

EGYPT'S MINING SECTOR TURNS A NEW PAGE



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Editor's Letter

Dear reader,

Egypt's mining industry has shifted from the margins to the centre of national economic strategy. As the country prepares for its annual Mining Forum, our September issue captures this transformation charting new projects, policy reforms, and investment horizons that are reshaping the sector's future.

Our Overview feature traces the structural changes, beginning with the evolution of the Egyptian Mineral Resources Authority (EMRA) into the Mineral Resources and Mining Industries Authority (MRMIA), an independent economic entity. It also highlights the move from production sharing agreements to royalty and tax contracts, alongside state efforts to localize value added processing of domestic minerals.

In Economy, we examine the rise of gold refining and assess how this emerging industry is gathering momentum. Insight explores the rationale behind restricting raw phosphate exports, showing how the policy aims to spur fertilizer manufacturing and maximize downstream revenues.

The piece Technology focuses on Egypt's landmark airborne geophysical survey-the first nationwide aerial mapping in four decades-demonstrating how high resolution data will cut exploration risks and costs. Politics looks outward, situating Egypt within the global race for critical minerals, where rare earths have become leverage in U.S.-China trade competition.

Finally, we feature an exclusive interview with Geo. Omar Teima, former EMRA Chairman, who reflects on early reforms and offers perspective on the transformation that followed.

This issue serves as a guide to the key developments redefining Egyptian mining today.

This issue serves as an essential guide to the key developments transforming Egyptian mining today.

Sherine Samir
Editor-in-Chief

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Frontier

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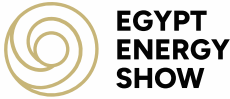
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TOP FIVE NEWS

5

Egypt Eyes 20% Rise in Exploration, production for 2026

Egypt plans to increase exploration and production activities by around 20% during 2026. This comes as part of new contractual models aimed at shortening well drilling timelines and accelerating exploration programs and their results, Karim Badawi, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, said. Badawi's notes came in a meeting to review the performance of Egypt's upstream and refining activities and discuss the sector's key targets and work plans for the next five years.

On the refining front, Badawi said increased crude oil supplies and refinery upgrades raised refineries' utilization rates from 66% to over 80% in 2026, boosting domestic petroleum product output, reducing the import bill and diesel purchases, and supporting higher-value exports.

Recently, Badawi said that MoPMR plans to invest \$4.5 billion in refinery development to boost domestic production and reduce reliance on imports.

MoPMR Launches Bid Rounds for 14 Oil, Gas Exploration Blocks

The Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (MoPMR) has launched its 2026 international bid round, offering 14 oil and natural gas exploration blocks to international and Egyptian companies, as part of efforts to attract investment and increase domestic production, Karim Badawi, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, said.

The bid round, which opened on August 11, includes eight blocks operated by the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS) in the Mediterranean Sea, Nile Delta, and North Sinai, with bids closing at 12 p.m. Cairo time on December 14, 2026.

The Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) is offering six blocks in the Gulf of Suez, Sinai, and Western Desert, with bids closing at 12 p.m. Cairo time on November 11, 2026.

The blocks are being offered digitally through Egypt Upstream Gateway (EUG) under production-sharing agreements. The platform will provide investors with technical data, respond to inquiries, and receive and evaluate bids on technical and financial grounds.

Badawi made the announcement during a meeting with the heads and managers of international companies operating in Egypt.

Offered Blocks		
Companies		
No. of Blocks	8	6
Exploration Regions	Mediterranean Sea, Nile Delta & North Sinai	Gulf of Suez, Sinai & Western Desert
Opening Date	August 11, 2026	
Closing Date	December 14, 2026	November 11, 2026

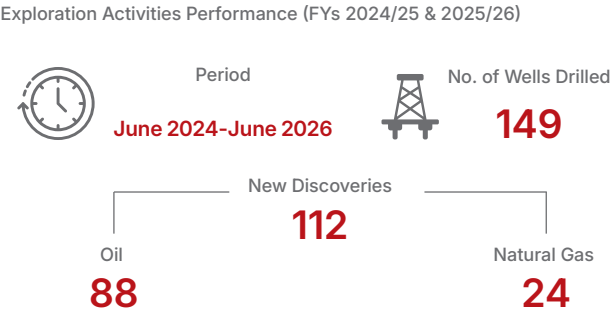
EGPC Reports 112 Discoveries from 149 Wells Over Two Fiscal Years

The Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) CEO, Salah Abdel Kerim, highlighted that exploration activity has delivered positive results over the past two fiscal years, with 149 exploration wells drilled, resulting in 112 new discoveries, including 88 crude oil discoveries and 24 natural gas discoveries. Among the notable finds was the Denis offshore gas discovery in Port Said.

This came during the meeting held by Karim Badawi, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, with the heads and senior executives of international and Egyptian oil and gas companies.

Abdel Kerim added that, during fiscal years (FY) 2024/25 and FY 2025/26, Egypt signed 19 exploration and production agreements, involving minimum investments of \$823.1 million, signature bonuses of \$93.5 million, and commitments to drill 134 wells. Another 13 agreements are currently being prepared for signing, with investments exceeding \$1 billion and commitments to drill 120 wells, Abdel Kerim said.

For his part, Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS) Executive Managing Director Sayed Selim noted that the number of wells drilled increased from just two wells in FY 2020/21 to 15 wells in FY 2025/26, while discoveries rose from one to 10 over the same period. During FY 2025/26, EGAS awarded 11 new exploration areas and signed five agreements, supporting the expansion of exploration activities in the Mediterranean Sea and Nile Delta, he said.



Egypt, ExxonMobil Launch Implementation of Cyprus Gas Tie-Back Deal

Egypt has taken the first steps toward implementing a recently signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ExxonMobil and QatarEnergy to connect the companies' gas fields offshore Cyprus to Egypt's natural gas infrastructure for re-export, the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (MoPMR) said.

The MoU signed by Egypt, ExxonMobil, and QatarEnergy is intended to evaluate the development and commercialization of ExxonMobil's Cypriot fields, Glaucus and Pegasus in Block 10, by transporting their gas to Egypt's existing processing and LNG export infrastructure.

Badawi described the meeting as the first executive step following the signing of the agreement, noting that both sides agreed to swiftly launch joint technical committees and establish implementation programs and clear timelines for technical, commercial, and regulatory studies.

Badawi said the planned connection of Cyprus' gas discoveries to Egypt's infrastructure builds on a series of regional cooperation initiatives, beginning with the Cronos project in partnership with Eni and TotalEnergies, followed by the Aphrodite project with Chevron, and now the collaboration with ExxonMobil and QatarEnergy.

Gas from the Cronos field will be transported to Egypt for processing, liquefaction, and re-export through its LNG facilities, while gas from Aphrodite will be supplied to Egypt under a 15-year agreement (extendable by five years), with Egypt receiving, processing, and exporting the gas via its existing infrastructure.

Cabinet Approves Egyptian-Emirati Oil & Gas Free Zone in New Alamein

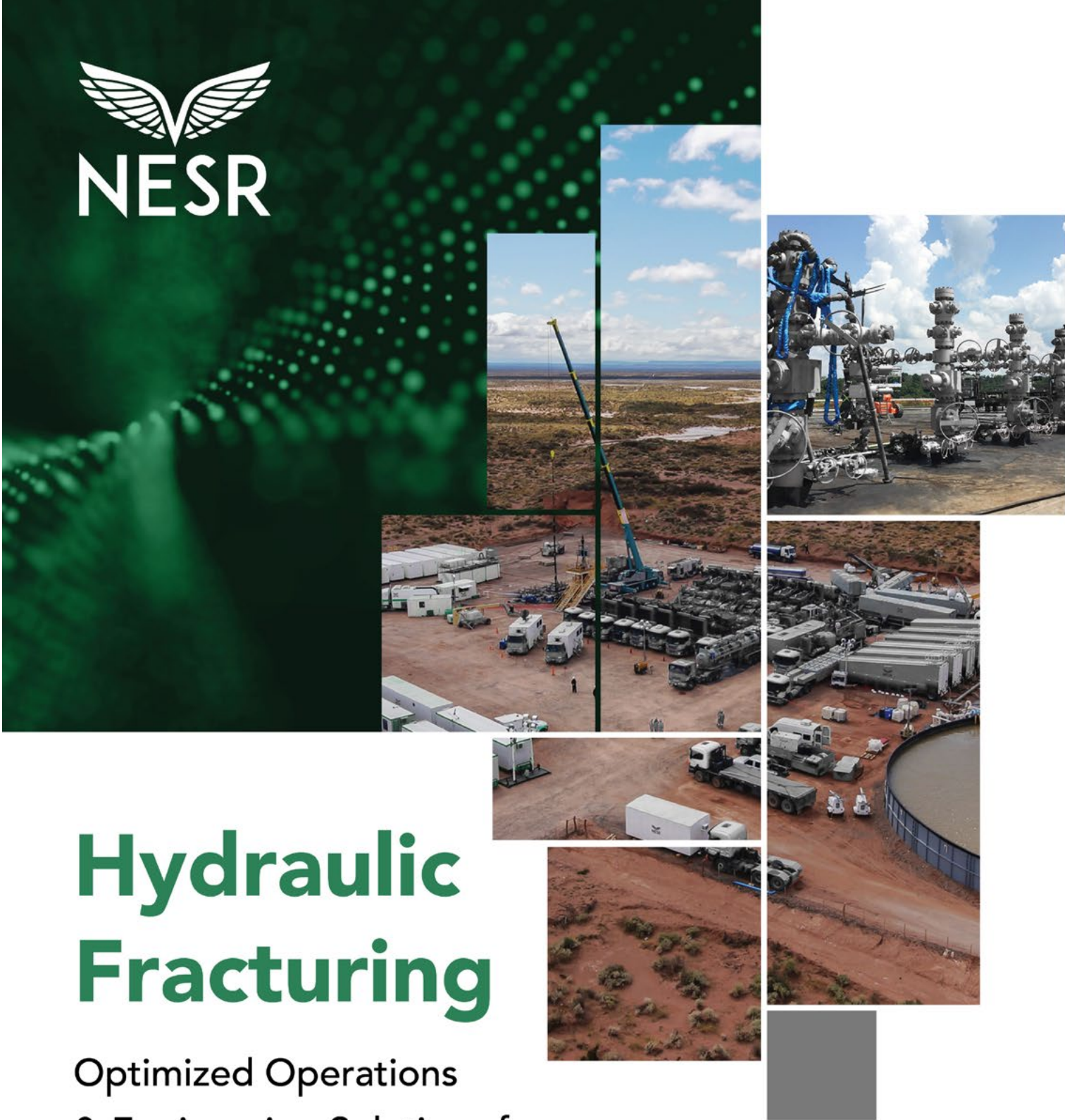
The Cabinet has approved the establishment of a special free zone named Fujairah Alamein Oil and Gas Company in New Alamein City, Matrouh Governorate, according to Decree No. 65 of 2026. The new free zone, which covers about 737,915 square meters, will be dedicated to the storage and trading of petroleum products and crude oil.

According to the Decree, the company must export at least 100% of its annual production, and its products must contain at least 50% local content.

The Decree also requires the company to provide an approved document proving its legal possession of the project site and obtain the necessary approval from the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency.



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EXPLORATION

Egyptian Parliament Ratifies Four Oil, Gas Exploration Deals

The Egyptian Parliament approved four oil and natural gas exploration and production (E&P) agreements. The concessions include an onshore project in North Sinai involving Perenco, a UK-French independent oil and gas production company.

The parliamentary approvals cover exploration and production activities distributed across North Sinai, the Nile Delta, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Eastern Desert, according to Reuters.

Under one of the key agreements, Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS), along with Perenco North Sinai Petroleum, will explore the Al-Fayrouz onshore block located in North Sinai.

Perenco North Sinai Petroleum has been operating on the North Sinai concession since 2014. The entity is a subsidiary of Valmore Holding, a firm previously known as the Egypt Kuwait Holding (EKH).

Cabinet Allows Production to Continue at Expiring Petroleum Development Areas

Egypt's Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, approved a Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources request to continue production from petroleum development areas where contracts have expired or are nearing expiry, aiming to maintain current production levels.

