

# CEO: Petrochemical Industry Nears 100mn-Tonne Production Capacity

TEHRAN – The CEO of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Hassan Abbaszadeh has announced that the petrochemical industry is on the verge of reaching a production capacity of 100 million tonnes.

Abbaszadeh stated that feedstock has been delivered to several petrochemical units, which are expected to become operational within the next few months.

The NPC head, speaking at the 11th Petrochemical Industry Excellence Award ceremony on Saturday evening, emphasized that developing the complex petrochemical industry is highly challenging without the use of modern management systems. He noted that the petrochemical industry is a leader in adopting these advanced systems.

Abbaszadeh highlighted that the Excellence Award process leverages existing management infrastructures scattered across petrochemical companies to create a platform for assessment and evaluation, enabling companies to grow. He added that excellence is not a single point but a continuous journey of progress, which has been ongoing in the industry for years despite various ups and downs.

The deputy oil minister underscored the value of the Excellence Award, stating that external evaluations of companies and their efforts



to improve through recommendations are highly beneficial.

Abbaszadeh also emphasized the importance of leadership in the petrochemical industry's evaluations, noting that the sector is significantly influenced by political and international issues alongside domestic challenges.

The NPC head stressed that flexibility and preparedness of managers to adapt to environmental changes are crucial for navigating organizational challenges.

He called for greater attention to artificial intelligence in the petrochemical industry, urging companies to focus on the transformative potential of AI.

Abbaszadeh also highlighted the importance of managers having a

comprehensive understanding of the business landscape and ongoing developments. He described human resources as the most valuable asset and urged company leaders to treat employees with respect and warmth, as their satisfaction is key to driving progress and further developing the petrochemical industry.

Afshar Bazayr, the new CEO of Shastan Commercial Investment Company, noted that the petrochemical industry is currently one of the pillars of the country's economy, with sustainable development playing a critical role.

He defined sustainable development as designing a value chain to optimize production, reduce environmental impacts, increase profitability, and fulfill social responsi-

bilities.

Bazayr emphasized the necessity of completing the value chain, diversifying the feedstock portfolio, updating technologies, and developing target markets in the petrochemical industry. He added that increasing investments in the sector is essential to achieving planned goals.

He pointed out Iran's opportunities and advantages for investment in the petrochemical industry, including rich hydrocarbon resources, a skilled workforce, and access to open waters for exports.

Bazayr concluded by recommending greater focus on energy management, recycling, and circular economy practices in the petrochemical industry. He suggested that the National Petrochemical Company implement an integrated system across all industry processes to further streamline the improvement and excellence of the sector.

During the ceremony, awards were presented to top companies in the 11th Petrochemical Industry Excellence Award. Additionally, a cooperation agreement was signed between the National Petrochemical Company and the National Water and Wastewater Company to implement water supply projects for underserved villages, aligning with the petrochemical industry's social responsibility initiatives.

## Role of World's Largest Gas Field in Iran's Energy Security

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian attended the signing ceremony of seven contracts worth \$17 billion on Saturday to boost pressure at the South Pars gas field by domestic companies.

The signing opens a new chapter in the Iranian oil industry's exploitation of the world's largest gas field, which plays an important role in the sustainable supply of gas and the country's economic development.

Gas-condensate fields producing under natural depletion are often faced with the challenge of finding long-term solutions to energize the pressure decline in the old gas wells after long years of production.

With a daily production of more than 700 million cubic meters, South Pars provides 75% of Iran's gas needs, which shows how important it is to the country's energy security.

However, the field which Iran shares with Qatar has entered the second half of its life cycle, where pressure drops by 7 atmospheres a year, resulting in a yearly decline of 10 billion cubic meters in production.

Hence, the contracts signed on Saturday are a lifeline for the future of Iran's energy security where 95% of the urban and rural population depends on gas for their livelihoods.

Nonetheless, South Pars is not just about supplying gas. Part of the gas from the offshore reservoir is used as feedstock in Iran's sprawling petrochemical facilities, including 21 plants with an annual production capacity of 39 million tonnes in the nearby town of Assaluyeh.

Petrochemical industry is one of the cornerstones of Iran's economy, which has a significant impact on increasing national wealth and plays a vital role in creating direct and indirect jobs.

With petrochemicals also included in U.S. sanctions, Russia is a key destination of Iran's petrochemical exports which, according to officials, are expected to rise to 34 million tonnes in 2025 from 30 million tonnes a year before and bring about \$25 billion in revenue.

Petrochemical production, according to official projections, will climb to about 83 million tonnes from about 75 million tonnes in the previous year, indicating how it is important to maintain gas production.

For years, the plan to maintain pressure at South Pars gas wells had been in the works, but Iran's efforts to bring in foreign companies and their investments to do the job had hit the rocks because of sanctions.

According to Minister of Petroleum Mohsen Paknejad, the South Pars pressure boosting plan is more essential than daily bread and butter; the plan includes seven hubs, each requiring about \$2.5 billion to build.

