

NIOC to Introduce 23 Oil, Gas Exploration Blocks

TEHRAN – The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) is set to introduce 23 onshore and offshore exploration blocks to accelerate hydrocarbon resource exploration and attract investment. The estimated in-place reserves of these blocks total more than 193.8 billion barrels of oil and 783 trillion cubic feet of gas.

A set of investment opportunities, comprising 23 exploration blocks across various regions of the country, has been identified and is ready for domestic and foreign investors. These blocks, located in areas including the Caspian Sea, other offshore zones and onshore sites, aim to discover new oil and gas reserves.

The combined area of these exploration blocks spans approximately 108,000 square kilometers, with estimated in-place reserves of 193.875 billion barrels of oil and



783 trillion cubic feet of gas. These resources could play a significant role in expanding Iran's production capacity and strengthening energy security.

Among the blocks, five are in the

Caspian oil region, covering an area of about 11,625 square kilometers. Their in-place reserves are estimated at 191.8 billion barrels of oil and 738 trillion cubic feet of gas.

The remaining 18 blocks, under

the direct supervision of NIOC's Exploration Directorate, are located in various parts of the country. These blocks cover more than 96,290 square kilometers and hold estimated in-place reserves of 2.075 billion barrels of oil and 45 trillion cubic feet of gas.

The introduction of these exploration blocks and the facilitation of investment opportunities reflect NIOC's strategic policy to sustainably develop Iran's hydrocarbon resources, optimize geological potential and enhance the country's role in the global energy market.

At the "Transformation in Investment and Development in Iran's Upstream Oil and Gas" event, NIOC will present more than 200 opportunities to large, medium and small investors under various contractual frameworks.

IRICA: Iran Exports \$5.2bn of Agrifood in a Year

TEHRAN – The latest figures released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) show that exports of agricultural products grew by 29% in value during the last Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2024-March 20, 2025), compared with a year earlier.

The value of the exports of agricultural products reached \$5.2 billion during the last Iranian year, which was up by 29% compared with its previous year, according to an IRICA report which was carried by IRNA on Saturday.

The agricultural exports also grew by 11% in weight year-on-year, said the report.

Pistachios, tomatoes, and dates took the lion share of the exported products.

Meanwhile, Hamid Bayat, the managing director of Iran Customs Administration's data processing department, said that \$184.7 million worth of saffron were exported in the last Iranian calendar year.

The United Arab Emirates, Spain and China were the three major buyers of Iran's saffron, he added.

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Homemade Hospital Products Hit Turkey, Iraq Markets



TEHRAN - A knowledge-based company in Iran has managed to make a widely-used hospital product used in ICU, CCU, MRI and CT Scan beds and exported them to the neighboring countries.

"There is a driving part called electric jacks and control systems inside the electric ICU, CCU, MRI and CT scan beds that were imported from abroad, and we decided to make research on them and produce the special

part," said Seyed Hamidreza Sadr ol-Sadati, the managing director of the knowledge-based company.

"The product made by our company is electric jacks which is a type of linear motor drive used to move objects and can be used in industries and military affairs. Our company has made these products with the necessary standards in the field of medical equipment and with a load capacity of 600 kilo-

grams," he added.

"At present, our products are exported indirectly to other countries like Türkiye and Iraq," Sadr ol-Sadati said.

In a relevant development in February, a knowledge-based company in Iran had also succeeded in production of central water purification devices for hospital systems which enjoy technologies like semi-automatic disinfection, programmable automatic washing of the dialysis water distribution line, vessel and membrane without dead space, and automatic data transfer to the user panel.

The knowledge-based company operates in the field of medical water purification and disinfection systems and, using modern and intelligent technologies in this field, provides products and services with high added value.

"Central water purification devices are produced in two versions, with and without a cabin. These devices are mounted on an all-steel chassis. Their design is based on the quality of the feed water and the number of active dialysis machines," said Arash Pajouhandeh, the managing director of the knowledge-based company.

"The advantages of this device include technologies like semi-automatic disinfection, programmable automatic washing of the dialysis water distribution line, vessel, and membrane without dead space, automatic data transfer to the user panel, easy access to advanced algorithm status analysis, and design and production in accordance with the ISO23500:2019 standard, which overall has increased the safety of the device," he added.

Promising Prospects in Iran's Ammonia Industry

TEHRAN - With the world's second largest gas and fourth oil reserves, its privileged geopolitical position and place as among the top 10 mineral countries in the world, Iran has the potential to become one of the world's chemical production and export hubs.

Chemical products include petrochemical and mineral raw materials and bases, and the entire chemical product production chain up to the most advanced and highest value-added level.

What is needed is to conceive an integrated, comprehensive, and long-term policy to direct the flow of investment and production in the country towards complementary industries that generate more added value.