The approval applies to areas that still hold reserves that can be produced economically. It also seeks to make use of existing investments and infrastructure while the government completes the legal and constitutional procedures required for awarding or re-awarding the areas.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Morgan Stanley: Egypt's Oil and Gas FDI Inflows Boosts External Resilience

Egypt's external vulnerability to higher oil prices is now seen as materially lower, with record remittance inflows and greater exchange rate flexibility providing a cushion against shocks, Morgan Stanley said in a new report. The bank noted that the broader impact of the Iran conflict on tourism and remittances has not materialized, with remittances climbing to an estimated \$46 billion in fiscal year (FY)2026 from \$36 billion the year before. This strength encouraged an FY2027 forecast of \$43 billion.

The report highlights stronger remittances, lower oil price assumptions and improving foreign direct investment (FDI) prospects as factors making Egypt's FY2027 external financing outlook more manageable. In its best case scenario, Brent falls to \$60 in 2027, cutting Egypt's import bill and narrowing the current account deficit to \$13 billion. FDI is projected at \$15 billion, with external financing needs of \$25 billion nearly covered.

Even under higher oil price scenarios, robust remittances and steady FDI, supported by oil and gas investments and the government's asset sale programme , help contain financing gaps. The IMF also assessed Egypt as resilient, citing reserves, remittances, tourism and Suez Canal revenues.

Egypt Gas Records 25% Rise in H1 2026 Operating Revenues

Egypt Gas reported a 25% year-on-year (YoY) increase in operating revenues to mount to EGP 4.7 billion for the six months ending June 30, 2026, according to the company's disclosure to the Egyptian Stock Exchange (EGX).

The company's net profit after tax rose to around EGP 234.7 million, marking a 12 % increase from its level in the same period of 2025.

The company's first-quarter (Q1) results also showed continued growth, with net profit after tax increasing 11.7% YoY to EGP 219.3 million. Operating revenues rose 27.49% YoY to EGP 2.152 billion during the January-March period.

The growth reflects Egypt Gas' continued expansion of its natural gas distribution and related activities. Established in 1983, the company is a major operator in Egypt's petroleum sector and has played a key role in developing the country's natural gas distribution network.

Egypt Breaks Ground on \$658 Mn Abu Tartour Phosphoric Acid Complex

Egypt has laid the foundation stone for the first industrial complex to produce phosphoric acid from locally mined phosphate rock in the Abu Tartour Plateau in New Valley in a ceremony attended by Karim Badawi, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

Under the approved rules, the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) will retain possession and control of all production extracted during the interim period and will oversee the operations.

The Cabinet stressed that the decision does not extend or renew expired development contracts. It also grants no contractors or private entities any right to operate, manage or exploit the areas during the interim period.

EUG Showcases Southeast Bir El Nus Block Ahead of Bid Round Deadline

The Egypt Upstream Gateway (EUG) has released a video overview of the South East Bir El Nus block in the Western Desert, one of the 14 blocks included in the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (MoPMR)'s 2026 international bid round, launched on August 11. The names of the blocks on offer were not revealed back then.

South East Bir El Nus block covers an area of 1,528.7 square kilometers (km2), where three wells have been drilled to date. It lies within the Abu Gharadig and Ghorab geological basins. The nearest production facility is located 88 km from the block, while nearby fields include Sitra, BED-2, BED-3, and South Ras Qattara 1 and 2.

The ministry's 2026 bid round contained 14 oil and gas exploration blocks comprising eight in the Mediterranean Sea, Nile Delta, and North Sinai regions offered by the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS) as well as six blocks in the Gulf of Suez, Sinai, and Western Desert regions offered by the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC).

The deadline for all the blocks is on November 11, 2026, at 12 p.m.

With \$658 million in investments, the project will produce 250,000 tons per year (t/y) of high-concentration commercial-grade phosphoric acid in its first phase. Phosphoric acid is a key raw material used in fertilizer production.

During the ceremony, Badawi described the complex as one of the key industrial projects aimed at maximizing the value of Egyptian phosphate rock. The project reflects the government's strategy to move from exporting or using raw minerals in their primary form toward establishing downstream industries that produce higher-value products, support exports, and generate foreign currency, he noted.

He said the project represents a success story after the ministry managed over the past year to overcome obstacles that had delayed its implementation for several years.

Badawi: Egypt Secures Gas Supply for Second Straight Summer

Karim Badawi, the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, said that Egypt has successfully secured natural gas supplies during the peak electricity consumption period for the second consecutive year, ensuring stable deliveries to power plants and industrial facilities.

Badawi made the remarks during a visit to the National Advanced Transmission and Automation Centre (NATA) at the Egyptian Natural Gas Company (GASCO), where he reviewed the status of natural gas supplies and network readiness to meet summer peak demand.

He added that proactive planning and continuous coordination between the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (MoPMR) and the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy enabled Egypt to manage unprecedented increases in energy demand and secure the supplies needed to meet record electricity loads exceeding 40,000 megawatts (MW) during the summer.

Badawi Targets 80% Refinery Utilization to Cut Egypt's Fuel Imports

Karim Badawi, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, said raising the utilization rate of Egypt's refineries from 66% to 80% will increase reliance on locally refined petroleum products and help reduce the country's fuel import bill.

Badawi made the remarks during Cairo Oil Refining Company's (CORC) general assembly to approve its FY 2025/26 results. Mahmoud Esmat, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy, and Manal Awad, Minister of Local Development and Environment, attended via video conference.

Badawi said coordination between the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) and its refining companies has increased the amount of crude processed locally. He also stressed the role of specialized laboratories in ensuring petroleum products meet required specifications.

INVESTMENTS

Mediterra Investment Restarts Al-Baraka Drilling After Four-Year Pause

Backed by new investments from Canada's Mediterra Energy, Egypt has resumed drilling operations at the Baraka oil field, at the Kom Ombo Concession, following a four-year suspension, noted a statement by the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (MoPMR).



Karim Badawi, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, visited the oil field operated by the South Valley Egyptian Petroleum Holding Company (Ganope) to review the restart of drilling and workover operations. The resumption of operations follows the arrival of the first drilling rig in the area and the pumping of new investments by Mediterra Energy, the concession's investment partner, to implement a program to rehabilitate several production wells and restore them to production.

The Canadian company operates in the Kom Ombo concession areas (Al-Baraka and West Al-Baraka) in partnership with GANOPE, and in Sidr, Matarma, and Asal in Sinai in partnership with the General Petroleum Company (GPC).

Shell Takes FID on Phase 12a Development in Egypt's WDDM Concession

BG Delta Limited, a subsidiary of Shell plc, and its partners have taken a Final Investment Decision (FID) on the Phase 12a development project in Egypt's West Delta Deep Marine (WDDM) concession offshore the Mediterranean Sea, according to a Shell's press release.

The project, which involves the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS), the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC), and the Malaysian state-owned energy company Petronas, will develop three deepwater subsea wells, with first gas expected in 2028.

Phase 12a will replicate the development model used in WDDM Phases 10 and 11, with the new wells tied back to existing subsea infrastructure operated by the Burullus Gas Company joint venture.

According to Shell, using existing infrastructure will help shorten the project execution timeline, improve capital efficiency, and limit the need for additional facilities.

TAQA Arabia to Invest EGP 1.4 Bn in New Fuel Depot

TAQA Arabia's Board of Directors has approved establishing a new petroleum products depot in Greater Cairo, with an estimated investment of about EGP 1.4 billion, according to a disclosure submitted to the Egyptian Exchange (EGX).

TAQA Arabia's subsidiary, TAQA for Petroleum Products Marketing, will establish the depot to supply gasoline and diesel to its own operations as well as to service stations run by other companies in the Egyptian market.

The investment is part of TAQA Arabia's continued expansion in petroleum products depots and fuelling stations business. The company currently operates storage depots in Suez and Amriya, Alexandria, and plans to expand its storage capacity to support the distribution of petroleum products across the Egyptian market.

The company said the new facility is expected to enhance efficiency and boost returns from petroleum products supply operations.

DNO to Enter Egypt with \$396 Mn Acquisition of Capricorn Energy

DNO ASA, a Norway-based oil and gas exploration and production operator, has reached an agreement on the terms of a recommended all-cash acquisition to acquire Capricorn Energy plc, a UK-listed independent upstream energy company, in a deal valuing the firm at approximately \$396 million (£292 million), according to a press release by Capricorn.



The offer effectively supersedes an earlier agreed transaction with Genel Energy plc, providing a higher cash consideration and marking DNO's entry into the Egyptian upstream sector.

Under the terms of the transaction, Capricorn shareholders are entitled to receive \$5.214 per share in cash, comprising an acquisition price of \$4.224 per share alongside an expected special dividend of \$0.99 per share.

Energean to Invest \$150 Mn to Consolidate Egyptian Assets, Boost Exploration

Energean, a London-based independent exploration and production company, is advancing the consolidation of its Abu Qir, North El Amriya (NEA) and North Idku (NI) concessions into a single concession framework, according to the company's release.



This consolidation will support a new investment program of up to \$150 million over the next four years to increase production and unlock further development and exploration opportunities in Egypt, Energean said. The new concession will also include two new exploration areas in the Abu Qir deep horizon and open acreage adjacent to Energean's current development leases.

The program comprises the drilling of six wells within the new concession spanning over an area of 700 square kilometers (km²).

Misr Petroleum Reports EGP 230 Bn Revenue, 8 mmt Sales in FY2025/26

Misr Petroleum, one of Egypt's largest petroleum products marketing firms, generated more than EGP 230 billion in revenue, sold over 8 million tons (mmt) of petroleum products and made around EGP 1 billion in investments during fiscal year (FY) 2025/26, according to Chairman Mohamed Maged Bakheet.



The company invested EGP 180 million in developing its petroleum product shipment and inventory monitoring systems to enhance distribution efficiency and ensure supply continuity, and EGP 404 million in fire protection and automatic alarm systems across its depots, service stations, airports, ports, and oil blending complex, according to Bakheet.

Moreover, it allocated EGP 31 million to develop its aviation and marine fueling activities, while EGP 321 million was invested in replacing, upgrading, and improving the efficiency of the company's machinery, equipment, and facilities.

bp Begins Fayoum-4 Well Production, Adding 80 mmcf/d to Egypt's Gas Supply

bp has started production from the Fayoum-4 well in Egypt's West Nile Delta, adding an estimated 80 million cubic feet per day (mmcf/d) of natural gas to the domestic market.



The well's production has been tied into bp's existing West Nile Delta gas-processing facilities, which the company operates with an 82.75% stake, through the Giza-Fayoum pipeline, allowing the company to bring the new volumes online without developing new subsea infrastructure.

The project was accelerated following bp's 2025 exploration campaign, which led to the discovery of the Fayoum well. The company said the accelerated development brought production forward by about two years compared with the original plan.

Starting production from Fayoum-4 reflects bp's continued support for the Ministry of Petroleum's strategy to accelerate development activities, maximize the use of existing infrastructure, and deploy the latest technologies to increase domestic natural gas production in Egypt, according to bp Egypt Vice President Wail Shaheen.

The new production comes as Egypt continues efforts to increase domestic gas output and reduce its reliance on imported gas.

bp used sidetrack drilling to bring the well back into production by accessing new reservoir layers, without the need to drill a new well. The operation reached reservoirs more than 3,000 meters deep, enabling additional production while making efficient use of existing reserves and infrastructure. bp is also committing \$1.5 billion in investments for gas development and exploration during the 2026/2027 fiscal year.

SAUDI ARABIA

Aramco Signs \$3.7 Bn Agreements with French

Companies

Aramco, Saudi Arabia's state owned energy giant, has signed agreements and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with French companies worth more than \$3.7 billion, aimed at strengthening supply chains, advancing industrial technologies, and boosting efficiency.



The deals were unveiled at the French Saudi Investment Roundtable Meeting, attended by Aramco President and CEO Amin H. Nasser. They are designed to reinforce Aramco's supply chain ecosystem, safeguard operational continuity, and generate economic value for both Saudi Arabia and France.

The agreements span project support, capacity building, technology transfer, innovation, and resilience. Highlights include a corporate procurement agreement for drilling equipment and a purchase agreement for Oil Country Tubular Goods (OCTG), essential in oil and gas drilling.

Saudi Arabia Shuts East-West Oil Pipeline After Drone

Attack

Saudi Arabia has temporarily shut its East-West oil pipeline after a drone attack, cutting a key route the kingdom has used to bypass shipping disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz, according to Reuters.

The 1,200-kilometer pipeline carries crude across Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea and has transported between 4 million and 5 million barrels per day (bbl/d) in recent months, equivalent to around 4%-5% of global oil supply.