Four Iranian energy companies, namely Petropars, Khatam-al-Anbiya Construction Headquarters, OIEC Group and MAPNA, were awarded as general contractors of the mega-project, turning another corner in Iran's oil industry which for long relied on foreign companies for development and maintenance.

Today, the South Pars Gas Complex is part of a resilient economy, which is able to rely on domestic power, local knowledge, and the use of parts and equipment supplied by Iranian manufacturers and knowledge-based companies to move on the path of development, progress and growth.

So far, the reservoir has generated some \$450 billion of wealth which has had its most significant impact on the flourishing of petrochemical industry, boosting gasoline production, increasing job opportunities, improving the environment, and stabilizing the country's energy supply.

The consistent and continuous progress in various development phases of South Pars has vaulted Iran to great power status among the global gas giants and diversified its export portfolio.

In other words, Iran's remarkable progress in the development of South Pars has not only strengthened its industrial infrastructure, but has also increased the capabilities of Iranian companies and their participation in international projects.

Currently, Iran produces over one billion cubic meters per day of natural gas, which is equivalent to approximately 6 million barrels of crude oil. This means South Pars alone provides Iran with the equivalent of 4.5 million barrels of crude oil a day.

If this is put in the perspective of the country's refining and crude oil production capacities, the serious challenges which Iran would have faced in terms of energy security without the development of South Pars become clear.

The reservoir also plays a significant role in the country's gasoline supply and energy self-sufficiency, providing some 600,000 barrels a day of gas condensate for the Persian Gulf Star Refinery which produces 40 percent of the gasoline consumed in the country.

Also, from an environmental perspective, gas consumption is less polluting than petroleum products. Therefore, the development of South Pars is vital to significantly reducing environmental pollution.

In short, the South Pars gas complex plays a leading role in the national economy and is key to Iran's strategic goal of taking advantage of its geographic position to become an energy hub.

## Iranian Biotech Medicines Hit Global Markets



TEHRAN – Secretary of the Biotechnology Development Headquarters in the Vice Presidency of Science and Technology Mostafa Ghanei has announced that the country has exported biotechnology drugs to 17 countries in the world.

He put the current value of the nanotechnology medicines exported from Iran to other countries at above \$200 million.

He went on to say that the administration of President Pezeshkian is trying to localize

the largest high-value products, including insulin and plasma, within the next two years and solve the existing problem.

Some 45 Iranian pharmaceutical companies are presently producing biotech products in the country.

The global market of biotech drugs are expected to hit \$900 billion by 2030, as he expressed hope that Iranian companies could increase their share of the global trade for those drugs.

## Enormous Savings Achieved in South Pars Through Indigenization

TEHRAN – The CEO of the South Pars Gas Complex (SPGC) Gholamabbas Husseini announced great amount of savings resulting from the domestic production of strategic parts and equipment by local companies.

Husseini highlighted extensive support for knowledge-based companies and domestic manufacturers, revealing that over 11,589 items have been localized within the complex.

Among these achievements is the successful localization of a gas export turbine by an Iranian company, reducing reliance on foreign suppliers.

He added that in recent months, the purchase of 2.4 trillion tomans worth of domestically produced goods and equipment for South Pars refineries has prevented significant foreign currency outflows. This initiative has saved the country €4.8 million so far.

The CEO emphasized that the SPGC, as the largest gas producer in Iran and the Middle East, has prioritized accelerating the domestic production of high-tech and high-demand components. To this end, necessary parts have been identified, and their production has been proposed to new technology-based firms (NTBFs).



## Tehran-Van Train Relunched

TEHRAN – The railway linking Iran's Tehran to Turkey's Van was launched on Sunday with a train leaving the Iranian capital for the eastern Turkish city.

The first passenger train left Tehran for Van in eastern Turkey earlier on Sunday for the first time after a 5-year hiatus.

Earlier on January 29, 2025, Iranian government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani told reporters that according to a report by the Iranian Minister of



Roads and Urban Development, the Tehran-Van passenger train will be launched at the beginning of the Iranian new year, starting on March 20.

According to a statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways on January 7, 2025, following numerous meetings and bilateral meetings between the CEOs of Iran and Turkey railways, the Tehran-Van passenger train would be launched soon.

## First Air Taxi Becomes Operational in Iran

TEHRAN - Iran's first air taxi has taken off from the city of Karaj, near Tehran, marking an important step in developing fast and smart air transportation in the country.

In this flight, a small Piper aircraft belonging to the Iranian airline Atlas, transported passengers from Karaj to the city of Qazvin, located 140 kilometers from Tehran.

Air taxis are considered a system of air transportation that uses small aircraft and commercial jets to move passengers on short to medium routes, especially in metropolitan areas and congested regions.

In Iran, air taxi services were operational long ago, but due to a lack of infrastructure development, they gradually faded away.

The Iranian airline Atlas offers innovative services in Iran's aviation industry with a fleet of 10 air taxis, accommodating between 2 to 35 passengers.