Ring Road scheme.

Package 3 was retendered in January 2016, as mentioned in one of our previous editions — Issue 15. The scheme entails the construction of an 11 – kilometre road, interchanges, road widening, tunneling, drainage and other related facilities.

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C. Oil & Gas sector projects

Saipem bids low for the final Phase of New Refinery project (NRP)

KOC retendered the final phase of Kuwait's New Refinery Project (NRP) and Italy's Saipem has emerged as frontrunner after submitting the lowest bid of USD 842 million for the scheme. South Korea's SK Engineering and a consortium of Lebanon's Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC) and Spain's Tecnicas Reunidas submitted the next lowest bids. The NRP is estimated to cost USD 17 billion. The scope of work involves the construction of about 250 kilometres of crude oil feedstock pipelines that will serve the planned 615,000 b/d greenfield refinery at Al– Zour in Southern Kuwait.

In January 2017, as mentioned in our previous edition — Issue 19, UAE-based Dodsal Group was awarded a KD 265 million (USD 868 million) contract to construct feed pipelines at KOC's New Refinery Project (NRP). However, KOC eventually moved the Kuwait's Supreme Council of Energy into re-tendering the project as the contractor has been accused of delaying previous works undertaken in Kuwait.

KNPC signs a USD 6.25 billion ECA-backed financing for Clean Fuel Project (CFP)

KNPC has signed a USD 6.25 billion corporate loan package with International banks and export credit agencies (ECAs) to finance its planned Clean Fuel Project (CFP). The financing was backed by 7 ECAs, including South Korea's Korea Trade Insurance Corporation (K–Sure), Export–Import Bank of Korea (Kexim), Italy's SACE, Japan Bank for International Cooperation and fellow Japanese ECA Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (Nexi), Spain's Atradius and UK Export Finance (UKEP).

The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) was the financial adviser for the deal and Al–Tamimi & Company was hired as the Kuwaiti counsel to KNPC. KNPC selected a group of 10 international banks to provide the financing under the coverage of Korean ECA K–Sure, the Italian SACE, the Dutch Atradius and the British UK Export Finance. The banks are HSBC, Bank of Tokyo–Mitsubishi UFJ (BTMU), BNP Paribas, Banco Santander, Societe Generale, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (BBVA), Natixis, Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank (CA–CIB), Mizuho Bank and Standard Chartered Bank.

The funding package, which is the 2^{nd} tranche of an overall USD 10 billion financial deal, is the largest ever ECA-backed corporate facility in Kuwait.

KOC tenders gas sweetening facility

KOC has invited prequalified firms to submit bids for the engineering, procurement and construction contract of the 2^{nd} Phase of the gas sweetening facility at booster station BS-171located in West Kuwait. The scope of work includes the construction of 2 trains with a capacity of 60 million cubic feet a day (mcf/d) each. The gas will be fed from existing gathering centres 17, 27 and 28 as well as the new centre 16.

Prequalified firms for Gas sweeting facility at Booster station (BS-171)

- Lurgi Oel Gas Chemie (Germany)
- Saipem (Italy)
- Tekfen Construction and Installation (turkey)
- Technip (France)
- Petrofac (UK)
- Larsen & Toubro (India)
- Entrepose Contracting (France)
- National Petroleum Construction Company (USE)
- Daelim Industrial (South Korea)
- Technicas Reunidas (Spain)
- KBR Overseas (UK)
- Parsons Energy & Chemicals Group (USA)
- Chiyoda Corporation (Japan)
- Foster Wheeler Energy (UK)
- JGC Corporation (Japan)
- SK Engineering & Construction (South Korea)

- SNC Lavalin (Canada)
- Engineers India (India)
- Joannou Paraskev Aides Overseas (Greece)
- Techint Compagnia Tecnica Internazionale (Italy)
- Washington Group International (USA)
- Consolidated Contractors Company (Athens-based)
- Samsung Engineering (South Korea)
- GS Engineering & Construction (South Korea)
- Hyundai Heavy Industries (South Korea)
- GS Engineering & Construction (South Korea)
- Amec Group Limited Oil & Gas (UK)
- Aker Kvaerner (Norway)
- China Petroleum Jilin Chemical Engineering & Construction (China)
- Daewoo Engineering & Construction (South Korea)
- ABB (Sweden/Switzerland)

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C. Oil & Gas sector projects ... cont'd.

KOC extends deadline for Northern Crude pipeline deal

KOC postponed the bid deadline for the Trunkline Five (TL5) project to 2^{nd} July 2017 from its initial due on 4^{th} June 2017. As mentioned in our previous edition — Issue 19, KOC had earlier invited 17 prequalified firms to submit bids for the turnover of a new 48-inch oil transit line from North of Kuwait to the Central Mixing Manifold.

The project scope of work includes execution of a new TL-5 pipeline, all associated works, tie-ins, pig traps, sectionalizing valves, control and instrumentation, control building at point A, Stations and equipment and modifications and upgrade of existing TL-3 facilities.