The Saudi Energy Ministry said it closed the pipeline as a precaution. Saudi Arabia and Iraq said the drone attack originated from Iraq, where Iranian-backed militias operate. Saudi authorities reported injuries and damage, which they were assessing.

The pipeline has played a major role in maintaining Saudi crude flows during the six-month US-Iran war, which has reduced tanker traffic through Hormuz. The shutdown adds pressure on Saudi exports as shipping risks also increase around the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb.

Saudi crude supply had already fallen by 2.3 million bbl/d to 6 million bbl/d in August, its lowest level in more than three decades, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

UAE

ADNOC Expands Tanker Fleet by \$1.3 Bn to Meet Rising Oil

Exports

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company Logistics and Services (ADNOC L&S) has spent \$1.3 billion to expand its tanker fleet as the UAE increases crude exports and relies on maritime transport through the Strait of Hormuz, according to Bloomberg.



The company nearly doubled its Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) fleet to 14 vessels from eight. The expansion also includes five Very Large Gas Carriers (VLGCs) capable of transporting fuels such as propane.

ADNOC L&S bought six VLCCs and three VLGCs on the secondary market, with the vessels scheduled for delivery in the third quarter of 2026. The remaining two VLGCs are newbuilds expected to arrive in Q4 2026.

The fleet expansion comes as tanker markets face tighter vessel availability and higher earnings. Also, ADNOC has used its own vessels and chartered tankers to move crude and refined products from the Gulf during the Iran war, with some voyages operating under military escort.

IRAQ

Iraq to Double Oil Output Within Six Years

Iraq plans to increase crude oil production to 8-10 million barrels per day (mmbbl/d) within six years, more than doubling its pre-conflict output of around 4 mmbbl/d, as Baghdad seeks to expand its production capacity and secure a larger share of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) market.

Iraqi Prime Minister, Ali al-Zaidi, announced the target at the Baghdad Dialog policy conference on August 21, according to Reuters, adding that Baghdad has sent a delegation, including the oil and finance ministers, to Saudi Arabia to seek a higher production quota from OPEC.

Baghdad's push for a higher quota comes as OPEC and its allies (OPEC+) prepares to establish new production baselines for 2027. The producer alliance has commissioned DeGolyer and MacNaughton to assess members' production capabilities, with the results expected in September. The assessment is expected to contribute to negotiations over members' 2027 baselines.

Iran Authorizes Iraqi Oil Tankers to Transit Strait of

Hormuz

Iran has allowed a number of Iraqi oil tankers to transit the Strait of Hormuz after Baghdad repeatedly sought permission through multiple channels, Reuters reported, citing Iran's state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

The authorization was among Iraq's key demands during Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf's visit to Baghdad.

Iraqi President Nizar Amedi said that Iran had facilitated the passage of vessels carrying Iraqi crude through the Strait in recent days. He added that Baghdad had held discussions with Iranian officials over maintaining its oil exports through the strategic waterway.

Iraq has been among the countries hardest hit by the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, with traffic still well below pre-war levels and vessels continuing

toface attacks in the area.

KUWAIT

Baker Hughes Wins Multi-Year KOC Contract for Ahmadi

Valley

Baker Hughes, the leading American energy technology company, has secured a multi-year contract from Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) to accelerate technology innovation in Kuwait's upstream oil and gas sector through the Ahmadi Innovation Valley (AIV).



Under the agreement, Baker Hughes will serve as a key technology collaborator for AIV, focusing on the development and deployment of scalable, fit-for-purpose technologies aimed at optimizing oil production and flow assurance while addressing KOC's broader technology priorities.

The collaboration will draw on Baker Hughes' digital and artificial intelligence (AI) automation technologies to support higher recovery from existing wells, lower operating costs, reduce water production, and minimize power consumption, according to the NASDAQ listed energy technology company.

As part of the contract, Baker Hughes will establish a dedicated research and technology development center within AIV in Kuwait. The facility will support the continuous evaluation of new technologies, their deployment at scale, and the development of local technical expertise.

UNITED KINGDOM

Harbour Energy's Revenues Jump 20% in H1 of 2026

Harbour Energy, an independent energy company, generated \$6.4 billion in revenue during the six months ending June 30, representing a 20% increase compared to the same period of 2025. This was mainly driven by record production resulting from strong operational execution and higher oil and European natural gas prices, according to the company's press release on August 6.



The company's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, amortization, and exploration expenses (EBITDAX) rose to \$4.4 billion in the first half (H1) of 2026, compared to \$3.9 billion in H1 2025. It also recorded a rise in adjusted profit after tax amounting to \$562 million in H1 2026, up from \$410 million in H1 2025.

On the operational front, Harbour Energy commenced development of the Fayoum-Messinian gas field in Egypt, utilizing existing West Nile Delta infrastructure, with first gas targeted before the end of 2026. The company also progressed projects in Norway, the UK, the US Gulf of America, Argentina, and Mexico. It also completed the acquisition of LLOG Exploration Company LLC in the US as well as Waldorf in the UK, and the divestment of non-core assets in Indonesia.

VENEZUELA

SLB, Formentera Plan to Reactivate Oil Rigs in Venezuela

Global technology company SLB and private equity firm Formentera Partners are working to reactivate oil drilling rigs in Venezuela or potentially bring additional rigs into the country in the coming months, executives from both firms said on Wednesday during a conference in Houston.



Formentera is in talks with international oilfield service providers to import drilling rigs, while SLB plans to reactivate up to 15 rigs already in Venezuela, according to Reuters. Up to four of SLB's rigs could return to operation this year, depending on contracts with oil producers.

Only two onshore drilling rigs were active in Venezuela at the end of July, according to Baker Hughes data, limiting the country's ability to increase production, which currently stands at around 1.25 million barrels per day (mmbbl/d).

NIGERIA

Nigeria Approves Offshore Oil and Gas Incentives to

Attract \$50 Bn

Nigeria has introduced a new regulatory and fiscal framework for offshore oil and gas developments as part of government efforts to attract up to \$50 billion in investment and accelerate projects that have been delayed, according to the Nigerian presidency.

President Bola Tinubu approved the Deep Offshore Oil and Gas Projects Incentives framework which will shift the sector away from project-by-project negotiations toward a standardized, rules-based system through a new tax remission order.

The incentives are expected to facilitate the development of several offshore projects, with Shell's \$10 billion Bonga South West development among the first. The project, which has faced prolonged delays, is expected to reach a final investment decision (FID) in 2027.

The new framework also gives NNPC Ltd, Nigeria's state-owned oil company, the authority to amend eligible production-sharing contracts (PSCs) with producers.

IEA

IEA Sees 2026 Oil Supply Falling 5.7 mmbbl/d as Gulf

Disruptions Persist

The International Energy Agency (IEA) expects global oil supply to fall by 5.7 million barrels per day (mmbbl/d) in 2026 as continued Middle East disruptions delay the return of normal Gulf oil flows into 2027, according to Reuters.

The decline, equivalent to around 6% of global supply, is steeper than the agency's previous estimate of about 4%, according to its latest monthly oil market report.

Attacks on oil tankers along Middle East shipping routes have pushed crude prices toward \$110 per barrel, while damage to refineries amid conflicts in the Middle East and between Russia and Ukraine has driven refined fuel prices higher.

The IEA also expects global oil demand to decline by 2.5 mmbbl/d this year, compared with its previous forecast for a 1.6 mmbbl/d drop, as high fuel prices weigh on consumption.

However, supply is falling faster than demand, forcing markets to rely increasingly on inventories. Global oil stocks declined by 3.1 mmbbl/d in August to their lowest level since 2023.

US

Baker Hughes Wins bp Contract to Boost North Sea

Production

Baker Hughes has secured a contract from British Petroleum (bp) to provide offshore well stimulation and production enhancement services across bp's UK North Sea operations, supporting both new well development and recovery from mature fields.

Under the agreement, Baker Hughes will deploy a vessel-based stimulation solution equipped with its StimFORCE modular stimulation package to support well completions and production enhancement activities. The company said the solution is designed to improve operational reliability, reduce non-productive time, and provide greater flexibility in scheduling offshore stimulation campaigns.

The contract will be delivered through Baker Hughes' UK operating base and local supply chain, with the vessel-based approach allowing stimulation work to be carried out without relying solely on fixed offshore infrastructure.

US Gas Output and Demand Set for Record Highs in 2026–27

US natural gas supply and demand are expected to reach record highs in 2026 and 2027, according to the US Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Short-Term Energy Outlook.

Dry natural gas production is projected to increase from a record 107.6 billion cubic feet per day (bcfd) in 2025 to 111.7 bcfd in 2026 and 115.9 bcfd in 2027.

Meanwhile, domestic gas consumption is forecast to rise from a record 91.9 bcfd in 2025 to 92.2 bcfd in 2026 and 94.3 bcfd in 2027.

The EIA's September production and demand forecasts for 2026 were higher than its August estimates of 111.2 bcfd and 92.0 bcfd, respectively.

US liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports are also expected to increase, reaching an average of 17.4 bcfd in 2026 and 18.6 bcfd in 2027, up from a record 15.1 bcfd in 2025.

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ARCHITECTING THE SECTOR

A DECADE OF POLICY EVOLUTION IN EGYPTIAN MINING

By Sherine Samir

In an exclusive sit-down with Egypt Oil & Gas, Omar Teima, former Chairman of the Egyptian Mineral Resources Authority (EMRA), now the Egyptian Mineral Resources and Mining Industries Authority (MRMIA), sheds light on a landmark era in Egypt's mining sector and reflects on how the industry has evolved since his departure.

Leading EMRA from February 2014 to August 2017, Teima spearheaded critical structural shifts. His tenure saw the drafting and execution of Mineral Resources Law No. 198 of 2014 and its 2015 Executive Regulations, modernizing outdated 1956 legislation. He restructured fiscal frameworks, standardized national quarry licensing, expanded field inspections to curb illegal mining, and launched the 2017 international gold bid round, which was Egypt's first in eight years.

Following his exit, the sector underwent further transformation, notably adopting the 2019 rent-and-royalty system and separating mining from petroleum management. Sitting down with Egypt Oil & Gas, Teima offers an insider's view on his baseline achievements and how those early reforms set the stage for today's investment climate.

How do you compare EMRA's status during your tenure through 2017 with its current standing as an independent economic authority?

What we see today fulfills the vision we pursued between 2014 and 2017. Back then, our immediate focus was replacing the 1956 legislation with Mineral Resources Law No. 198 of 2014 and its updated executive regulations. We also attempted to transform EMRA into an independent economic entity, but were unsuccessful. Remaining a service authority meant all revenues flowed directly to the Ministry of Finance. Our development budgets were routinely trimmed, leaving strategic plans largely on paper.

The shift to an independent economic authority gave MRMIA financial autonomy-retaining revenues, approving budgets, and funding exploration, training, salaries, and equipment-proving that fiscal freedom is the cornerstone of operational success.

For perspective, in the 1980s and 1990s around 30 field expeditions were dispatched annually to the desert. By my tenure, tight budgets reduced that number to just five or six per year, while hiring freezes created severe staffing and training gaps. Equipment was similarly depleted; in 2014, we managed to purchase a few 4x4 vehicles to replace models dating back to 1990. Off-road vehicles are not luxuries; they are a geologist's lifeline in rugged terrain.

“The shift to an independent economic authority gave MRMIA financial autonomy-retaining revenues, approving budgets, and funding exploration, training, salaries, and equipment-proving that fiscal freedom is the cornerstone of operational success.”



Omar Teima, Former Chairman of EMRA, now the Egyptian Mineral Resources and Mining Industries Authority (MRMIA)

Today, MRMIA has the leverage to modernize its fleet, acquire current technologies, recruit top talent, and scale up geological missions. This shift removes historical constraints, allowing the authority to move from survival mode to strategic growth and unlock Egypt's true mineral potential.

Beyond EMRA's transition into an independent economic authority, what do you view as the most significant developments in Egypt's mining sector since 2017?

The primary advancement is the implementation of the Open Block System (OBS) for concession tenders. Moving away from rigid two- to three-month bidding windows, blocks remain accessible continuously throughout the year rather than requiring companies to wait for a specific bid round announcement. Receiving an initial bid triggers a 30-day competitive window; if no competing offers emerge, the block remains accessible. The OBS method allows investors to commit capital on their own timelines across diverse commodities, including gold, phosphate, talc, and kaolin.

