



TradeServices

SAUDI ARABIA FACT SHEET: 5

Mining and Minerals

In the area of mining and minerals there is virtually no competition at all in the Gulf. This is a huge opportunity that has not been exploited. The country's metallic minerals are becoming increasingly important business propositions. More than 2,000 sites have been identified by the Saudi Geological Survey in the mountainous Arabian Shield running along the Kingdom's Red Sea coast and in areas to the center and north of the country.

Saudi Arabia's largest mining company; Ma'aden, has recently publicised its long-term strategy to develop and exploit a full range of mining opportunities. One of the biggest of these is the northern region's phosphate reserves which will allow Saudi Arabia to become a significant supplier of phosphate fertiliser and related downstream products.

Including 25% of the world's oil reserves, Saudi Arabia is rich in mineral resources. Metallic ores, such as gold, silver, copper, zinc and iron, can be found in the western half of the Kingdom. Phosphate, bauxite and gypsum deposits are found in the mineralised areas in the northwest of the country.

New Opportunities

Port

A new port due to be operational at half capacity in October 2009 is under construction. Situated approximately 80-km northeast of Al Jubail, Ras Alzour will service industrial and mining operations including the import and export requirements associated with the aluminum and phosphate projects.

Railway

The Saudi Ministry of Finance is undertaking the development of a new north-south railway line from Riyadh

to Haditha. The mineral line will be approximately 1,500 km long linking the phosphate mine at Al Jalamid and the bauxite mine at Az Zabirah to the processing facilities at Ras Alzour. This multi-billion dollar railway project to be completed by 2012 offers new opportunities for materials handling companies.

Phosphate Project

Al- Jalamid Site - A substantial amount of industrial infrastructure will be developed at the Al Jalamid phosphate site to support mining and beneficiation operations. This includes power plant, potable water production, treatment and distribution, roads and telecommunications.



Best Prospects

Maintenance and servicing of equipment such as machines, drills, lights, cables, rails, pipes, ect

- Engineering, Procurement, Project Management
- Contract Mining
- Wastewater treatment especially for water re-use
- Materials Handling
- Fabrication, Maintenance, Repair
- Engineering, Construction and Design Services
- Equipment & Machinery supplies
- Power / Electric Solutions
- Site Infrastructure Development & Management
- Rail Systems
- Software
- Research & Development
- Safety Systems & Services
- Professional Services, Training such as OHS
- Underground Cabling
- Fluid Supply & Management
- Recruitment Specialists
- OHS training
- Equipment and explosive storage containers

Note: The mining and mineral industry presents excellent opportunities for innovative technology that improves areas such as product design, recycling and disposal of products.

Barriers

Given extreme weather conditions and religious holidays such as immense heat and Ramadan it is advised to budget for 10 months revenue in a 12-month cost cycle.