new local manufacturers have been added to Saudi Aramco’s supply chain since the introduction of the In-Kingdom Total Value Add localization program.

Saudi Aramco has shown strong progress in its goal of localizing 70% of its service and procurement spending by 2021. Still, it remains critical that company organizations monitor and report their spending decisions if we are to make good on the promise to help generate new jobs and boost the diversification of the Kingdom’s economy.

setting a course for success with ikta KPIs

preparing a young Saudi workforce

Saudi Aramco is working in partnership with the National Maritime Academy to boost the skill levels of graduates, equip them with market reading competency, and provide them jobs in the marine and port operations sector.

a major step forward at SPARK
King Salman Energy Park’s first major investment

When Fred Clark heard of the recent Kitesurfing Festival being conducted as part of the Jiddah Season, he wanted to explore a potential new site to surf and meet new people. He had no idea he might take top honors from a field of more than 50 fellow kitesurfers.

Aramcon is Kingdom’s top kitesurfer

Saudi Aramco by the numbers

290 new local manufacturers have been added to Saudi Aramco’s supply chain since the introduction of the In-Kingdom Total Value Add localization program.

OPEC basket five-week price trend 2019

<table>
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<td>July 12</td>
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A business incubator that will accelerate the growth of small- and medium-sized enterprises in the energy sector.

the first of its kind in the Kingdom and the largest in the region.

will contribute to boost supply chain localization in the Kingdom.

a footprint of over 1 million square meters.
Supporting localization and boosting business

New signings strive to increase number of pre-qualified contractors

GES contracts are in-Kingdom long form contracts established by Saudi Aramco’s Project Management in 2011 to support localization, bolster in-Kingdom engineering capabilities to undertake more complex projects, and provide services to all engineering and project execution organizations across the company, as well as non-Saudi Aramco organizations, for their engineering and project management business needs.

Dhahran — Saudi Aramco recently signed several new General Engineering and Project Management Service Contracts at the office of Project Management vice president Fahad E. Al-Helal in Dhahran.

Motasem Al Mashouk, general manager of Maritime, Building, and Infrastructure Project Management, served as an official witness of the signings.

The contracts are expected to help meet current and future demand of both Saudi Aramco and government projects, as well as increase the number of local General Engineering Services (GES)-Plus Contractors (GES+).

The new contracts are in compliance with the company’s In-Kingdom Total Value Add (iktva) program, which has an initial goal of increasing the number of goods and services purchased in the Kingdom to 70% by 2021.

These new contracts will help to maximize the localization of engineering services, bolster in-Kingdom engineering capabilities to undertake more complex projects, and speed up the transfer of knowledge in the Kingdom.

By leveraging the company’s purchasing and contract decisions, Saudi Aramco can contribute to its own goals, as well as the goal of the Kingdom, of diversifying and strengthening the Kingdom’s economy.

Advancing civil infrastructure

Two of the contracts, which will deal with GES for civil infrastructure projects, known as GESi, were signed in May. The two contracting companies, Dar Al-Handa-sah Consultants Co. and Saudi Consolidated Engineering Co./Khatib & Alami (SCEC), are renowned globally for developing engineering activities for civil infrastructure projects, with expertise in architecture, buildings, urban planning, transportation, sewer/waste, and waste treatment, among others.

GES+ contracts for oil and gas projects

Two other contracts will deal with GES for oil and gas projects, known as GES+.

A statement of “Contract Award and Intent to Execute Contract” was signed for the consortium of Technip SPA and Dar Al-Riyadh Engineering Consultants, (above). Al-Helal also signed a general services contract with Dar Al-Handasah and another with Saudi Consolidated Engineering Co./Khatib & Alami for civil infrastructure projects. The contracts are expected to help meet current and future demand of both Saudi Aramco and government projects, as well as increase the number of local General Engineering Services — Plus Contractors. (Photo: Abdulaziz Al Moaiwee/MPD)

Front End Engineering Design (FEED) and FEED works in refining and petrochemicals, as well as technologies, and licensors. Dar Al-Riyadh and Arabian Consulting are reputable local engineering firms with extensive experience with GES contracts in the oil and gas industry.

Al-Helal and Al Mashouk congratulated the new contractors on their contracts, and acknowledged the contractors’ relationships with Saudi Aramco.

The key to success in meeting the program objectives, Al Helal said, will depend on delivering high quality engineering and project management services, maximizing localization, and achieving iktva targets — with a particular emphasis on the recruitment and development of young Saudi talent.

The new GES+ and GESi contracts are expected to help meet current and future demand of both Saudi Aramco and government projects.

Can you collaborate when the going gets tough?