Egypt has also benchmarked global leaders to modernize local operations. Several recent delegations to Australia highlight a strategic push to adapt proven international mining frameworks, particularly by targeting mid and small sized Australian exploration firms. Unlike mega-conglomerates, these mid-tier players partner with domestic Egyptian

contractors who have built strong technical capacity, acquired modern equipment, and deployed skilled local labor across regional projects.

This domestic contracting capability is best illustrated by the Shalateen Mineral Resources Company framework. Rather than mining directly, Shalateen operates as a state administrative entity, awarding supervised contracts to local partners through competitive tenders. This approach has established Shalateen as Egypt's second-largest gold producer after Sukari. Crucially, the model offers a practical path to integrate informal, unregulated mining into the formal economy. While major multinationals often struggle to manage local prospectors, Shalateen allocates smaller, managed parcels of two to ten square kilometers under state supervision. This converts illegal operations into formal production, routes gold directly into state channels, restores desert security, and keeps local operators distinct from major corporate concessions.

“The Open Block System (OBS) allows investors to commit capital on their own timelines across diverse commodities, including gold, phosphate, talc, and kaolin.”

What is your perspective on Egypt's transition from petroleum-style Production-Sharing Agreements (PSAs) to an international standard Royalty-Tax-Rent fiscal regime?

The debate over commercial structures in mining contracts is central to attracting global capital while securing state revenues. Production-Sharing Agreements, proven in Egypt's energy sector since the 1950s, deliver raw physical production to the state from day one of extraction. In contrast, profit-sharing models depend on the foreign partner achieving profitability to generate broader fiscal returns, though a fixed royalty remains universal across all systems. The historic Sukari concession was granted in 1996 under a unique profit-sharing arrangement, but serious investors adapt to whichever model the host state establishes. Following Law No. 145 of 2019 and its executive regulations, Egypt officially moved away from PSAs to an international standard Royalty-Tax-Rent framework, eliminating mandatory 50/50 joint ventures (JV).

Beyond the fiscal regime itself, I strongly advocate competitive tendering over the direct placement of concessions, as occurred with Sukari. Direct placement awards a concession to a single investor without competition. Tendering, by contrast, brings transparency. Placing a block out for public bid might draw two, three, or five applicants, allowing the state to evaluate each proposal and select the best offer, not only financially, but more importantly, technically.

The ultimate goal is not simply to dig up gold, but to extract it profitably using sound scientific methods that prevent resource waste. Maintaining transparent bidding alongside flexible contract terms safeguards

“The ultimate goal is not simply to dig up gold, but to extract it profitably using sound scientific methods that prevent resource waste. Maintaining transparent bidding alongside flexible contract terms safeguards national resource sovereignty while ensuring Egypt remains highly competitive for international capital.”

national resource sovereignty while ensuring Egypt remains highly competitive for international capital.

“I have repeatedly advocated that Egypt should completely stop exporting any raw mineral in its unprocessed state. Selling our raw resources at rock-bottom prices only to re-import finished goods at premium rates is an unsustainable economic model.”

The mining sector appears to be shifting from exporting raw minerals to processing value-added products, starting with phosphate. What is your perspective on this strategy?

Moving away from crude exports has been a critical goal since 2014, and this policy must extend well beyond phosphate. I have repeatedly advocated that Egypt should completely stop exporting any raw mineral in its unprocessed state. Selling our raw resources at rock-bottom prices only to re-import finished goods at premium rates is an unsustainable economic model.

Egypt holds vast mineral wealth complemented by unique operational advantages. Our deserts feature "open-book geology," where exposed rock formations allow geologists to visually identify roughly half of the landscape without specialized equipment. Furthermore, our mining regions offer strong security, an available workforce, developed transportation infrastructure, and accessible water. Value-addition allows us to leverage these national strengths and maximize economic returns.

“Egypt holds vast mineral wealth complemented by unique operational advantages. Our deserts feature "open-book geology," where exposed rock formations allow geologists to visually identify roughly half of the landscape without specialized equipment.”

Looking ahead, which minerals hold the highest commercial potential for Egypt?

Gold is number one. Egypt is exceptionally rich in gold deposits, and it remains our highest-potential asset.

Phosphate also offers massive opportunities. While raw grades vary, straightforward processing easily elevates its quality for higher-value commercial applications. Additionally, we have substantial iron ore deposits across several regions, alongside major reserves of quarry materials and industrial minerals including marble, gypsum, feldspar, talc, and kaolin.

Our white sand reserves deserve special focus. Given their extraordinary purity and volume, Egypt's white sand deposits alone could supply dozens of top-tier global glass manufacturing plants.

Egypt's Gold Rush

Unlocking the Next Mining Frontier



By Mariam Kamal & Nermeen Kamal

Mining contributes only ~1% of Egypt's gross domestic product (GDP), compared to a 6% target, underscoring the significant gap between the country's geological potential and the sector's current economic footprint. Against this backdrop, gold has emerged as a strategic priority within Egypt's broader economic diversification agenda, supported by the country's geological potential and government targets.

The government has set ambitious targets to increase gold production from ~560,000 ounces (oz) in 2023 to 800,000 oz annually by 2030, according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (MoPMR).

Achieving these targets requires transforming Egypt's geological potential into viable discoveries while attracting private capital and technical expertise.

Accordingly, the government has advanced investment-led mining reforms, including restructuring of the Egyptian Mineral Resources and Mining Industries Authority (MRMIA), reducing exploration rents by up to 60%, streamlining approvals, and reducing MRMIA's joint venture (JV) share with private investors from 25% to 10%. Supported by the Egypt Mining Portal and improved access to geological data, these measures aim to create a more attractive environment for developing Egypt's gold resources and mobilizing investment, according to the MoPMR.

This report explores Egypt's gold industry over 2020–2025, tracing its position in Africa, economic and geological potential, production, demand and exports, and the impact of global gold market dynamics. It also examines operating and emerging mines, exploration activity, recent concessions, bid rounds and discoveries, highlighting the sector's growing investment momentum and development potential.

Egypt's Position in the African Gold Context

Africa's Share of Global Gold Production

Africa remains the world's most important gold-mining continent. Production exceeds 1,000 tonnes per year (t/y), accounting for around one-fifth of global mined gold output. The continent's production base is also relatively concentrated, with Ghana, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Sudan among its major producers. Ghana, in particular, recorded strong growth during 2025, according to the World Gold Council (WGC).

Egypt's Position Among African Gold Producers

Against this backdrop, Egypt remains a relatively small contributor to Africa's gold output, despite its long-established geological potential. The country's current gold production is heavily concentrated in Sukari. This places Egypt well below Africa's leading producers in national output, according to AngloGold Ashanti.

Egypt's Rank among Africa's Gold Producers in 2025



Source: Africa Gold Suppliers LTD

Egypt's gold output remains modest not because of a lack of prospective resources, but because few large-scale mines have been brought into production. While leading producers have built sizable national industries around multiple operating mines, Egypt has yet to convert a comparable share of its geological potential into producing assets. Sukari represents both the strength and the limitation of Egypt's current position: it demonstrates the country's capacity to host a large-scale, commercially viable gold operation, while dominating domestic production.

Egypt's Share of African Gold Production in 2025



Source: Africa Gold Suppliers LTD

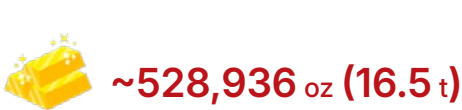
Egypt's Gold Industry at a Glance

Gold Production Trend

Sukari is the cornerstone of Egypt's gold industry and remains the country's main commercial gold mine. Production at Sukari reached approximately 500,000 oz (15.6 t) in 2025, accounting for ~ 94.5% of Egypt's total gold production that year, up from around 481,000 oz in 2024, and 452,320 oz in 2020. Total cash cost for the year was \$783 per ounce, according to AngloGold Ashanti.

Separately, Shalateen Mineral Resources Company (SMRC) produced more than 28,936 oz (900 kg) of gold during 2025 from the Iqat mine and its artisanal mining system, according to the MoPMR.

Egypt's Total Gold Production in 2025*



*Estimated production represents the combined gold production of the Sukari and Iqat mines, based on the production data available

Source: Africa Gold Suppliers LTD

Sukari Gold Production in 2025



Growth vs. 2020

11%



Growth vs. 2024

4%

Source: AngloGold Ashanti

Sukari's Growth Trajectory through 2025

In the first half (H1) production increased 9% year on year (YoY) to 246,000 oz, as richer flotation feed grades combined with higher plant recovery rates to lift output. The company invested \$262 million in the mine in 2025 and has budgeted \$126 million for 2026 waste management and reclamation work. It has outlined plans to produce 4 million ounces (Moz) at Sukari between 2026 and 2035, effectively doubling the mine's remaining life into a decade-long production program, according to AngloGold Ashanti.

Gold Demand Development

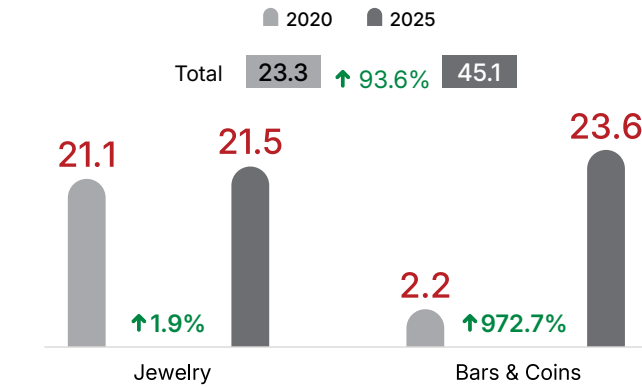
Egypt's gold market is increasingly shifting from jewelry-led consumption toward investment-driven demand. Combined jewelry and bar-and-coin demand increased from 23.3 t in 2020 to 45.1 t in 2025, a 94% increase.

However, the growth was driven almost entirely by investment products: bar-and-coin demand rose more than tenfold, from 2.2 t to 23.6 t, due to persistent geopolitical and economic uncertainty, inflation concerns, expectations of lower interest rates, and strong gold-price momentum. Jewelry demand increased slightly from 21.1 t in 2020 to 21.5 t in 2025.

Consequently, investment products accounted for nearly 52% of combined jewelry and physical investment demand in 2025, compared with only 9% in 2020.

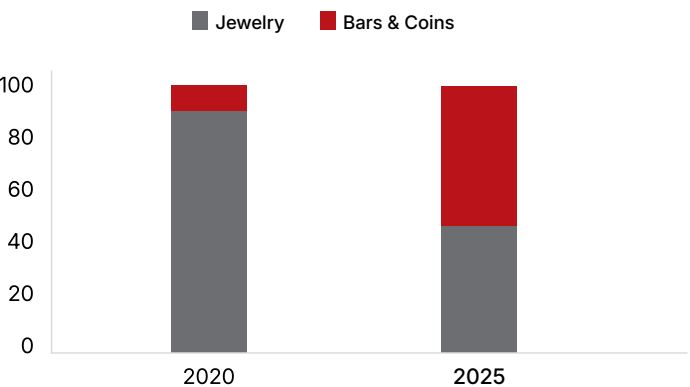
This shift indicates that gold is increasingly being treated as a store of value and a hedge against currency and macroeconomic uncertainty, rather than solely as a jewelry asset. Higher prices, therefore, have had a dual effect: reducing jewelry volumes while strengthening the incentive to hold gold as an investment, providing an important demand base as the country seeks to expand its mining industry beyond Sukari, according to the WGC.

Gold Demand Accelerating Growth (t)



Source: WGC

Gold Demand Shift Toward Investment (%)

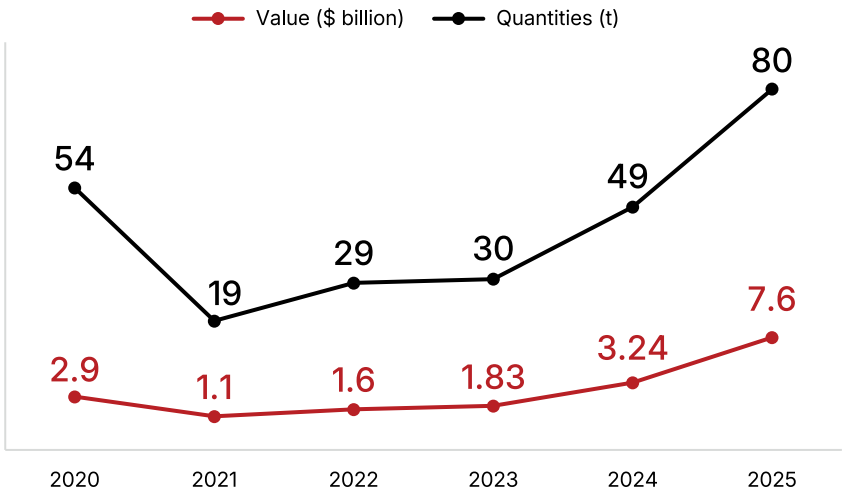


Source: WGC

Gold Exports on the Rise

Egypt's gold exports recorded robust growth over the past six years, reflecting the country's expanding role in the global gold market. Export revenues increased at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 21.25%, significantly outpacing the 8.18% CAGR in exported quantities. The faster growth in export value indicates that Egypt benefited not only from higher export volumes but also from increasingly favorable international market conditions, particularly the sustained appreciation in global gold prices over the period, according to Trade Map.

