

Iran Ready to Export Technical, Engineering Services to Iraq



National Iranian Oil Company Mohsen Khojastehmehr, center.

TEHRAN -- The CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company Mohsen Khojastehmehr on Wednesday announced Iran's readiness to export technical and engineering services to Iraq.

Khojastehmehr said, "Iran wants to benefit from Iraq's participation in the development of the oil and gas industry."

Speaking at the meeting of the Joint Working Group on Iran-Iraq

Oil Cooperation, Khojastehmehr stated that all the efforts have been targeted at taking steps in various fields of oil, gas and development of economic relations between the two countries.

"It is time for Iran and Iraq to take practical steps to cooperate in the field of oil and gas activities and the scientific, technological and educational sectors," he said.

He said that Iran and Iraq have a high capacity in the region and the world, and are two influential and competent countries in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that must work diligently to ensure energy security in the region.

Khojastehmehr stated that the current capacity of Iran's oil production is about 4 million barrels per day and for gas it is 1 billion cubic meters per day, adding: "To increase the crude oil production capacity to about 6 million barrels per day in the next eight years to \$90 billion and for bringing gas output to 1.5 bcm/d \$70b investment is needed."

The meeting of the Joint Working Group on Iran-Iraq Oil Cooperation started this morning (Wednesday, June 22) and was chaired by Mohsen Khojastehmehr, the Deputy Minister and CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company, on behalf of the Iranian delegation, and Bassem Mohammad Khedir, the Iraqi Deputy Minister of Oil on behalf of the Iraqi delegation.

Pakistan's Energy Minister Visits Iran's MAPNA Industrial Group

TEHRAN -- Pakistan's Energy Minister Khorran Dastgir Khan visited Iran's macro-scale MAPNA Industrial Group and was briefed about its capabilities.

The top MAPNA managers offered brief reports about the modern technologies in various parts of MAPNA for Pakistan Energy Minister Khorran Dastgir Khan, which are in the oil, petrochemical, and transportation fields.

The MAPNA managing director announced readiness for assisting the Pakistani electricity industries with constructing new power plants and maintaining their existing ones.

The Pakistani energy minister, too, who was highly impressed by the visit, said that this visit will definitely affect the bilateral ties greatly and open new doors towards cooperation in



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the near future.

MAPNA Group is an industrial enterprise, consisting of MAPNA Group Company, as a parent company, and more than 40 specialized subsidiaries and affiliates, which are engaged in a wide spectrum of businesses, including, engineering, con-

struction, and development of thermal power plants, renewables, combined heat, and power (CHP) facilities, combined power generation and water desalination plants, as well as engineering, execution, and development of offshore and onshore oil and gas projects.

Envoy: Australian Investors Keen on Cooperating With Iran

Tabriz, IRNA -- Australia's ambassador to Iran Lyndall Sachs on Wednesday said that numerous tradesmen and investors in Australia are interested in collaborating with Iranian businesses.

Sachs made the remarks in a meeting with the chairman of the Tabriz Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture Younes Zhaeleh, adding that Australia and Iran enjoy proper areas of cooperation in exchanging agricultural, mineral, medical, and educational fields.

As to collaboration in the fields of startups and universities between the two countries, she emphasized that the young and educated workforce in Iran has created a very high capacity for the country to develop cooperation with other countries.

The ambassador further noted that government does not play a key role in the Australian economy and that the private sector has a great say in the country's economy, so given the fact that customs tariffs are low in Australia, grounds for mutual cooperation should be identified.

Australia has resumed normal flights after the COVID-19 pandemic, she said, adding that Australian tradesmen are very active in the UAE and that numerous Australia-made goods are exported to Dubai and then re-exported to other parts of the world.

When the world is experiencing a hike in prices of many commodities, Iran is under sanctions, she said, noting that Australia is not happy with the imposition of sanctions on Iranians and that given the fact that foodstuffs and medicines are not sanctioned, Australia and Iran can pursue trade ties, especially in these areas.

The Islamic Republic enjoys a very good geographical situation and is somehow a trade hub in the region, the ambassador said, adding that Chabahar Port can be used as the starting point to deliver cargo into Iran and then re-export to many other states.

For his part, Younes Zhaeleh pointed to the fact that East Azarbaijan province has appropriate industrial and agricultural capacities to be in-

vested in by foreign investors.

The provincial official also noted that Tabriz, the capital city of East Azarbaijan province, and Australia have had a long-run collaboration in terms of export of carpets from Tabriz and import of wool from Australia.

Referring to the insufficient level of mutual trade between Australia and Iran, he expressed hope that trade relations between Australia and East Azarbaijan province will improve in the future.

U.S. Sanctions Help China Supercharge Chipmaking Industry

BEIJING (Bloomberg) -- China's chip industry is growing faster than anywhere else in the world, after U.S. sanctions on local champions from Huawei Technologies Co. to Hikvision spurred appetite for home-grown components.

Nineteen of the world's 20 fastest-growing chip industry

SATBA Tenders for 4,000 MW of Solar Power Plants in Iran

TEHRAN - General Manager of SATBA legal affairs office and contracts Ahmadreza Tavakkoli said on Wednesday that the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) has invited bids for the construction of 4,000 megawatts (MW) of solar power plants as part of a drive to increase its use of renewable energy and boost the country's power grid.