An expert says not arguing is almost impossible for a couple of research collaborators.

Although collaboration can be successful and exciting, many collaborators face difficulty when it comes to resolving the more stressful issues in conducting the tasks individually. This article briefly offers practical tips collaborators can follow to work through difficult situations, and to understand how to attain collaboration bliss and work toward a healthy relationship.

It takes both parties to build a successful collaboration, and therefore, they should not enter a collaboration believing it will be free from stress, disagreements and other collaboration miseries. An expert said there are key things to remember when you conduct a healthy collaboration.

• Be realistic. Scientists, when ready to collaborate, need to understand that it is going to be tough. Therefore, the collaborators should be prepared to work hard in one direction to achieve the publishable results for the benefits of the company. There will be tough times between you and your collaborating partner(s) to achieve the best possible results; however, don’t give up. To gain win-win solutions, you and your partner should accept the flaws, forget the ego, and accept different opinions to achieve publishable results.

• Accept your collaborator’s opinions. An expert says the best therapy to overcome the disagreement in conducting the research collaboration is to talk to a professional personnel counselor, who will give their unbiased opinions and help to clear any misgivings where possible.

• Be fair when you disagree with your partner. When you and your partner disagree on the experimental results, you should ensure the argument is kindly and calmly resolved, and that there is no lasting emotional relationship damage. The key points to any disagreement are to take a deep breath, and realize when it is the right time to walk away from an argument, whether the issue is solved or not.

It is also crucial to agree with your partner that neither of you should win nor lose the disagreement, and ensure that the issue is discussed and resolved by seeking the help it requires from a counselor.

• Share a fail or successful experiment. Spending time together in conducting the experimental work and discussing the findings is so important to ensure that the research collaboration succeeds. Setting aside time to spend with your partner at the laboratory, independently doing work you both enjoy, is important for a happy collaboration. Sharing a failed or successful experiment will go a long way in ensuring you remain friends, as well as having a successful collaboration.

An expert indicated that effective interpersonal communication in conducting a collaboration demonstrates great impact for your partner at work, and therefore, it can also be applied to your family at home, with the results affecting your health and well-being, and can make your lives better and more enjoyable.

Your Voice reflects the thoughts and opinions of the writer, and not necessarily those of the publication.

Can you collaborate when the going gets tough?

by Husin Situp
Dhahran
situphu@aramco.com

The Arabian Sun
July 17, 2019
a major step forward at SPARK

King Salman Energy Park welcomes Oilfields Supply Center’s $450 million investment

Dhahran — King Salman Energy Park (SPARK) and Dubai-based Oilfields Supply Center Ltd. (OSC) last week signed an agreement to establish OSC as an anchor tenant at SPARK, an energy city mega-project that will cement Saudi Arabia’s position as a global energy, industrial, and technology hub.

**accelerating enterprise growth region-wide**

In collaboration with Saudi Aramco, OSC will develop a business incubator called the Common User Supply Base (CUSB). The incubator will support the oil and gas industry in the Kingdom and the region, as well as help accelerate the growth of small- and medium-sized enterprises in the energy sector. OSC plans to invest approximately $450 million over the next two years, contributing to SPARK’s objective of localizing more than 300 new industrial and service facilities.

The CUSB will be an industrial facility that provides industrial buildings of various sizes to host companies and supply them with integrated services such as logistics, technical engineering services, and business support. The center will be the first of its kind in Saudi Arabia and the largest in the region with a footprint of more than 1 million square meters and a potential expansion of an additional 500,000 square meters.

The agreement was signed by Mohammed Y. Al Qahtani, SPARK chairman and Saudi Aramco senior vice president for Upstream, and Muneeb A. Al Kazim, general manager of Oilfields Supply Company Saudi Arabia, in the presence of Amin Nasser, Saudi Aramco president and CEO, and Iqbal M. Abedin, CEO of OSC.

“OSC’s investment marks an important step in SPARK’s journey to become an integrated energy, industrial, technology, and services hub,” said Nasser. “It will contribute to supply chain localization, boost job creation, and support the overall advancement of the Kingdom’s energy sector.

OSC’s firm commitment is a strong vote of confidence in SPARK’s value proposition in attracting global and regional companies. Their participation will help advance our strategy to enable the growth of a vibrant ecosystem,” he added.

“OSC’s investment in SPARK and collaboration with Saudi Aramco will position the project as a major enabler for oil and gas manufacturing and service companies, and related small- and medium-size enterprises,” said Abedin. “It will enhance their localization plans by both increasing local procurement and value added manufacturing activities, as well as increasing the employment of skilled Saudi nationals.”