KNPC invites bid for 1GW Solar energy plant

KNPC has invited firms to submit bid for the development of planned 1GW Al-Dibdibah Photovoltaic (PV) solar energy development at the Al-Shagaya renewable energy complex. The bid deadline is set as 7th September 2017. In January 2017, as mentioned in our previous edition — Issue 19, KNPC had invited firms to submit Letter of Interest (LoI) for the planned 1GW solar scheme.

The Al-Dibdibah plant will be one of the largest PV solar facilities in Kuwait, with a planned generation capacity of 2,500MW/h of electricity per year. The project is developed by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), in collaboration with Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW). Germany's Fichtner prepared the masterplan for development and assisted KISR and MEW with the tendering process for the first 3 pilot projects.

KOC tenders USD 3 billion Gulf War KERP deal

As part of the Kuwait Environmental Public Authority's (KEPA) project to clean up pollution from the First Gulf War known as Kuwait Environmental Remediation Project (KERP), KOC has tendered the project management consultancy (PMC) services for the scheme. The remediation project is estimated to cost USD 3 billion. KOC had invited around 71 prequalified firms to submit bids for the scheme. The deadline for bid submission is 16th July 2017 and a pre-bid meeting was set on 2nd May 2017.

The project scope of work includes:

- Clearance of unexploded ordinance prior to remediation of oil lakes, contaminated piles, oil spills and trenches.
- Propose sound remediation and contracting strategies, plans and carry out execution of remediation projects, considering the most reliable remediation technologies either a sole or combined technologies (treatment trains) within cost and time boundaries for the KERP (TRS) overall plan.
- Propose re-use, recycle or final disposal strategies, plans and carry out execution of projects for those materials that due
 their high content of contaminants such as oil sludge's or bituminous crusts that cannot be remediated in a sustainable
 manner.
- Construction of engineered landfills and temporary remediation areas.
- * Excavation and remediation of oil-contaminated piles, heavily contaminated portions of dry and wet oil lakes, oil trench areas and oil spills.
- Disposal of excavated materials in newly constructed landfills and temporary remediation or disposing areas whenever determined that materials are not suitable for any remediation or re-use treatment.
- Mixing of the contaminated soil from piles and dry oil lakes with the liquid sludge in wet oil lakes to allow easier handling of
 wet oil lake contents.
- In-situ remediation of remaining contamination beneath oil lakes.
- Restoration of surface topography by backfilling excavated areas with soil from landfill construction or elsewhere.

UK firm wins KOC technical training deal

UK-based Petrofac was awarded a USD 35 million 5-year training contract by KOC, to provide specialist technical training and competency development services in Kuwait. The signed training contract, aims to enhance the capability of KOC's operation and maintenance personnel.

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D. Other sector projects

Yokogawa wins Kuwait's reverse osmosis desalination plant

Korea's Yokogawa Electric Korea, a subsidiary of Yokogawa Electric Corporation received an order from South Korea's Doosan Heavy Industries & Construction Company to supply control systems for the construction of a new reverse osmosis (RO) desalination plant (Phase–1) in Doha, Kuwait.

The project involves the supply of CENTUM® VP integrated production control system and ProSafe® RS safety instrumented system. This plant will be built in Doha, which is about 20 km east of Kuwait city, by Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity and Water. The plant is designed to produce 270,000 tons of fresh water per day, which is set for completion by November 2018.

UK IHG, Bukhamseen Group signs exclusive Kuwait deal

UK-based Intercontinental Hotel Group (IHG), one of the world's leading hotel companies, has signed a 10-year term agreement with Kuwait's Bukhamseen Group Holding Company to build and operate major hotels in Kuwait. The agreement covers 6 IHG brands including InterContinental Hotels and Resorts, Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn Resort, Holiday Inn Express and Staybridge Suites. IHG currently operates 3 hotels in Kuwait in partnership with Bukhamseen Group, namely Crowne Plaza Al-Thuraya City, Holiday Inn Al-Thuraya City and Holiday Inn Salmiya.

Siemens, GE wins Kuwait turbine supply deal

Germany-based Siemens (GE) was awarded a contract by MEW, for the delivery of an industrial steam turbines package at Kuwait's Al-Zour South 3 power plant. The new installations will convert the facility from open-cycle gas turbine power plant into a combined-cycle facility and it intends to increase the total installed capacity of the plant by 263MW without the use of additional gas. The project is expected to be completed by mid-2019.

Further, MEW also awarded a contract to GE for the supply of a steam turbine–generator set and 2 heat recovery steam generators (HRSGs) for the Sabahiya Power Plant. The HRSGs will be shipped from South Korea, and is expected to arrive in Kuwait by Q3 2018.

Kuwait mulls to build Oil products storage plant

KNPC is considering construction of an estimated KD 400 million (USD 1.32 billion) large oil products storage plant. The facility will be developed in Mutlaa area located in Northern Kuwait.

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