Exports Gold Trend



Source: Trade Map

The strong acceleration in export revenues during the last two years reflects elevated international gold prices, intensifying geopolitical tensions, and rising investor demand for safe haven assets amid persistent economic uncertainty and expectations of monetary easing.

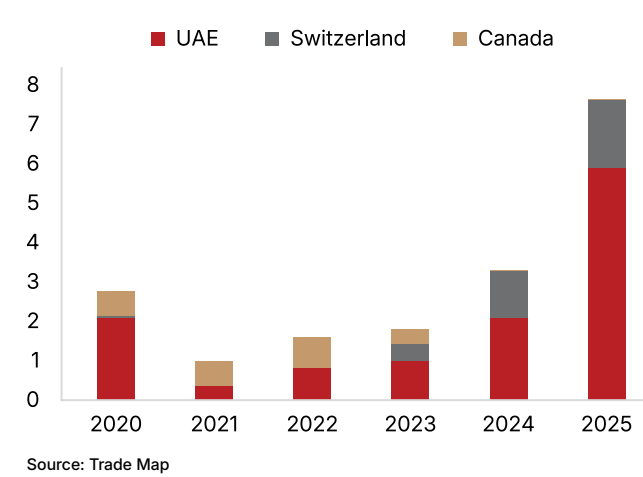
The United Arab Emirates (UAE) remained Egypt's largest gold export destination throughout the last six years, with its share of total export value rising from 72.4% in 2020 to ~77.6% in 2025, while its share of export volumes increased from 70.4% to 77.5%.

Switzerland emerged as Egypt's second-largest gold export destination, with its share of export value rising from just 1.3% in 2020 to 22.6% in 2025. The country's importance reflects its position as a major global gold refining and trading hub, providing access to international financial markets.

Meanwhile, exports to traditional destinations, particularly Türkiye, declined considerably, with the share of total export value falling by ~ 62%, from ~0.34% in 2020 to ~0.13% in 2025.

This indicates a gradual shift toward markets with greater value-added processing and international distribution capabilities over the past five years.

Egypt's Top Gold Export Destinations (\$ billion)



Key Gold Mines and Operations

The Eastern Desert is estimated to hold around 120 Moz (approximately 3,750 t) of gold across more than 120 gold-bearing areas, providing a significant resource base for future development, according to the MoPMR.

Building on the 2020 amendments to the mining framework, Egypt has sought to attract greater investment and exploration activity, gradually shifting the industry from a largely single-asset model centered on Sukari toward a more diversified producer base. The key challenge is now converting this extensive geological potential and increased exploration activity into commercially viable discoveries and new operating mines.

Sukari

Sukari is Egypt's first large-scale modern gold mine, with commercial production commencing in 2010. The mine is jointly owned, with AngloGold Ashanti holding a 50% stake. AngloGold Ashanti has operated the mine since it acquired Centamin in 2024. The mine combines open-pit and underground operations and remains supported by surrounding exploration potential in the Eastern Desert, according to AngloGold Ashanti.

Sukari Gold Reserves



Hammash

Hammash is one of Egypt's established gold mines, operated by Hammash Misr for Gold Mines (HMGM). The mine marked the resumption of gold production in Egypt after a five-decade hiatus, producing its first experimental gold bar in 2007. Production subsequently reached around 1,929 oz in 2009, before declining to ~ 160 oz in early 2018. The company subsequently faced operational difficulties as announced in 2024, which led to a halt in production, according to the State Information Service (SIS).

Hammash Gold Estimated Reserves



Iqat

Iqat is another Egyptian gold-producing mine, operated by Iqat Gold Mining Company, a JV between SMRC, MRMIA, and Wealth and Resources Mining (WRM). In 2025, the mine produced 28,936 oz of gold, with an estimated extraction rate of 95%.

Iqat Gold Estimated Reserves



Emerging and Advanced Gold Projects

Egypt's gold pipeline is moving beyond exploration toward a small number of advanced developments, led by Abu Marawat and Hamama West. Aton Resources' discoveries at Hamama West and Rodruin resulted in an exploitation contract covering about 58 km² in January 2024, while subsequent drilling in 2025 returned high-grade intersections of up to 44.59 grams per tonne (g/t) gold, reinforcing the project's potential. Abu Marawat targets commercial production in 2026, supported by ongoing drilling, metallurgical testing and processing studies. Meanwhile, Hamama West is advancing through a pre-feasibility study, with production targeted for 2027 under a starter open-pit/heap-leach concept, according to MoPMR and Aton Resources.

Gold Project Pipeline

Project	Abu Marawat	Hamama West	Rodruin	Semna	West Gabal Elbah
Location	Arabian-Nubian Shield				South Eastern Desert
Partners					
Gold Potential (koz)	~162	~318	-	-	300

Gold Exploration Momentum

Egypt's gold exploration gained momentum in 2020 with the launch of its first international gold bid round, covering 320 sectors across around 56,000 km² in the Eastern Desert and Red Sea. The first round attracted 23 companies, with 11 companies awarded 82 sectors and minimum initial exploration commitments of about \$60 million.

The significance of these rounds extends beyond the individual awards: they marked a shift toward a more active and internationally oriented exploration model, attracting companies including Barrick Gold, B2Gold, Centamin and Lotus Gold.

A subsequent award round under the 2020 gold bid awarded eight additional sectors to four companies, while exploration contracts from the first round continued to be signed through 2021. By July 2021, contracts covered 54 sectors, with investments exceeding \$47 million.

More recently, Egypt has complemented periodic bid rounds with the Open Blocks System, allowing investors to access available exploration acreage on an ongoing basis. The system remains active, with MRMIA announcing in August 2026 the closing dates for bidding on available blocks, reinforcing the shift toward more continuous access to exploration, according to MRMIA.

Gold Market Dynamics

International Gold Prices

Gold prices underwent a major repricing between 2020 and 2025, with the annual average London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) gold price rising from around \$1,770/oz in 2020 to \$3,431/oz in 2025; an increase of approximately 94%. The acceleration was particularly pronounced in 2025, when the annual average increased 44%, and gold reached 53 new all-time highs. The rally reflected a combination of geopolitical and economic uncertainty, strong investor demand, expectations around monetary policy, and gold's increasing role as a safe-haven and portfolio-diversification asset, according to the WGC.

Gold Prices' Structural Upswing



Investment and Central Banks Reinforce Gold Demand

Global gold demand exceeded 5,000 t in 2025, reaching a record 5,002 t, mainly driven by a sharp rise in investment demand. Investment reached a record 2,175 t, supported by 801 t of inflows into gold-backed exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and 1,374 t of bar and coin demand. Central-bank purchases also remained elevated at 863 t, although below the 1,000+ t levels of the previous three years, highlighting gold's continued role as a strategic reserve and diversification asset, according to the WGC.

Investment and Central Banks Drive Gold Demand (t)



Higher Gold Prices Strengthen Egypt's Mining Case

The rise in international gold prices has contributed to increasing the value potential of Egypt's production while improving the economics of exploration and mine development. This has strengthened investor interest, with Egypt signing new gold exploration agreements in 2025 and companies continuing to expand exploration activity in the Eastern Desert. In 2026, Fawakheir Mines Complex (FMC) announced plans to resume gold exploration with around \$20 million in planned investment, according to the MoPMR.

Egypt's gold industry is entering a period of gradual transformation, supported by rising global gold prices, growing domestic investment demand, and renewed exploration activity. Sukari remains the backbone of production, but the emergence of Iqat and a pipeline of new projects signals the potential for a broader production base.

The country's geological potential, combined with mining reforms, new exploration models, and increasing international participation, provides a stronger foundation for attracting investment. However, converting this potential into sustained production will depend on the successful development of discoveries, continued exploration, and the ability to build a more diversified and commercially viable mining industry beyond Sukari.



EGYPT'S MINING SECTOR TURNS A NEW PAGE

By Fatma Ahmed

Egypt's mining sector is entering a new phase as the government accelerates reforms to attract investment, expand exploration, and unlock greater economic value from mineral resources. The program centers on modernizing legislation and institutions, improving the investment climate, streamlining licensing, and introducing incentives for exploration and exploitation. Beyond exporting raw minerals, Egypt aims to build local processing and value addition capacity, supported by stronger geological data, investor friendly regulations, and new partnership models. Through these reforms, the government targets raising mining's contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) from about 1 % to 6 %.

Reforming the Mining Investment Framework

A major step came in 2025 with Law No. 87 of 2025, which transformed the Egyptian Mineral Resources Authority (EMRA) into the Mineral Resources and Mining Industries Authority (MRMIA) as an independent economic entity. The new authority has greater financial and administrative independence and wider responsibilities for regulating production and exploitation, developing the mining industry, and attracting investment.

In November 2025, the government introduced incentives including lower annual exploration fees, tax and customs exemptions for exploration equipment and supplies, and a single license covering multiple minerals instead of separate licenses. Faster and lower-cost reconnaissance licenses were also introduced for startups and emerging mining companies. The reforms also involved a one-stop-shop mechanism, allowing investors to handle licensing and approval procedures through a single authority rather than dealing with multiple government bodies.

In 2026, amendments to the executive regulations further strengthened the framework by cutting exploration-area rental fees by up to 60%, limiting approvals to 30 days, allowing several minerals to be explored within one concession, and reducing

MRMIA's share in private-investor joint ventures from 25% to 10%. The amendments also clarified royalty rules, regulated geological testing laboratories, and expanded digital applications and payments through the Egypt Mining Portal.

Tarek Sedki, Expert Consultant in Geology and Mining, described the changes as a shift toward a more investor-oriented model, saying "Egypt is moving from a largely government-driven and procedural mining model toward a more investor-oriented, competitive, and internationally aligned framework." He added the reforms should improve the economics and predictability of mining projects, "provided the reforms are implemented consistently and efficiently."

Hassan Bekheit, former Undersecretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (MoPMR), similarly viewed the measures as "a positive step toward developing the sector," but stressed that their success should ultimately be reflected in "tangible outcomes and concrete figures on the ground."

At the same time, Egypt has been upgrading geological databases and conducting modern geophysical and satellite surveys to reduce exploration risks and provide investors with better information on mineral potential.

Growing International Confidence in Egypt's Mining Sector

The reforms have coincided with growing international and private-sector investment. In September 2024, AngloGold Ashanti acquired Egypt-focused gold producer Centamin in a \$2.5 billion stock-and-cash transaction. Completed in November 2024, the deal brought Sukari Gold Mine, Egypt's largest and first modern gold mine, into AngloGold's portfolio. The Ministry described the acquisition as evidence of international confidence in Egypt's mining investment climate.

Sedki said the "growing participation of major international players such as AngloGold Ashanti, Barrick and other companies is a positive indication that investors are responding to Egypt's regulatory reforms and geological potential." He added "companies returning to Egypt and committing fresh capital suggest that confidence is increasingly translating into concrete exploration activity and long-term commitments."

Beyond gold, Egypt is pushing into value added mineral industries. In June 2025, agreements were signed for the \$658 million Abu Tartur Phosphoric Acid Complex, designed to produce 250,000 tons per year (t/y) of high grade phosphoric acid from local ore. In May 2026, MRMIA partnered with Türkiye's OZ Mining on a joint exploration mission in the Eastern Desert, while in June 2026 Cyprus based FMC announced plans to resume gold and mineral exploration with a \$20 million investment over two to three years.

By July 2026, MRMIA, the New Valley for Mineral Resources and Oil Shale (Wadico), and Elsewedy Electric advanced plans for an integrated phosphate complex in Ain Sokhna, and MRMIA signed an MoU with Genesis Mining Egypt for a \$930 million phosphate mining and industrial project in New Valley, targeting 20 million ton per year (mt/y) of mining capacity and 4 mt/y of beneficiation.