**OSC’s investment will contribute to supply chain localization, boost job creation, and support the overall advancement of the Kingdom’s energy sector.**

— Amin Nasser

**About King Salman Energy Park (SPARK)**

Located in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia between Dammam and al-Hasa, SPARK occupies more than 50 square kilometers and will house approximately 300 industrial and service facilities. Two-thirds of the development consists of industrial land and a major logistics center, with the remaining part mixed for use as residential offices, training centers, hotels, and other supporting facilities. Saudi Aramco collaborates closely with the Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones, which plays a key role in developing industrial cities with integrated infrastructure and services.

**Breaking ground at SPARK**

Saudi Aramco joined with Yokogawa and King Salman Energy Park (SPARK) officials last week for a groundbreaking ceremony. Saif S. Al-Otaibi, SPARK president and COO, sixth from left, helped lead the groundbreaking ceremony. Yokogawa, a Japanese electrical engineering and software company, is among the first to break ground at the SPARK site.
maintaining quality key as wave of Asian projects nears

Saudi Aramco is expanding its capital program. It is incumbent among us to ensure that these projects are implemented at the highest level of safety and quality.

— Omar M. Al-Amudi

 Tokyo — Aramco Asia-Japan (AAJ) recently hosted the 2019 Quality Exchange Meeting to foster deeper engagement and partnerships with key players in the capital program value chain.

The two-day event, under the theme “Proactive Quality — a Cornerstone for Excellence,” brought together 85 senior management from 20 partner inspection agencies. It was organized by the Aramco Asia Quality Management Division of Saudi Aramco’s Inspection Department.

The meeting was held in preparation for a new wave of upcoming capital program projects to allocate proper resources. Aramco Asia management and key staff members from Korea, China, and India also took part.

building relationships

In his opening remarks, AAJ representative director Omar M. Al-Amudi emphasized the importance of this annual meeting with quality business partners to build relationships and support for Saudi Aramco.

“Aramco is expanding its capital program to meet the growing requirements of the world, including projects in oil, gas, chemicals, and infrastructure,” said Al-Amudi. “It is incumbent among us to ensure that these projects are implemented at the highest level of safety and quality. The relationship that Aramco has with all of you is key to delivering on that goal.”

Muhannad A. Yousef, head of the Aramco Asia Quality Management Division, shared a five year review of the Asia-Pacific quality management services that showed a decreasing number of equipment material deficiencies at Aramco sites. He also reported on some future projects. “Reduction of equipment deficiencies from Asia is something we share the credit for with you, and commend your proactive participation as inspection agencies and key enablers,” said Yousef. “But we also seek your efforts and contribution in the following years to enhance inspections towards zero deficiencies on an annual basis.”

proactive inspection and new quality methodologies

The workshop explored proactive inspection measures to ensure the prevention of counterfeiting and using substandard materials based on previous cases in Asia. Extensive and in-depth discussions took place, such as how the Fourth Industrial Revolution is reshaping the inspection industry using newer methodologies, while potentially significantly altering approaches in quality control.

AAJ also hosted potential partner inspection agencies for the anticipated new general inspection services contracts starting in 2021, providing explanations of required vendor inspection services, geographical spread of operations, and business forecasts. It was also designed to assist potential inspection agencies to prepare for the technical evaluation process and enhance internal preparation for next year’s contract development.

Touching on the event theme “Proactive Quality,” Aramco Asia Engineering and Technical Services director Tareq Al-Sabti noted, “Working hand-in-hand to improve our performances based on lessons learned is a continuous journey needed to equip ourselves with the necessary resources for the new wave of capital projects.”

forging stronger ties in the Far East

Aramco Asia hosts appreciation dinner to recognize chemicals clients

Guangzhou, China — Aramco Asia Chemicals recently hosted an annual appreciation dinner to recognize its customers for their years of trust and support, on the sideline of the International Exhibition on Plastics and Rubber Industries (Chinaplas) in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong province.

This year’s dinner attracted more than 170 attendees, thanks to the rapid growth of Aramco Asia’s chemicals sales in recent years. The attendees included customers, distributors, logistics providers and business partners such as Motiva, S-Oil, and FREP, while Aramco attendees were Bandar M. Damdam, Aramco Chemicals Company vice president of Polymers; Fahad A. Al-Othman, China country manager; Nassir M. Lasloum, chemicals director; and teams from Xiamen Branch, Aramco Chemicals Company, and Aramco Trading Singapore Pte. Ltd.

first-time participation for Aramco Chemicals Company

This special event marked Aramco Chemicals Company’s (ACC) first-time participation in the annual appreciation dinner.

ACC is a new subsidiary established in May 2018 to handle all Aramco chemicals products worldwide.