The call for tender launched on June 15 is in line with the ministry of energy's plan to establish 10,000 megawatts of renewable power capacity in the country.

According to SATBA, 85 companies selected from a pool of 106 applicants were invited to participate in the tender. It followed cooperation agreements signed between governorates and SATBA to decide the sites for setting up renewable power plants in accordance with the needs of each region and province.

As a result, 152 construction sites in 30 provinces were identified and introduced to investors "in the form of 95 baskets" for the construction of power plants at a minimum capacity of 10 MW and a maximum of 250 MW, Tavakkoli said.

"This is a good opportunity for investors to build solar power plants," he said.

In the tender, electricity purchase contracts are for 20 years and the return on investment for the construction of renewable power plants is six years, which can be reduced to four years, he added.

The renewable energy sector is booming in Iran. Despite being an energy superpower, the economy's high reliance on oil has negatively affected Iran's economic security and environmental sustainability. Coupled with facing the threat of climate change, Iranian policymakers have been compelled to prioritize environmental policy and utilize foreign investment and oil revenue to boost the country's renewable energy sector.

Iran currently is producing less than one percent of its energy from renewable sources, where there are 900 MW of power plants. The renewable energy sector comprises of mainly wind (310 MW) and solar (390 MW), with the rest related to hydropower and bio-



mass.

Iran's geography and climate are highly suitable for the various forms of renewable energy technology. According to studies, it is possible to supply 140,000 megawatts of electricity from renewables, including 100,000 megawatts from solar power plants and 40,000 megawatts from wind power plants. But, the country has yet to reach the first milestone of 1000 MW of installed renewables.

The administration of President Ebrahim Raisi has put a plan to build 10,000 megawatts of renewable power plants on its agenda.

According to deputy energy minister and SATBA head Mahmoud Kamani, guaranteed electricity purchases are impossible due to lack of resources, prompting the government to seriously pursue the involvement of independent power producers.

As a result, the administration has announced a call for bids by domestic and foreign investors for the construction of 10,000 MW of new power plants and so far, SABTA has registered applications for 32,000 megawatts, which it anticipates to reach 50,000 megawatts.

"One of the incentives for investors is electricity exports, so we are now drafting regulations so that producers can export part of their production capacity. This will help both the domestic demand and the investor," Kamani said.

Under the ministry of energy's plans, 500 MW has to be added to the power capacity by the end of summer, most of it in solar. Meanwhile, the construction of a 5 MW geothermal power plant in Meshginshahr in northwest Iran is on

the agenda, which is expected to come online in early 2023.

In December, a news outlet dedicated to Iran's electric power industry said a UAE company specializing in renewable energy had signed an initial agreement to install 300 MW of power capacity in Khuzestan province in southwest Iran.

The agreement calls for construction of gas-fired thermal, solar and wind power plants in the hydrocarbon-rich province, it said then.

Iran is a signatory of the 2015 Paris climate agreement committing 195 nations to limit their carbon emissions.

Before former U.S. president Donald Trump reimposed sanctions on Iran in May 2018, the Islamic Republic expected its installed renewable capacity to grow at least sevenfold over the next five years.

However, European companies such as Norway's Saga Energy, British firm Quercus, Dutch energy firm Global Renewables Investments (GRI) cancelled their plans to build renewable capacities worth several billions dollars in Iran.

Saga scrapped a \$2.9 billion deal to install 2,380 megawatts (MW) in renewable capacity in the oil-producing country. Quercus had signed a deal to help build the world's sixth-largest solar farm in central Iran, investing over half a billion euros. GRI planned to build up solar and wind farms that could produce up to 1,700 MW of electricity.

Increase in renewable capacity can allow Iran to free up a significant amount of natural gas burnt in thermal power plants and feed it to export pipelines.

Russia May Cut Off Gas Completely, Europe Must Act Now - IEA

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Russia may cut off gas to Europe entirely as it seeks to bolster its political leverage amid the Ukraine crisis, the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Wednesday, adding Europe needed to prepare now.

"I wouldn't rule out Russia continuing to find different issues here and there and continuing to find excuses to further reduce gas deliveries to Europe and maybe even cut it off completely," IEA executive director Fatih Birol said.

"This is the reason Europe needs contingency plans", Birol added, saying a recent reduction in flows may be an attempt to gain political leverage ahead of higher-demand winter months.

The IEA did not see a full cut-off as the most likely scenario, he added.

The European Union has sanctioned Russian oil and coal, but has held off from banning gas imports due in part to its heavy reliance on supplies from Moscow.

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Rising 8% from the previous year,

when the pandemic was more severe, the investment includes big increases in the electricity sector and efforts to bolster energy efficiency, it said in its annual investment report published on Wednesday.

Investment in oil and gas, on top of setting back efforts to reach climate goals, could not meet rising demand if energy systems were not retrofitted towards cleaner technology, it said.

leaders Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. or ASML Holding NV.

That supercharged growth underscores how tensions between Washington and Beijing are transforming the global \$550 billion semiconductor industry -- a sector that plays an outsized role in everything from defense to the advent of future technol-

ogies like AI and autonomous cars. In 2020, the U.S. began restricting sales of American technology to companies like Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp. and Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Co., successfully containing their growth -- but also fueling a boom in Chinese chipmaking and supply.