Together, these projects highlight Egypt's drive to attract investment across the mining value chain, from exploration and extraction to beneficiation, processing, and mineral based industries.

Exploration, Bid Rounds and the Open Blocks System

Exploration is another key pillar of the reforms. The 2024 industrial-minerals bid round attracted 38 offers from 20 companies and resulted in six blocks being awarded to four companies for high-purity glass and kaolinitic sands.

In June 2026, MRMIA launched the Open Blocks System (OBS), a continuous licensing mechanism that allows companies to apply for available mining blocks throughout the year rather than wait for periodic bid rounds with fixed deadlines. The system covers gold and associated minerals, phosphate, talc, and kaolin.

Under OBS, once the first offer is submitted for a block, a 30-day competitive period opens for other companies to bid. Blocks receiving no offers remain available, while MRMIA can add new areas over time. The initial offering focuses on gold and associated minerals in the Eastern Desert, with blocks along the Arabian-Nubian Shield near Hurgada, Safaga, El Quseir, Marsa Alam, and Bernice, alongside phosphate, talc, and kaolin opportunities elsewhere.

"The Open Blocks System makes exploration continuous and responsive, letting companies apply year round without fixed

deadlines. It complements traditional bid rounds by offering a flexible channel to attract investors and speed up allocations," Sedki said. Bekheit also supported the OBS adoption, describing it as "a positive development".

Not all the changes are 100 % welcomed, as part of Egypt's new mining concession framework, the MRMIA requires a minimum 15% free participation in mining companies' net taxable profit. Bekheit cautioned that this could place an additional burden on investors, particularly during the early stages of greenfield exploration, which carries high geological and financial risks. He suggested a more internationally competitive model based primarily on a royalty-and-tax framework to reduce the initial financial burden and encourage exploration capital.

He also warned that investor eligibility requirements could exclude smaller exploration companies. For example, requiring companies to demonstrate a production track record involving thousands of tons of gold could limit the participation of domestic companies. "Investor eligibility should focus on financial strength and technical capability, not only production track records, or Egypt risks excluding smaller domestic explorers that play a vital role in global mineral discoveries," he stressed.

De-Risking Exploration with Better Data

Egypt's licensing reforms are being reinforced by efforts to upgrade geological data. In March 2026, the Cabinet approved the country's first airborne geophysical survey in more than four decades, spanning six zones to refresh geological mapping, pinpoint prospective mineral areas, and attract new investment. Two months later, MRMIA awarded Spain's Xcalibur Smart Mapping the contract to carry out the survey using advanced aircraft, digital technologies, and AI, in partnership with the Nuclear Materials Authority and Drone Tech. The deal builds on a November 2025 MoU covering six regions, including the Eastern and Western Deserts, Sinai, Bahariya Oasis, and Abu Tartur.

Bekheit urged greater focus on smaller mining ventures, noting that "small scale mining should be treated as a vital part of Egypt's development strategy." He argued such operations can generate jobs and draw remote communities into the formal economy, provided they are supported with designated areas and tailored financial, technical, and environmental frameworks. He cautioned, however, that success hinges on "closing the gap between announced incentives and implementation on the ground." Converting reforms into tangible investment flows, producing mines, higher exports, and value added industries will be essential if Egypt is to establish itself as a competitive mining destination regionally and internationally.

💡 **Investor eligibility should focus on financial strength and technical capability, not only production track records, or Egypt risks excluding smaller domestic explorers that play a vital role in global mineral discoveries.** 💡

Hassan Bekheit

Former Undersecretary
Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources

EGYPT'S GOLD REFINING AMBITION: UNLOCKING VALUE

By Sarah Samir

Egypt's gold industry stands at a critical juncture: moving beyond raw extraction to capture the full value chain. While exports of gold and silver doubled in 2025, the gap between shipping unrefined gold and producing high-value bullion, coins, and jewelry remains stark. Plans for a state-backed national refinery, supported by Afreximbank and the Supreme Gold Council, signal a push toward becoming a regional hub. However, long-term success requires a competitive ecosystem with dependable feedstock, streamlined regulations, specialized banking, and transparent digital infrastructure. Ultimately, progress hinges on converting higher output into lasting fiscal revenue, skilled employment, and global market competitiveness.

Capturing Value in Egypt's Precious Metals Sector

For Egypt, which produced 640,000 ounces (oz) of gold and silver in FY2024/25, up 14% year on year, the challenge is not extraction alone but capturing the full value chain. In 2025, exports of gold and precious metals surged to \$7.6 billion, more than doubling from \$3.2 billion in 2024. Gold has now become one of Egypt's major non-oil export products, underscoring the urgency of scaling refining capacity, according to Mohamed Ashmawy, Senior Precious Metals Analyst.

This growth must come from the value chain, not merely from increasing extraction volumes. Ashmawy explains: "Raw gold carries only the base value of the metal; refined bullion adds an accreditation premium, while coins and jewelry add a manufacturing margin on top, a value that currently goes mostly to refineries outside Egypt." Consequently, gold exported today at any processing stage: refining, accreditation, manufacturing represents margins lost to foreign markets instead of being reinvested domestically.

Policy and Investment

Government initiatives are already underway. The proposed national gold refinery project, reviewed by the Supreme Gold Council and advanced through Afreximbank financing with the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), signals a serious commitment. Ashmawy describes the project as advancing along two parallel tracks: "The Supreme

Gold Council is reviewing the refinery project on one hand, while Afreximbank advances a financing track with the CBE on the other."

In this context, Ashmawy notes: "If the facility is built according to international standards from the ground up, Egypt has a real opportunity to become a regional hub for refining and trading, rather than merely meeting domestic demand, especially given its strategic location between African production markets and international bullion centers."

Building a Gold Ecosystem

Ahmed Shaltout, Expert of Gold & Precious Metals Refining at Star Gold Egypt, cautions that building a refinery is only the first step: "Its long-term success will depend on whether we can build a competitive gold ecosystem around it." He argues that Egypt already has several of the necessary building blocks, including mining activity, refining expertise, jewelry manufacturing, strong domestic demand, and its location between Africa and the Middle East.

Moreover, he emphasizes the need for reliable supply, not only from Egyptian mines. "A refinery needs a reliable supply of gold. Egyptian mines can provide part, but to gain regional importance Egypt must also attract African feedstock, refine locally, and serve domestic or export markets.," he notes.

Efficiency in Bullion trade

Shaltout stresses that even seemingly minor charges such as 0.1% banking commissions or 0.25% customs clearance fees become commercially significant in high value gold shipments. Without regulatory efficiency, Egypt risks losing competitiveness. "From an investor's perspective, I believe regulatory efficiency, specialization and certainty can be even more important than conventional tax incentives," he says.

He calls for specialized frameworks, including bonded refining and temporary admission mechanisms, to attract regional feedstock. This is crucial, he explains, because "one of the challenges we experience in practice is a gap between some conventional banking, customs and regulatory procedures and the way international bullion markets actually operate."

Shaltout illustrates the problem through the timing of gold transactions: "For example, a trader may agree to purchase physical gold and fix its price against the international market immediately. From that moment, commercial exposure exists. If a banking transaction, regulatory approval or administrative procedure takes too long, the trader can face additional costs and financial exposure. A delay that may be relatively insignificant in a conventional commercial transaction can become very important in the gold market. This is why I believe Egypt needs greater specialization within the institutions dealing with the gold industry.

The ecosystem surrounding the gold refinery is therefore of paramount importance. Assaying, certified bullion production, jewelry manufacturing, recycling, secure logistics, trading, financing, and digital platforms can multiply value creation.

Transparency, Technology and Regulatory Controls

He stresses that digitalization should support-not replace-the physical gold market: "It is important to emphasize that digitalization does not mean replacing physical gold with a purely digital product. The physical gold remains the underlying asset. Technology simply makes pricing, ownership, trading and settlement faster, more transparent and easier to verify. This becomes particularly important when competing internationally."

"If a supplier in Africa is deciding whether to send gold to Egypt, Dubai, Hong Kong or another refining hub, the choice is not about refining charges alone. The supplier asks: How transparent is the price? Can the price be fixed immediately? How efficient is the assay? How fast is settlement? And what is the total cost of the transaction?" Shaltout explains.

"Therefore, if Egypt wants international suppliers to send their gold here for refining, we should offer them not only competitive refining, but also the same level of price transparency and trading accessibility they expect from established international gold hubs," he says.

In addition, digital transformation could also enhance regulatory oversight, ensuring compliance with responsible sourcing. Shaltout explains that "A properly regulated digital infrastructure could connect verified physical inventory, sourcing documentation, assay results, ownership records, market-linked prices, price fixing, transaction approvals and settlement. This could improve efficiency for market participants while simultaneously giving regulators greater transparency and traceability."

●● Raw gold carries only the base value of the metal; refined bullion adds an accreditation premium, while coins and jewelry add a manufacturing margin on top, a value that currently goes mostly to refineries outside Egypt. ●●

Mohamed Ashmawy

Senior Precious Metals Analyst

The commercial value of such systems also lies in managing price risk. "Gold prices change continuously, transactions can involve very high values, and commercial margins can be relatively small. Therefore, price fixing, hedging and rapid execution are essential parts of managing commercial risk," Shaltout says.

Shaltout continues delving on the needs of the Egyptian gold industry. "Gold requires strong regulatory controls, particularly regarding responsible sourcing, Anti Money Laundering (AML) and Counter Terrorist Financing (CFT) requirements, traceability and the movement of high-value assets. The objective should be smarter, faster and more specialized regulation designed around the characteristics of the gold market."

Specialized teams within banks, customs, and regulatory authorities would be essential to align Egypt's procedures with international bullion trading practices, according to Shaltout. Such institutional specialization would help ensure that regulatory safeguards do not create delays that undermine Egypt's ability to compete with established refining and trading centers.

Furthermore, improving recovery rates is another priority. Ashmawy points out: "It comes down to three things in order of urgency: refining technology, certified process control, and technical capacity." Modern electrolytic and fire-assay methods already push recovery close to the theoretical maximum, but Egypt must invest in consistent handling and assay accuracy upstream. Expanding the Egyptian Assay and Weights Authority's mandate is a step toward closing this gap.

While the country has demonstrated its capacity to ramp up production and exports, the pathway for further growth lies in aggregating the full value chain via refining, accreditation, and manufacturing. In addition to being an industrial investment, the planned national refinery, financed by the Supreme Gold Council and Afreximbank, is a strategic lever against Egypt's status as a major regional player in the field of gold bullion and jewelry while facilitating access between African supply and global markets. Yet, success will ultimately depend on the foundation of a competitive ecosystem: dependable feedstock, industry regulation, banking & customs efficiency, and digital infrastructure for transparency and risk management.

●● From an investor's perspective, I believe regulatory efficiency, specialization and certainty can be even more important than conventional tax incentives ●●

Ahmed Shaltout

Expert of Gold & Precious Metals Refining, Star Gold Egypt

HOW AIRBORNE GEOPHYSICS IS UNLOCKING EGYPT'S MINERAL FRONTIER

By Samar Samir

Egypt is one of the richest countries in terms of mineral wealth; yet, mining contributes only 1% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The reason for that is not the absence of resources, but the lack of information. The country's last comprehensive national airborne geophysical survey was flown in 1984, leaving commercial explorers reliant on obsolete, low-resolution analogue datasets. That severe data gap has functioned as a \$100-billion investment barrier. In May 2026, Egypt moved to close it by contracting Spain's Xcalibur Smart Mapping to execute a nationwide multi-physics campaign across six survey zones stretching from the Eastern Desert to Sinai. The importance of this survey and the technology behind it lay in replacing forty years of in-complete data with high-resolution digital Earth intelligence. This will directly reduce stage risk, lower entry costs for foreign capital and provide the technical foundation to raise mining's GDP contribution to 6% by 2030.

What Airborne Geophysics Actually Does

Airborne geophysical surveys deploy sensor-equipped, low-flying aircrafts-typically operating between 10 and 80 meters above the terrain-to measure variations in the Earth's natural physical fields over vast geographic distances simultaneously. Ground-based field crews require years to map hostile desert terrain; by contrast, a single survey aircraft can acquire between 1,000 and 2,000 line-kilometers of high-density subsurface data every single day.

As detailed in technical survey analysis by Discovery Alert, modern multi-physics platforms simultaneously collect four distinct categories of geophysical data. The first is magnetic surveys, which measure changes in the Earth's magnetic field caused by iron-rich minerals, helping map underground geological structures and identify potential ore deposits.