Damdam expressed the company’s appreciation for the long term support from its partners, and also noted that the design of polymer global unified bags unveiled earlier this year by AAC gave the company a strong visual identity in the market.

“We are strongly committed to being your supplier of choice through reliable supply, consistent product quality, efficient delivery, excellent customer services, and professional technical services with the support from our teams in Saudi Arabia, China, and Singapore,” he said.

In 2020, the total global demand of polyethylene and polypropylene will increase, with China’s portion accounting for 36%, and Aramco’s chemicals position will be further strengthened in the marketplace.

In 2020, the total global demand of polyethylene and polypropylene will increase, with China’s portion accounting for 36%.
advancing toward our iktva goal
setting a course for success in localization efforts

by Scott Baldauf

Dhahran — Representatives across company admin areas and business lines gathered in Dhahran for a workshop showcasing the progress of Saudi Aramco’s ambitious In-Kingdom Total Value Add Program (iktva), with the company making steady progress toward its goal of localizing 70% of its service and procurement spending by 2021.

Reaching that goal will require all company organizations to monitor and report their spending in line with the company’s iktva initiatives. This transparency makes good on its promise to leverage its spending to generate new jobs and boost the diversification of the Saudi economy.

More than 130 attendees from business lines across the company attended the workshop, and 70 more participated through live streaming.

The driving force for Saudi Aramco’s ikvta performance is Procurement and Supply Chain Management (P&SCM). Abdallah B. Al Thaaly, manager of the Industrial Development and Strategic Supply Department (ID&SSD), said: “Each organization’s ikvta plan helps us not only to reach our company strategic objective of strengthening the Saudi economy, but also the visibility to measure how we are doing in reaching that goal. Through this vital process, we can quantify both where we are and where we are headed. This information can then be used to focus our attention on new market sectors or on suppliers and contractors who can help us achieve our goals.”

iktva progress

Al Thaaly said the results of the ikvta program are encouraging:
• Since 2015, Goods and Services provided by local suppliers have doubled
• Increased total spend on Saudi work-force by 60%
• The Total Development of Saudi has increased fourfold
• Our suppliers have enjoyed a 45% increase in exports, worth $1.4 billion
• 290 new local manufacturers have been added to Saudi Aramco’s supply chain.

Al Thaaly added, “It gives me great pleasure to announce that in 2018, we achieved 52% local content, and we are expecting to increase that to 56% in 2019.”

iktva KPI

To ensure that the company continues making progress toward its goal of 70% localization spending by 2021, the company’s P&SCM developed and introduced Key Performance Indicators (KPI), which are set by Saudi Aramco in alignment with the company’s business plans and areas of potential improvement.

Each organization, by using these tools, can provide greater visibility into the company’s rate of progress toward greater localization, and the business plan’s provisions for a three-year forecast for ikvta achievements will help to provide milestones that help us reach our common goals.

Dalal F. Al-Suhaimi, administrator for Ikvta Support, said that Saudi Aramco was working to broaden the reach of ikvta to help the company achieve the 70% goal. To achieve this, organizations should:
• Continue to work with suppliers to ensure compliance with the ikvta targets
• Include ikvta in (1) all long form procurement agreements regardless of the value, and (2) amendments for extensions and options that are more than one year in duration regardless of the value.
• Compliance will be enforced through the procurement process and reported quarterly.

Majid M. Almohammed, supervisor for Ikvta Action Plan and Support, said that business line and admin area representatives will be the key to success.

“You, the business line and admin area ikvta representatives, are our primary interface to suppliers,” Almohammed said. “And it is through your collective commitment to this transformative program that Saudi Aramco is achieving and will continue to improve upon our ikvta results.”

In 2018, we achieved 52% local content, and we are expecting to increase that to 56% in 2019.

— Abdallah B. Al Thaaly

NMA Board chairman Abdulkhaim A. Al-Ghoui (right) signs a contract with BAE Systems to train Saudi nationals in shipbuilding and repairs. Al-Ghoui said, “However, plans are underway for another branch in Ras al-Khair, which will further cater to all training and certification requirements in shipbuilding and repairs as mandated by the IML,” he added.

Maximizing the diversity of our in-Kingdom suppliers and encouraging key suppliers to increase their own in-Kingdom supply purchases are critical to the success of Ikvta. By localizing major purchases here in Saudi Arabia, we can ensure greater economic development, more local hiring, and a more sustainable Kingdom economy that not only benefits Saudi Aramco’s business objectives, but the larger society as a whole.

In the coming business cycle, business lines and admin areas are being encouraged to assess all current contracts and future opportunities and plan to include ikvta wherever possible.