As things stand, the chain of benefits, incentives, and supports for complementary industries downstream of petrochemical raw material production is not strong enough to generate motivation and courage for domestic and foreign investors to commit to the sector and reap a plethora of its dividends.

Industrial chemicals are used for a variety of purposes in manufacturing, cleaning, metalworking, power generation, food processing and many other industrial sectors, including agricultural manufacturing, construction, rubber and plastic products, textiles, petroleum refining, pulp and paper, and primary metals.

Iran's access to high seas allows for the establishment of complementary petrochemical industries.

The imperative is clear. The development of the chemical industry, its products, and underlying processes petrochemicals, in addition to generating more income, also prevents the sale of crude oil and gas.

This is the true embodiment of the resistance economy - an economic model, which provides growth and prosperity for a nation, even under pressure and sanctions.

In recent years, Iran's focus on completing the urea and ammonia value chain has made it one of the world's leading producers of the chemical compounds which have a good international market.

The most important use of ammonia is as a chemical fertilizer. Approximately 90% of the ammonia produced in the world is used in chemical fertilizers, which produces food for billions of people worldwide.

Ammonia is possibly the most important man-made chemical product. Its importance in agriculture cannot be underscored enough because it helps sustain food production that billions of people rely on.

Iran is currently the sixth largest producer of ammonia in the world and has a high capacity for the production of urea and ammonia. Currently, seven companies producing ammonia and its downstream products are operational in the country.

The nominal ammonia production capacity is put at 5.5 million tonnes a year, while this figure for urea production stands at 8.5 million tonnes, and for other downstream products of the ammonia value chain at about 2 million tonnes.

While ammonia today is a key intermediary for industrial fertilizer production, low-carbon ammonia offers the promise of being a low-emission fuel for the power industry.

Ammonia-fired gas turbines are being developed for power generation, which is expected to stimulate demand growth in marine fuels and other markets as technology is improved. Demand for low-carbon ammonia production as a hydrogen transport vector is also expected to drive growth.

Imports of low-emission ammonia fuel have been proposed for more than a decade to meet decarbonization needs in Asia and Europe.

Forecasts show demand for low carbon ammonia will grow by 6 million tonnes, and in Japan by 2 million tonnes.

In West Asia, as one of the main centers of ammonia production in the world, the chemical commodity with its long-established supply chains from production and distribution through to utilization, is expected to be given special attention as an energy source.

Especially in Iran, where energy supply challenges are impacting businesses and ordinary citizens, this source can be used as one of the suitable options.

Iran also exports about 641,000 tonnes of ammonia which it can use in downstream industries for production of valuable derivatives with attractive and profitable international markets such as caprolactam, alkylamines, and acrylonitrile.

Caprolactam is a monomer used in the textiles industry in the production of nylon-6 polyamide, a textile with a high strength-to-weight ratio and good chemical and thermal stability and durability.

Acrylonitrile is widely used in industry to produce rubber, resins, plastics, elastomers, and synthetic fibers and to manufacture carbon fibers used in aircraft, defense, and aerospace industries.

Meanwhile, as demand in countries such as China, India, Japan and South Korea for coatings and the growing pharmaceutical industry is rising, the use of alkylamines in the region is increasing.

The ammonia and urea industry has great potential in Iran, where with the right support, the country can become a hub for the production of this valuable feedstock for most chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and fertilizer products and a promising carbon-free energy source.

China Industry Group Opposes U.S. Steps Targeting Maritime, Logistics, Shipbuilding Sectors

BEIJING (Xinhua) - A Chinese industrial association in the logistics sector on Saturday voiced strong opposition to the U.S. restrictive measures following the Section 301 investigation into China's maritime, logistics and shipbuilding sectors.

The U.S. move will severely undermine the interests of logistics providers, ship and cargo owners, importers and

exporters, and consumers in both countries, harming China-U.S. economic and trade exchanges, the China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing said in a statement.

The move is likely to raise international logistics costs, undermine the stability of the global industrial and supply chains, and endanger global economic growth,

the federation said.

It urged its members, along with global peers in the logistics, purchasing and supply chain industries, to strengthen cooperation in a bid to safeguard the stability and smooth operation of the global industrial and supply chains in the face of the challenges posed by U.S. trade protectionism.

Two Jetliners Join Iran Air's Fleet

TEHRAN – Iran's national flag carrier, Iran Air, received two Airbus wide-body passenger planes it has purchased from a Hong Kong airline.

The two used Airbus A330-200 jetliners reportedly landed in Tehran's Mehrabad airport on Thursday night.

The planes, formerly owned by a Hong Kong airline, had been in Muscat and re-registered to Iran.

The two passenger planes are said to be less than 14 years old.