PROJECTS DRIVING THE MIDDLE EAST FORWARD

By Simon West

The Gulf continues to attract major international investment across energy and industry. The following pages highlight some of the latest projects driving opportunities for global suppliers and project cargo specialists.

An Aramco worker looks out over the Fadhili Gas Plant in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.
Credit Aramco

Middle East

Project: **Umm Shaif Gas Cap**
Location: Offshore Abu Dhabi, UAE, within the Umm Shaif and Nasr concession
Operator/Developer: **ADNOC** Offshore
Equity: ADNOC (60%), **TotalEnergies** (20%), **Eni** (10%) and **China National Petroleum Corporation** (10%)
Total investment: US$6.2 billion
EPC awards: US$5.1 billion, three packages (undisclosed)

An ADNOC technician turns valve wheel on a pipeline system in Abu Dhabi. Credit Shutterstock

Latest news: A major development came in July 2026 when ADNOC announced a US$6.2 billion final investment decision for the Umm Shaif Gas Cap, alongside its international partners. The decision marks the latest step in ADNOC's drive to expand gas production and strengthen its position in the global LNG market.

From a project cargo angle, US$5.1 billion of that is already represented by three EPC packages for large-scale offshore infrastructure, although contractor identities haven't been publicly disclosed by ADNOC. There is also a separate US$365 million program for 14 wells and integrated drilling services, to be executed by ADNOC Drilling over 18 months using three existing rigs.

The project is expected to deliver more than 600 million standard cubic feet per day of natural gas and associated gas liquids by 2030, equivalent to nearly 10% of the UAE's current daily gas consumption.

"ADNOC is accelerating its integrated gas strategy to further harness the UAE's vast gas resources and expand our global LNG platform, as global demand for natural gas continues to rise," said Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, managing director and CEO of ADNOC.

"The Umm Shaif Gas Cap FID is another important milestone in delivering this strategy and reinforcing ADNOC's position as a reliable gas supplier. Together with our international partners, we are building on decades of responsible stewardship of Abu Dhabi's longest-operating offshore field to unlock lasting value for the UAE and our customers."

Project: **North Field East (NFE)**
Location: Offshore North Field and Ras Laffan Industrial City, Qatar
Developer: QatarEnergy
Equity: QatarEnergy (71.25%), remaining shares split between a consortium of international partners
Total investment: US$28.7 billion
EPC awards: **McDermott** (offshore segment), **Technip Energies**, Chiyoda (onshore)

Latest news: NFE is the first phase of Qatar's broader North Field liquefied natural gas expansion, one of the world's largest LNG construction programs involving 2.5 million freight tonnes of cargo, according to one Middle East-based project executive speaking to *Breakbulk*.

Credit: MEED

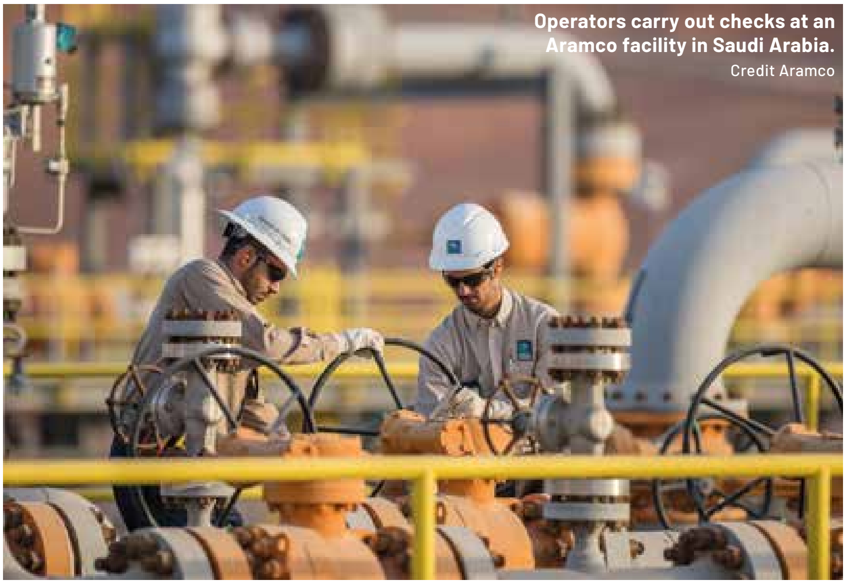
NFE will boost Qatar's LNG capacity by 43% to 110 million tonnes per year thanks to four mega trains with a capacity of 8 million tonnes per year each.

Japan's Chiyoda and France-based Technip Energies were awarded the EPC contract for the trains, as well as for associated plants for gas treatment, natural gas liquids recovery, helium extraction and refining at Ras Laffan Industrial City.

Natural gas will be shipped to Ras Laffan via subsea pipelines from the giant North Field reservoir off the northeast coast of Qatar. McDermott was awarded a contract in 2022 to install the offshore infrastructure, including some 300 miles of pipeline and 140 miles of 33kV of subsea cables.

McDermott said in June that the company had continued working on NFE throughout the conflict in Iran, albeit with operational constraints. The project's schedule has, however, shifted from its original 2025–26 targets. The first NFE train was expected to enter service in 2026, but market assessments indicate start-up has been pushed back by more than a year.