Supply chain analyst Sebastian Thorp said that business lines are responsible for developing and reporting ikvta KPI forecasts during the annual business plan and performance dialog cycles.

The latest statistics have been encouraging, showing that business lines and admin areas are making substantial progress. The number of new “iktva-ized” contracts has been escalating year-on-year. But to reach our 2021 goal, every organization will need to be even more creative to maintain our ikvta progress.

The signed contract represents a consortium between BAE Systems SDT, which has specialized in training and development for the past 25 years, and three UK colleges specialized in providing high quality marine and port operations training.
Information Security: let’s catch a phish

Ghazi A. Al-Qahtani, who works in the Performance Management Group of the Engineering Services Planning and Performance Management Division, was the first employee to identify and report a potential phishing email this month. Information Protection actually distributed two different emails this month—one that sought to have recipients click on a link to take a survey, and another that informed them that their vehicle had been flagged for a traffic violation, which also had an invitation to click on the link for more information.

Both emails used a variety of techniques to entice recipients to fall for the trick, and both had indicators they may have been phishing attempts, including:

- Fake entities (General Department of Traffic and Insurance Companies Survey) and fake domains (noreply@trafficViolationOnline and timeForSurvey.com)
- Both were tagged as coming from external sources
- A sense of urgency (the insurance survey had an expiration date later in the week)
- Multiple embedded links

Having identified the signs of a potential phish, Al-Qahtani immediately clicked on the "Report as Spam" button in Outlook to flag the test email as suspicious.

The top 3 positive performing organizations

1. Internal Auditing
2. The Downstream Capital Portfolio Planning Department
3. Legal Specialties

thank you Western Region Industrial Security Operations Department

The Information Security Department would like to extend its gratitude and appreciation to the Western Region Industrial Security Operations Department for its noticeable efforts in scoring 0% negative behavior, along with the highest positive behavior for the June test. Such efforts reflect positively on Saudi Aramco cybersecurity user behavior and elevate the resilience of our core business.

Cybersecurity tip of the month on the internet, it’s always cybersecurity first

by Hussain A. Zawad

The internet has become the world’s most important system of communication, interaction, research, and expansion. It is a library that grows every day, every hour, every minute, and every second, with new information and new technology. It has and continues to redefine the ways in which we communicate, interact, network, view media, define the ways in which we communicate, interact, network, view media, develop technology, and approach security.

As the internet has grown, traditional media forms such as radio, television, and traditional mail have been transformed into new ways of communicating such as email and social media. These new forms have a truly global reach.

Companies such as Saudi Aramco have made the necessary adjustments to integrate the internet into the daily business environment of its employees, enabling them to work faster and better, and communicate better as well. Essentially, the internet opens up a new world of expanding technology that is reaching heights never before imagined.

Doorways into potential problems

The wide availability of the internet has opened a whole new wave of challenges. Every day, hackers from all over the world seek to destabilize and harm others in a variety of ways. These hackers are seeking any valuable personal information that they can exploit, blackmail, or use with malicious intent. They will look to exploit any vulnerability in the system or the individual themselves, be it business or personal, and they will find ways to get what they want regardless of how unethical it is.

Therefore, cybersecurity has become paramount to doing business today, with companies going to great lengths to combat this growing problem and concerns. And with today’s reliance on computers, mobile devices, and the internet, companies must be engaged in an endless battle against these attackers that seek to disrupt our hard work and our company’s image, for whatever reason.

Cybersecurity is a must — not just in a technical sense, but also in the sense of personal behavior (i.e., whenever you click on an email or enter a social media platform).

The need for perpetual awareness

With ever-evolving threats and processes by which hackers will try to exploit information, you must be careful and aware of the dangers any time you get behind a keyboard and open your email or open your phone. Watch where you click, and read carefully for anything that looks even slightly suspicious.

Hackers will try to get their hands on personal information that they can exploit, and it is everyone’s responsibility to be aware of the dangers that can adversely affect you, not only personally, but the company as well.
safety first

Loss Prevention engineers gain critical skills as their professional journey takes them into the field

“Jiddah — When Najla Binmahfoodh first became a Loss Prevention Department (LPD) engineer in the Jiddah area, she knew that her main responsibilities would be focused on ensuring compliance with safety standards and work procedures, and verifying design implementation to protect assets and the lives of employees and contractors.

Binmahfoodh is part of a new generation of talent who are conducting field and site inspections within facilities, including during construction phases and total shutdown activities.