The second category is radiometric surveys, which are also known as gamma-ray spectrometry. They detect natural low-level radioactivity emitted by rocks and soils, providing a detailed map of potassium, uranium, and thorium distribution that indicates specific rock types and identifies rare earth elements (REE)-bearing formations. Radiometric surveys can also identify areas of potassium-rich alteration, which is often linked to hydrothermal gold deposits. This makes the technique particularly useful for exploring the Eastern Desert's mineral-rich areas.

The third type is electromagnetic survey which works differently. They induce electrical currents in the ground and measure the response, identifying conductive bodies associated with base metals including copper, zinc, and nickel. According to GIM International, a specialized Geomatics publication, airborne electromagnetic surveys are among the most effective tools for identifying concealed mineral systems, enabling rapid high-resolution mapping of subsurface electrical conductivity.

The fourth method, gravity surveying, measures small changes in the Earth's gravitational field caused by differences in the density of underground rocks. This helps identify deep geological structures and deposits of massive sulfide minerals.

As noted in a report by the Mining Weekly publication, combining these multi-sensor streams does not instantly "find" an underground gold mine. Instead, it functions like a medical scan for the Earth's crust, narrowing the search space from vast desert expanses down to sharp, high-confidence drill targets.

However, the speed advantage over ground surveys is not marginal. A single survey aircraft can cover 1,000 to 2,000 line-kilometres per day. Territory that would take ground-based geological teams years to traverse can be mapped comprehensively in weeks.

Spanish Mapping Technology

To execute a national campaign of this scale, Egypt selected Madrid-headquartered Xcalibur Smart Mapping. The technology brings crucial international precedents to the Egyptian initiative. In Saudi Arabia, the technology was used to complete one of the largest single airborne geophysical surveys ever flown, helping catalyze the Kingdom's current mineral exploration boom. Similar national mapping projects executed across Nigeria, Botswana, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam demonstrated that making high-resolution airborne data publicly available leads to an immediate surge in international tenement applications and exploration drilling.

The Egypt Contract: Scope, Structure, and Local Execution

The contract signed at Marsa Alam Airport in May 2026 covers six geographically and geologically distinct survey zones. According to Mineral Resources and Mining Industries Authority (MRMIA), the areas are: the northern and southern Eastern Desert, the northern and southern Western Desert, Sinai, and the Bahariya Oasis and Abu Tartur areas of the New Valley Governorate. Each zone has a different mineral focus: gold, copper, zinc, and REEs in the Eastern Desert; phosphate, iron ore, and uranium in the Western Desert; polymetallic and manganese deposits in Sinai; and iron ore and black sands in the New Valley.

The initiative will provide Egypt with a new generation of high-resolution geological and mineral intelligence designed to support exploration, investment, and long-term resource management. Víctor González, Vice President of Business Development at Xcalibur Smart Mapping, stated that the project "demonstrates how airborne geophysics, AI and Earth Intelligence can help governments build a smarter and more sustainable understanding of their natural resources."

💡 **Investors don't just ask if a country has mineral potential, they ask whether the data shows where the opportunities lie, how difficult the targets are, and what level of capital makes sense.** 💡

Amr Hassan

Agreements and Contracts Expert

A key aspect of the contract structure is its deliberate emphasis on indigenization. Xcalibur's survey aircraft are operating alongside aircraft from Egypt's Nuclear Materials Authority (NMA), with local drone operator Drone Tech providing operational integration. This partnership ensures that Egyptian geoscientists work directly with advanced processing tools, building domestic capacity to maintain and interpret the national dataset.

What the Data Unlocks: De-Risking Capital for Global Investors

For foreign mining majors and junior exploration funds, high early-stage risk is the primary reason to avoid frontier markets. In the absence of modern geophysics, companies must spend millions of dollars conducting wide-grid manual ground reconnaissance—a slow process with a high risk of failure. Airborne geophysics alters this commercial equation. By providing pre-competitive, standardized digital maps, MRMIA allows incoming exploration firms to evaluate target areas on a computer before committing expensive drill rigs to the field.

Amr Hassan, Agreements and Contracts Expert noted that establishing a standardized, modern national database addresses the critical issue of 'information asymmetry' between the government and incoming foreign capital, removing uncertainty that previously hampered contract negotiations: "Investors don't just ask if a country has mineral potential, they ask whether the data shows where the opportunities lie, how difficult the targets are, and what level of capital makes sense." He added that if Xcalibur's survey data is integrated and packaged this way, it could shift from being just another dataset to a core part of Egypt's investment proposition in future bid rounds. Better geological information can also improve how mining contracts are designed. As Hassan explains, it allows minimum exploration work, spending requirements, and relinquishment terms to be tailored to each area's geological potential and data quality, rather than using the same terms for every zone. In this sense, the survey is not just a geological tool—it can also help shape better contracts.

What Comes Next: Capturing Value Beyond Data

Data acquisition is not the final step—it is the starting point for sector growth. To capture the full economic value of Xcalibur's survey, MRMIA must ensure the outputs are published in an accessible digital format that enables fast evaluation and licensing. As per Hassan's analysis on contract execution, the ultimate goal of the national survey is establishing an efficient cycle of risk allocation: "From an agreements perspective, the real opportunity is not eliminating exploration risk, but making the remaining risk better understood, better priced, and more efficiently allocated between government and investor."

The global context is highly favourable. Rising demand for critical minerals, energy security, and resilient supply chains is driving mining companies to explore new frontiers. Egypt, with its Arabian-Nubian Shield geology, Mediterranean export corridor, and new nationwide geophysical data, is well placed to benefit. After 42 years, the country is updating its understanding of its mineral wealth. The challenge now is whether its regulatory and institutional framework can turn these targets into producing mines before investors move to the next frontier.



FROM PHOSPHATE ROCK TO INDUSTRIAL POWER: EGYPT'S CASE FOR VALUE-ADDED MINING

By Rana Al Kady

For decades, Egypt's phosphate resources have represented a significant but underutilized component of the country's mineral wealth. With phosphate reserves estimated at more than 3 billion tons, Egypt possesses one of the world's largest reserves portfolio. Yet the strategic question is no longer simply how much phosphate Egypt can extract. It is how much economic value the country can capture before that phosphate leaves its borders.

The distinction is critical. Exporting phosphate rock generates revenue from the extraction of a finite natural resource, but processing that rock into phosphoric acid, fertilizers, animal-feed products and specialized chemicals creates a much broader economic ecosystem. This requires engineering, transport, energy, chemicals, logistics, packaging and technical services while creating opportunities for skilled employment and industrial exports. As suggested by Khaled Aboul Makarem, Chairman of the Chemicals and Fertilizers Export Council, "Processing phosphate locally shifts Egypt from exporting raw minerals to producing higher value goods, capturing more value and boosting export revenues. The choice is clear: supplier of ore or producer of industrial products."

The Value Hidden in the Rock

It is important to note that phosphate rock is only the starting point of a much larger value chain. Through beneficiation and chemical processing, the ore can be converted into phosphoric acid, which subsequently becomes an input for products such as monoammonium phosphate (MAP), diammonium phosphate (DAP), triple superphosphate (TSP), compound fertilizers and specialized

agricultural nutrients. Further processing can also produce purified phosphoric acid, animal-feed additives and industrial chemicals.

This distinction matters because each additional stage introduces new economic activity. Mining requires extraction equipment, workers and transport. Processing adds chemical engineering, utilities and industrial infrastructure. Fertilizer production adds blending, granulation, packaging, storage and distribution. Specialized products introduce further research, quality control, technology and international marketing requirements.

Processing phosphate locally shifts Egypt from exporting raw minerals to producing higher value goods, capturing more value and boosting export revenues. The choice is clear: supplier of ore or producer of industrial products.

Khaled Aboul Makarem

Chairman, Chemicals and Fertilizers Export Council

In fact, Egypt has already demonstrated elements of this model at Ain Sokhna. The Phosphatic and Compound Fertilizers Complex, inaugurated in 2019, comprises nine factories and was designed to maximize the value of Egyptian phosphate. The complex was reported to provide around 1,500 direct and 20,000 indirect jobs, illustrating how downstream mineral industries can create employment well beyond the mine itself.

Abu Tartour: Moving Downstream

Perhaps the clearest illustration of Egypt's changing approach is the development of the Abu Tartour phosphoric acid complex in New Valley Governorate.

On August 19, 2026, the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources announced the groundbreaking of the first industrial complex for producing phosphoric acid from Egyptian phosphate ore at Abu Tartour. The project carries investments of \$658 million and is planned to produce 250,000 tons per year (t/y) of high-concentration commercial phosphoric acid in its first phase. The project is expected to create more than 3,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities, with production destined for export through Safaga Port.

As a matter of fact, the significance of Abu Tartour extends beyond its production capacity. Phosphoric acid is a strategic intermediate product rather than simply another commodity. It forms the foundation for manufacturing phosphate fertilizers and a wider range of downstream chemical products. The project therefore creates a bridge between Egypt's mining resources and its industrial and export ambitions. Aboul Makarem emphasized that, "Projects such as Abu Tartour Phosphate complex are strategically important because they represent a shift toward integrated mining and industrial development, helping Egypt maximize the economic value of its mineral resources."

SCZONE and the Industrial Cluster Model

At the other end of the value chain, the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZONE) is emerging as a natural platform for converting Egypt's phosphate resources into export-oriented industrial products.

In April 2026, Egypt signed a phosphate ore supply agreement between Misr Phosphate Company and Indorama Corporation for a new phosphate fertilizer complex in Sokhna. The first phase is planned at 600,000 tons per year (t/y), supported by approximately \$525 million in investment. The project is explicitly designed around greater integration between mining and industrial activities.

Moreover, another planned SCZONE phosphatic chemical complex demonstrates the potential for going even further downstream. The project, with total investments of approximately \$1 billion across three phases, is planned to produce phosphoric acid as well as DAP and TSP fertilizers in its first phase. Later phases are expected to introduce purified phosphoric acid and specialized phosphate chemicals, including products for industrial and food applications. The project is expected to generate approximately 10,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Lessons from Morocco and Beyond

Nevertheless, Egypt is not alone in recognizing that the greatest economic opportunity in mineral wealth often lies downstream. Morocco provides perhaps the clearest phosphate example. The Office Chérifien des Phosphates (OCP) in Morocco has developed an integrated model spanning mining, beneficiation, phosphoric acid and fertilizer production. Its Jorf Lasfar complex is described by OCP as the world's largest integrated phosphate fertilizer production complex, while its industrial platforms produce phosphoric acid, fertilizers, plant-nutrition products and animal-feed additives.

On that note, the evolution of Morocco's phosphate sector demonstrates what can happen when mining becomes the foundation for an industrial ecosystem rather than the end point of production. OCP has continued expanding downstream capabilities, including specialty products and customized fertilizers, allowing phosphate resources to support a much broader portfolio than raw rock exports alone.

Additionally, Saudi Arabia is pursuing a similar strategy. Its phosphate industry has increasingly emphasized integration across the value chain, while Ma'aden reported phosphate fertilizer sales of 6.7 million tons (mmt) in 2025, up from 6.2 mmt in 2024. The company has also expanded its fertilizer product portfolio and focused on improving efficiency across the integrated chain.

From Resource Holder to Industrial Producer

For Egypt, the opportunity is therefore larger than increasing phosphate exports. It is about determining what kind of mining sector the country wants to build.

The government has set an ambition to increase mining's contribution to GDP from less than 1% currently to around 5–6% in the coming years. The Ministry has specifically identified value-added mineral industries as a central part of this transformation. Phosphate can become one of the clearest vehicles for achieving that objective. However, realizing the opportunity will require more than establishing individual fertilizer plants. Egypt will need reliable energy and water supplies, efficient transport connections, modern ports, competitive financing, skilled technical labor and stronger links between mining companies, manufacturers, universities and research institutions.

Ultimately, Egypt's phosphate wealth presents a strategic choice. The country can continue to treat phosphate primarily as an extractive commodity, capturing value at the first stage of the chain. Or it can use its reserves as the foundation for a wider industrial ecosystem that produces fertilizers, phosphoric acid, specialty chemicals and other downstream products. The emerging projects at Abu Tartour and SCZONE suggest that Egypt is increasingly choosing the latter path. If implemented effectively, the transition could turn phosphate from an exported mineral into an industrial platform; generating foreign currency, supporting agriculture, creating skilled employment and strengthening domestic supply chains. The real value of Egypt's phosphate wealth, therefore, may not lie beneath the desert alone. It lies in what the country builds around it.