Project: **Amiral Petrochemical Complex**
Location: Jubail, Saudi Arabia
Developers: **Saudi Aramco**, **TotalEnergies**
Equity: Saudi Aramco (62.5%), TotalEnergies (37.5%), through SATORP
Total investment: US$11 billion
EPC awards: **Hyundai Engineering and Construction, Maire Tecnimont**, Sinopec Engineering, Gulf Consolidated Contractors and other Saudi contractors


Operators carry out checks at an Aramco facility in Saudi Arabia. Credit Aramco

Latest news: Amiral is a US$11 billion petrochemical complex being developed alongside and integrated with Saudi Aramco Total Refining and Petrochemical Company (SATORP)'s existing refinery in Jubail. Its centerpiece is a 1.65 million-tonne-per-year mixed-feed steam cracker alongside two 500,000-tonne-per-year polyethylene units and associated butadiene, aromatics and derivative facilities.

The project is now well into construction. TotalEnergies reported in its first-quarter 2026 results that Amiral was around 70% complete, with approximately 22,000 people working on site. Start-up is expected at the end of 2027 or beginning of 2028.

From a project-cargo perspective, the EPC structure offers multiple major equipment and infrastructure packages. Hyundai is responsible for the cracker and utilities, Maire Tecnimont for the polyethylene and derivative units, Sinopec for the tank farm and SATORP integration and Gulf Consolidated Contractors for transfer pipelines.

"With this collaboration we aim to expand the value chain by producing advanced chemicals more efficiently than ever before, accelerating industrial progress in the kingdom," said Amir Nasser, CEO of Aramco.


Khazna Solar PV is one of the UAE's largest solar developments currently under construction. Credit ENGIE

Project: **Khazna Solar PV**
Location: Al Khazna, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Developers: Masdar, **ENGIE**
Equity: Masdar (60%), ENGIE (40%)
Total Investment: undisclosed
Awards: SEPCOIII (EPC contractor), LONGi (PV technology/module supplier)

Latest News: Khazna Solar PV is a massive 1.5 GW AC / 1.8 GW DC solar photovoltaic plant being developed near Al Khazna in Abu Dhabi. The project is currently under construction and is expected to begin commercial operations in the third quarter of 2028, according to Mohamed Al Muharrami, associate director of project delivery at Masdar.

With 2.77 million bifacial solar modules, tracking systems and new high-voltage grid infrastructure, Khazna Solar PV is one of the UAE's largest solar developments currently being built. Once operational, the facility is expected to generate enough electricity to power approximately 160,000 homes.

The project will also include central inverters, transformers, a 33/400kV substation and switchyard, together with 400kV grid-interconnection infrastructure. Construction, equipment delivery, installation, testing and commissioning will continue through 2028.

"The project's investment value is not being disclosed at this stage (but) the principal EPC contracts have been awarded and are under execution," Al Muharrami said. "The remaining procurement and supply-chain requirements are being managed through the appointed EPC contractor."

The executive was unable to provide details of individual commercial packages or anticipated award dates.

The 900-MW project near Ras Shokeir will be ENGIE's third wind farm in Egypt.
Credit: ENGIE

Project: **Ras Shokeir Onshore Wind Farm**
Location: Gulf of Suez, Egypt
Developers: **ENGIE**, Orascom Construction, Aeolus
Equity: ENGIE (35%, project leader), Orascom Construction (25%), Aeolus (40%)
Total Investment: Undisclosed
EPC Awards: Orascom Construction (civil and electrical balance-of-plant works). Main turbine-supply and other EPC package awards have not yet been announced.

Latest news: ENGIE is set to build, own and operate its largest onshore wind farm worldwide after signing a power purchase agreement with the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company (EETC) for the development of a 900-MW facility near Ras Shokeir in the Gulf of Suez. The project will be developed under a 25-year build-own-operate agreement.

The project is progressing towards financial close, with the consortium's original target of early Q3 2026 now subject to completion of the financing process.

First turbine deliveries are planned by the end of 2026, with commissioning scheduled in phases: the first 300 MW in December 2027 and full commercial operation by mid-2028.

Paulo Almirante, senior executive VP in charge of renewables and flex power at ENGIE, said: "With this 900 MW wind farm, our largest onshore project worldwide, we are reinforcing our role in Egypt's energy transition while accelerating growth in a key market for the Group."

ENGIE has already developed two operational wind farms in Egypt: the 650-MW Red Sea Wind Energy project and the 262.5-MW Ras Ghareb wind farm. Both were delivered ahead of schedule and below their initial budgets. Once operational, the new facility will bring ENGIE's wind portfolio in Egypt to nearly 2 GW.

Project: **Rabigh 2 IPP Expansion**
Location: Makkah Province, Saudi Arabia
Operator(s)/Developer(s): ACWA Power and Saudi Energy Company
Equity: ACWA Power (40%), Saudi Energy Company (40%), Haji Abdullah Alireza (20%)
Project value: SAR11.5 billion (about US$3.1 billion)
Awards: Major EPC contractor(s) have not yet been publicly identified

Latest news: The Rabigh 2 IPP Expansion is a 2,313.5-MW gas-fired combined-cycle power plant being developed in Saudi Arabia's Makkah region. ACWA Power and Saudi Energy Company signed a 31-year power purchase agreement with the Saudi Power Procurement Company in April 2026. The project also includes development and expansion of a 380kV substation and is designed to be ready for the future installation of carbon-capture technology.

Development is progressing, although financial close has not yet been formally announced. ACWA Power said the financial impact of the project would be disclosed once financial close if achieved.

For breakbulk, the project offers significant potential demand for heavy electrical and power-generation equipment, including gas turbines, heat-recovery steam generators, steam turbines, transformers, switchgear and substation equipment.

Omar Al Hassan, ACWA Power's country general manager for Saudi Arabia, said: "The Rabigh 2 IPP Expansion Project will play a meaningful role in enhancing generation capacity and strengthening supply reliability, while contributing to Saudi Arabia's broader energy transition objectives."

Credit: ACWA Power

*Breakbulk Global Shipper Program participant

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