“This was an incredible learning opportunity for me to have hands-on experience in tasks related to safety and loss prevention,” Binmahfoodh said of her assignment. “The chance to visit various facilities was an exciting experience and it changed my perspective on women and engineering, as well as safety-related issues that need to be considered within any Saudi Aramco generation facility, or field site.”

the core mission of an LPD engineer

In Saudi Aramco, the female workforce includes, among other positions, petroleum engineers, scientists, inventors, and global traders.

Recognizing that the energy sector requires gender balance, the company introduces women to field-related roles in all business lines, and field assignments are tailored as part of their Professional Development Program plans.

And like all LPD engineers, Binmahfoodh says safety is at the very core of her work and that nothing can replicate the value of conducting a field visit.

“We are able to observe work practices and make safety observations that enhance workplace safety, while also studying designs and learning more about how these are implemented in the field. This focus on safety is paramount due to the risks associated with different practices at construction sites, including the movement of materials and the use of heavy machinery during construction,” she says.

For project support engineers, the safety services provided can vary depending on the assignment and role, including minor or major design review implementation and walkthroughs conducted following the completion of a project.

During her assignment, Binmahfoodh attended progress meetings with a number of proponents, conducting multiple site visits during the construction of the North Jiddah Bulk Plant expansion project. She also conducted a developmental visit to the Yanbu’ Refinery, which was undergoing a total shutdown for turnaround and inspection.

As part of this visit, she was able to observe shutdown activities and enter the burner while welding activities were being conducted. This was Binmahfoodh’s first experience in a plant, and she looks forward to more field assignments in the future.

‘amazing to witness’ Yanbu’ Refinery

“The visit to the Yanbu’ Refinery was a turning point for me,” Binmahfoodh said. “Every activity in this industry is just fascinating, beginning at rig sites to the refineries, and finally to bulk plants and loading facilities. The entire process of how oil comes into being, and is turned into products that we use every day, is just amazing to witness.”

Mohammed Merdad, the lead Fire Prevention engineer for the Jiddah area LPD, recognized Binmahfoodh’s competency and steady growth during her time with LPD — something that is critical for all young engineers.

“She has been the cornerstone of a number of field and technical reviews, partnering with colleagues from many different organizations,” Merdad said. He added that providing such experiences to young safety engineers new to the field allows them to showcase their capabilities and skills in challenging field conditions — once equipped with the correct tools, knowledge, and support.

Binmahfoodh’s career experiences have led her to encourage other female employees in the engineering field to seek opportunities and embrace challenges head on.

“The time has come for women to pursue more field-based roles and contribute to Saudi Aramco’s value of safety by integrating safety into all aspects of our business,” she says. “The support now provided to female engineers will undoubtedly lead to promising futures in upstream field positions. Female engineers are making their mark on the engineering field, and there is plenty more to come.”

watch your social media accounts (you may not be the only one who is)

Saudi Aramco’s Information Security Department is warning employees about a campaign that’s targeting social media accounts. If you see any suspicious activity — especially on social media accounts such as Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn — report such activity to spam@aramco.com.

Here’s a few tips to help prevent such attempts:

• Do not share sensitive information about Saudi Aramco with outside online communities without obtaining the proper approval. Also, do not utilize the same password for your online accounts and your Saudi Aramco account.

• Refrain from downloading attachments or clicking on links within emails received from suspicious professional networking contacts.

• Do not accept suspicious invitations from strangers through social media, phone calls, or other means.

• Refrain from storing company confidential data on your personal laptop, and make sure you apply the latest anti-virus and security patches.

• Secure your mobile devices by applying the latest updates provided by the manufacturer. Secure home wireless access points, and avoid using unprotected Wi-Fi connections and untrusted USB devices.

• Ensure that your company provided laptop maintains regular connectivity to the corporate network to obtain the latest anti-virus and security patches.

Remember, information security is everyone’s responsibility.
drilling into iktva’s potential
drilling completion agreements, service contracts mark another milestone on the localization journey

Mohammed A. Al Shammary, Saudi Aramco vice president of Procurement and Supply Chain Management, and AbdulHameed A. Al Rushaid, vice president of Drilling and Workover, watch as Olivier Le Pousch, COO of Schlumberger Ltd., celebrates the signing of procurement contracts with four of its main downhole drilling suppliers. (Photo: Hatim Oweida/MPD)

The latest completion procurement agreements are expected to enable 70% local content by 2021, and will encourage the development of local manufacturing to stimulate job creation, in line with Vision 2030.

Al Shammary described the signings as an important milestone on the iktva journey toward reaching 70% localization by 2021. “That’s a very challenging task for all of us, but think about this way — it is a win-win situation for both Saudi Aramco and the suppliers,” Al Shammary said. “If we increase our localization, if we make sure that everything is localized and your materials and services are in-Kingdom, it will ensure that the whole supply chain is intact and that you will be providing a very excellent service.”

Al Rushaid said it is important to think of iktva and localization not just in numbers, but more as a task. “It’s an efficiency through which we can ensure that we have a reliable and efficient business within the Kingdom,” he said.

Saudi Aramco’s iktva model incentivizes through spurring competitiveness and performance along the road to achieving the Kingdom’s wider localization goals.

On June 16, 121 co-op students joined the Industrial Cooperative Training Program (ICTP) at Saudi Aramco. The Local Workforce Development Department’s Vocational Training Partnership Division (VTPD) conducted an orientation program at the Dammam Office building for the co-op students.

Tariq A. Al-Amer, VTPD head, congratulated the students for joining the program and encouraged them to take advantage of and benefit from this valuable experience. Al-Amer also emphasized the importance of obeying safety regulations at work and on the highways.

After orientation day, the students started their internship assignment at the company’s various locations (Dhahran, Riyadh, Jiddah, Yanbu’, Ras Tanura, Abqaiq, Jubail, Mubarraz, ‘Udhaisiyah, and Hawiyah) for a period of 10 to 15 weeks. Host organizations are to develop an individual development plan for each student, including challenging tasks, training, and e-Learning courses. Also, ICTP is conducting a survey of the students and their supervisors to measure program satisfaction.

The ultimate objective of the ICTP is to provide co-op students with an opportunity to apply what they’ve learned in their colleges and institutes while exposing them to creative thinking, problem solving, and decision-making skills.
JHAH robot-assisted hysterectomy a Kingdom first

Dhahran — Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare (JHAH) is the first hospital in Saudi Arabia to perform a robotic-assisted hysterectomy using fluorescent dye. “The precision achieved through the use of robotic-assisted surgery has multiple benefits for patients,” said Dr. Turky Al Ruajbi, a JHAH gynecologic oncologist who, along with gynecologist Dr. Fahad Al Mulhim, performed the procedure for endometrial cancer. “Women whose hysterectomies are robotic-assisted surgeries have less pain and blood loss, shorter hospital stays, require fewer narcotics, and recover more quickly.”

JHAH’s robotic surgery program began in December 2016 when Dr. Tareq M. Al-Tarit, a JHAH subspecialist surgeon, and his team collaborated with Dr. Mohamad Al-Ifaf, professor of urology, oncology, and biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and director of Minimally Invasive Urology, and Allafia’s team.

They jointly conducted the first surgeries in the Kingdom using the da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgical System. The program has since expanded and includes gynecological surgeries and bariatric surgery. “This successful operation could not have been done without the support of the JHAH robotic team,” said Al Mulhim. “We are pleased to report the patient is recovering well. This is a tremendous achievement that going forward will improve the outcomes for many of our patients here at JHAH.”

The robot’s “hands” have a high degree of dexterity, allowing surgeons the ability to operate in very tight spaces, such as the pelvis, which would otherwise be inaccessible through open surgery with long incisions. Life after surgery is improved with this technique as there is minimal scarring, fewer postoperative complications, and often, a faster return to normal activities.

The roads that lead to the coast are dotted with variegated mountain ranges, the colors of the desert evolving through myriad hues, from the rocks on the ground to the red toward the more defined mountain peaks — all of this providing a strong contrast to the blue sky.

Small clusters of purple flowers sprout sporadically across the red sand in these plunging valleys at the base of the range, all of it offering truly breathtaking views. In some places, it is possible to diverge from the beaten path and onto short off-road routes that feature prehistoric sites. Here, the story reveals itself among marvelous wild caves.

As the Red Sea finally comes into view in the distance, one is immediately struck by the crystalline color of its waters, a contracting intense shade of blue. Heading toward the Gulf of Aqaba, what is striking is that beyond the sea, the gaze cannot escape to the horizon as it is blocked by the Egyptian Sinai mountain range. The coastline is still wild and follows a winding path following the majestic rocks overlooking the sea, on which the rolling waves break.

There are two well-known sites linked to the stories of two very different wrecks. the tale of the PBY-s Catalina

Resting on the sandy cape (Ras Al-Sheikh Hameed), which lies on coral reefs, the wreckage of a PBY-5 Catalina rises starkly. The former American military airplane was landed on this beach in March 1960 by its owner, businessman Thomas Kendall, who decided to stop there during his tour around the world with his children and his secretary. They spent the night there, but the next day they suffered an armed attack by a group of Bedouins, who thought they were under a military attack. The pilot tried to restart the Catalina but he failed because of the shooting. The crew was captured by the Bedouins and brought to Jiddah, and the airplane was abandoned. An adventure that ended badly, today the Catalina is still there with its rusty debris bathed in light tides.

a mystery ship at Al Backera

Al Backera or Al Mashee Well is a pristine beach with crystal clear deep turquoise water that hosts a mysterious half-sunken ship. A Greek vessel that apparently hit the reef and sank about 40 years ago, the ship was of English origin and built during the Second World War. Launched as a cargo liner, a Greek company bought it to carry flour. However, the crew had a hard time maneuvering the ship out of the narrow strait, and it was doomed. A Saudi businessman later bought the ship, but it caught fire. The flames lasted for several days, and only the metal hull was saved. The ship, sometimes called the “Saudi Titanic,” remains in its final resting place to this day.

This journey was filled with so many different adventures, landscapes, and colors. It is about ancient and more recent stories, and in my memory, I keep the image of the wild nature that covers and uncovers different scenarios — another spectacular Saudi Arabian adventure.

By Chiara Ciampricotti Iaconangeli

The wreck of a Greek vessel that sank about 40 years ago rises off the shores of Al Backera in Tabuk.

By the Arabian Sun

Writing and artwork adorns a rock outcropping in the hills of Tabuk.

The debris of the PBY-5 Catalina rests on the sandy cape of Ras Al-Sheikh Hameed.

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Ithra movies

in cinema

Ithra Heroes Adventure
July 17, 18, 22, 23, 24 10:30 a.m.

Adventure in Zambizia
July 18, 19 8 p.m.
July 22, 23, 24 6 p.m.

The Investor
July 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24 3:30 p.m.

The Last Catch
July 17, 18, 19, 20 6 p.m.

Energy Exhibit Theater

Mysteries of the Unseen World
July 17, 22, 23, 24 6 p.m.
July 18, 19 5 p.m., 7 p.m.

Adventures in Zambizia
Set in a bustling bird city on the edge of the majestic Victoria Falls, “Zambizia” is the story of Kai, a naïve, but high-spirited young falcon who travels to the bird city of “Zambizia,” where he discovers the truth about his origins, and in defending the city, learns how to be part of a community.

The Investor
Once the bars of jail locked behind him, Omar finds himself in confrontation with reality, after spending a lifetime escaping to a world of his imagination, sharing a cell with a major criminal. Omar narrates the story of how he came to be the criminal that he is through the scheming impersonation of typical characters found in society. The film sheds light on some true stories that occurred in Saudi society. To escape his cellmate, Omar must carry on one last impersonation attempt to impersonate to escape the bars of jail.

Mysteries of the Unseen World
Visitors at the Energy Exhibit are invited to watch “Mysteries of the Unseen World,” which will take them on a journey to a whole world that they can’t see with the naked eye!
Aramcon rules the waves in Jiddah kitesurfing competition

Jiddah — Fred A. Clark, an IT systems analyst from the Area Information Technology Department, recently won first place in Saudi Arabia’s first-ever Kitesurfing Festival, organized as part of the Jiddah Season.

Kitesurfing, also known as kiteboarding, is an extreme sport in which the rider uses a large, controllable power kite to harness the wind and propel himself across the water on a board, similar to a surfboard or a wakeboard.

The Kitesurfing Festival was held at King Abdullah Economic City near Jiddah and included several days of instruction, followed by two days of short-course racing with over 50 competitors from across the Kingdom. Participants were divided into fleets of 10 to 12 members, and the fastest kitesurfers progressed through to the finals.

Each participant had to compete in three races, with the top five participants in each fleet moving to the semi-finals. To win, Clark completed seven races, and in the final race, crossed the finish line of the 2-kilometer course just ahead of other top competitors.

Clark is an active member of the 100-kite surfers strong community that meets a few times a month at Half Moon Bay or the Al-Khobar Corniche to practice the sport. An avid kite surfer, Clark learned to kitesurf in the San Francisco Bay area, and has kited recreationally all over the world.

His win comes as a surprise to Clark, who only went to explore a new kiting spot in the Kingdom, meet new people, and have fun.

“It is great to see the Kingdom supporting outdoor sports like kitesurfing,” Clark says. “There are tremendous opportunities for sports activities across Saudi Arabia. A successful event like this will help promote the sport, everyone is looking forward to more activities like these in the kingdom.”

Vikrant P. Ambatkar was on vacation in India last summer when he captured this photo of the lush green countryside near Satara City in Maharastra, India. Ambatkar, a native of India, used his Nikon D5600 and activated “Vivid” mode with a shutter speed about 1/3205 to help accentuate the richness of the countryside. He lives in Ras Tanura and works in the Jumaylah NGL Fractionation Department as a vibration technician. Ambatkar is in his fifth year at Saudi Aramco.