CRITICAL MINERALS CONTEST: SUPPLY VS DEMAND IN US-CHINA RACE

By Doaa Ashraf

Critical minerals have become the latest arena of geopolitical competition, with the US and China at the center of their race to control the global economy and supply chains. It is not simply about who has the largest mineral reserves but increasingly about who controls mining, refining, processing, technology, and downstream manufacturing.

Critical minerals are non-fuel minerals, elements, or substances essential to the future of the energy industry. For example, copper and aluminum are increasingly important for AI, data centers, and digitization. At the same time, copper and battery raw materials are central to electrification, electric vehicles, renewable energy, and energy storage. Moreover, some rare earth elements (REEs), as well as antimony, gallium (Ga), and Germanium (Ge), are critical to defense, semiconductors, and other advanced technologies.

China's Monopoly

As Wael Jaber, Vice President of Wood Mackenzie for Mining & Metals, puts it, "The catalyst for rising interest in critical minerals appears increasingly supply side, driven by export bans and friendshoring strategies to secure supply chains, rather than purely by demand growth."

China has shown it will use its processing dominance as leverage, as seen in 2023 when it banned trade in gallium and germanium before reversing the move last year. The United States, meanwhile, is restricting black mass exports from August 2026 to retain critical minerals domestically, Jaber told Egypt Oil & Gas. Black mass refers to shipments of shredded lithium ion battery scrap containing minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and manganese.

According to Wood Mackenzie, China accounts for around 70% of REEs mining and about 90% of its processing. It also controls the technologies required to process some rare earth.

China, via its mining companies in Africa, controls a large share of Congo's cobalt, which forms around 80% of the world's mined cobalt supply. Moreover, Chinese companies are on course to control 39% of

all lithium extracted globally by 2030, becoming the rival to Australia, a long-dominant force in lithium supply.

Other minerals, including tungsten, gallium and germanium, are particularly vulnerable because supply is highly concentrated in China, while production is difficult to scale quickly and substitution is limited.

Between 2023 and 2025, China deployed about \$120 billion in outbound mining investment and, from 2001 to 2025, financed roughly \$24 billion across 363 port projects, around half of them dedicated to energy and mineral supply chains. Sixty-three of these projects are located within 500 km of a China-financed mines, anchoring the upstream supply chain, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA)'s Critical Minerals Outlook 2026 report.

This has transformed critical minerals into a monopoly game, with China holding the strongest position in many parts of the supply chain, while the United States attempts to build an alternative network.

The US' Diversification Race

US has reserves of most critical minerals but lacks sufficient mining and processing capacity, the cause why it is still dependent on China's supply market.

However, since the start of his second term, President Donald Trump has worked on reducing his country's dependence by pumping tens of billions of dollars into nearly 150 minerals companies.

He also set a January 1, 2027, deadline for defense and other manufacturers to stop sourcing REEs, magnets, tungsten, molybdenum and tantalum from China, Russia, Iran and North Korea.

However, this is colliding with the reality of American miners and processors unreadiness for such a step. Washington has been trying to limit such imports for years but has routinely granted companies waivers because the US supply of these minerals can not meet the growing demand.

Trump railed against such waivers in a May 10 post on his Truth Social platform, saying: "all federal agencies must buy American , no excuses!" and then signed an executive order making it even harder for defense contractors to obtain waivers, according to Reuters.

On August 7, Trump announced plans to spend \$3 billion on critical minerals and battery projects for the purpose of reclaiming America's rightful place as the mineral's superpower of the world.

"Critical minerals are the raw materials of American strength that power everything from advanced weaponry to automobiles, and we want these essential products to be mined, refined, and made right here in the USA," he said during a roundtable at the State Department.

Since 2023, the United States has signed multiple memorandum of understanding across Central Asia, Africa, and Latin America to secure alternative supply chains for these minerals outside China's orbit.

Yet many of these agreements have struggled to move beyond signaling. Announcements have outpaced implementation to a degree that exceeds the expected delays from negotiation or logistics. Frameworks have multiplied, while financing, capacity upgrades, infrastructure, and downstream industrial development have lagged. The gap between rhetoric and deployed capital is becoming increasingly evident to partner governments and markets.

Meanwhile, China's monopoly in critical mineral refining was built over decades (as part of the Belt and Road Initiative) through coordinated industrial policy, subsidized infrastructure, and vertically integrated processing systems. The United States cannot realistically recreate that dominance overnight even if the political will existed.

This could be why the International Energy Agency warned that \$6.5 trillion of global manufacturing is at risk if Beijing imposes export restrictions on rare earths, as it has periodically done in recent years.

Rewinding Events

The economic conflict between the US and China began in 2018 under the first Trump administration when the US imposed sweeping tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of Chinese imports, initiating a tit-for-tat escalation.

The trade war expanded significantly into the technology sector as the US implemented strict export controls on advanced semiconductors and semiconductor manufacturing equipment, aiming to curb China's technological and military advancement. In tandem, the Biden administration maintained the original tariffs and sharply increased levies on strategic green technologies, doubling tariffs on solar cells and significantly raising duties on lithium-ion electric vehicle batteries and critical minerals imported from China.

However, the conflict escalated drastically in 2025 under the second Trump administration, resulting in a severe tariff surge where the US imposed levies reaching up to 145% on Chinese goods, prompting China to retaliate with 125% duties on American products.

Besides, China began to leverage its own infrastructure advantage and transition from traditional tariff retaliation to export controls to pressure US defense, high-tech, and green energy sectors.

Between 2023 and 2025, Beijing steadily widened its export licensing regimes and trade restrictions across strategic minor metals such as gallium, germanium, tungsten, and antimony, as well as battery-grade graphite and heavy rare earth elements indispensable to defense hardware, electric vehicles, and semiconductors. Although a diplomatic truce during a presidential summit in November 2025 in Busan led China to suspend export controls over REEs and other minerals related to lithium-ion battery materials for one year.

Amid the ongoing geopolitical rivalry between the US and China, recent disruptions in the Middle East have exposed critical vulnerabilities in the global supply of essential minerals including Beijing.

The Arabian Gulf region serves as a vital production hub, supplying approximately 33% of global helium, which is essential for medical devices and advanced technologies, and 9% of primary aluminum, crucial for the aerospace and defense sectors. The region also accounts for 50% of the seaborne sulphur trade, a mandatory agent for producing sulphuric acid, a chemical heavily utilized in fertilizer manufacturing and processing copper, lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earths. This prompted China, a net importer of sulphur, to ban its domestic sulphuric acid exports from May 2026 through the end of the year.

Ultimately, the primary lesson drawn from recent energy security crises is that diversification must directly target these exact bottlenecks. Developing numerous additional mines offers little strategic advantage if the extracted resources continue to feed into the same concentrated refineries.

China accounts for around 70% of REEs mining and about 90% of its processing. It also controls the technologies required to process some rare earth.

Uninterrupted Power Supply in Summer 2026

As Cairo bakes under an exceptionally hot summer, demand on electricity to keep fans and air conditions on is pushing the pressure on the national electricity grid to record highs. To keep the lights on and spare the country from rolling blackouts, the ministries of petroleum and Mineral resources is adopting a wide plan to increase the production of gas, the main feedstock of the power stations. Aiming for 4.5 billion cubic feet (bcf) a day just to keep power plants running without draining state coffers on costly foreign imports, the plan's targeted fields include domestic powerhouses Zohr and Narges offshore fields,

Out in the Mediterranean, Egypt is getting ready to drill 20 exploratory wells this year. Searching for massive natural gas reserves beneath the seabed, this ambitious mission could power the country's energy future for years to come.

The Egyptian government has also diversified its sources of liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports. As declining domestic production forces the country to rely heavily on foreign cargoes, Egypt's LNG imports are projected to jump 26.3% in 2026, reaching roughly 11.14 million metric tons compared to 9.01 million metric tons in 2025, according to S&P Global Energy's data. LNG now makes up the majority of Egypt's gas imports, with the US and Qatar among the key suppliers. Supporting this increased LNG imports, Egypt currently owns a fleet of floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) operating in several strategic offshore locations, such as the Energos Power, Energos Eskimo, and Höegh Galleon, with a combined regasification capacity of 2.7 bcf per day. EGAS has also leased the Energos Winter FSRU in Damietta. In addition, an additional FSRU, Energos Force, is stationed in the Jordanian port of Aqaba as a crucial backup source to be utilized in extreme emergencies, given the geopolitical changes occurring in the region.

With this plan, we can confidently say that Egypt is able to demonstrate its ability to meet the increasing summer demand whether for power plants or various industrial activities, which have witnessed remarkable development recently. Egypt has accepted the challenge and is facing future challenges related to energy security and economic development with ambitious plans, proactive ideas and solutions for all crises.

With this plan, Egypt is not only prepared to meet rising summer demand but is also showcasing its capacity to power both electricity generation and the country's fast growing industrial base. The recent expansion of factories, energy intensive projects, and new manufacturing zones underscores how critical reliable supply has become. By tackling seasonal peaks head on, Egypt demonstrates resilience and foresight, positioning itself as a nation that can balance immediate needs with long term strategy.

Beyond the summer challenge, the government is signalling that energy security and economic development are inseparable goals. Ambitious programmes, proactive reforms, and crisis management mechanisms are being deployed to ensure stability even under pressure. This forward looking approach -blending investment in infrastructure, diversification of supply, and innovative solutions - reflects Egypt's determination to transform potential vulnerabilities into opportunities for growth.

By Eng. Mohamed Dweidar

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Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC)

From Data Acquisition to Hypothesis Testing

Rethinking Egypt's Next Exploration Cycle

For more than a century, Egypt's petroleum exploration history has been characterized by successive geological breakthroughs. Early discoveries resulted from drilling shallow wells near surface oil seeps and obvious geological structures. Major advances later came with the recognition of rift-related structural systems in the Gulf of Suez, followed by exploration of Jurassic petroleum systems in the Western Desert, deeper gas plays in the Nile Delta, and the deep Miocene carbonate discovery that led to the giant Zohr gas field. These milestones demonstrate that Egypt's largest increases in hydrocarbon resources were achieved by adopting new geological concepts.

Today, Egypt possesses one of the largest exploration databases in the region. According to the Egypt Upstream Gateway (EUG), Egypt's National Data Repository stands as a vast archive of the country's petroleum legacy, holding records from more than 16,900 wells alongside hundreds of seismic surveys that map its subsurface in both two and three dimensions. This wealth of data raises a strategic question: should future exploration continue to focus primarily on acquiring additional seismic data, or should more investment be directed toward carefully selected exploration wells? T

The article argues that seismic acquisition remains valuable when it resolves specific geological uncertainties. Advanced technologies such as Ocean Bottom Nodes (OBN) have improved subsurface imaging in structurally complex areas like the Gulf of Suez. However, clearer seismic images do not always translate into greater geological understanding. While seismic surveys can reveal structural features, they cannot directly confirm critical elements of a petroleum system, including source rock maturity, hydrocarbon generation, reservoir quality, seal integrity, or hydrocarbon charge.

Uncertainties in Egypt's frontier basins can only be resolved by drilling. In regions such as Upper Egypt, the Western Desert and the Red Sea, exploration hinges on testing geological concepts rather than relying solely on seismic imaging. A single well can validate multiple elements of the petroleum system, insights that thousands of kilometres of seismic data cannot provide. The Red Sea illustrates this shift: while a 2018 broadband 2D survey improved imaging, true progress now depends on exploratory drilling.

Later, international companies acquired 3D seismic to better image the complex subsalt geology, yet no exploration wells were drilled before the exploration blocks were relinquished. More recently, OBN seismic has been proposed as the next technological step.

This development illustrates what is described as an "imaging trap" where each improvement in seismic quality reveals new complexities that justify further data acquisition without testing the subsurface geological model through drilling.

In my opinion, future exploration should prioritise testing geological hypotheses over endlessly refining subsurface images. Rather than following the traditional sequence of 2D seismic, 3D seismic and ever more advanced imaging, a balanced workflow is needed: gather sufficient regional data, build a sound geological model, drill an exploration well, update the concept with results, and acquire further seismic only where justified. This approach tackles the core uncertainties more directly and could deliver Egypt's next breakthrough in exploration success.

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Beyond Emergency Supply: The Changing Role of FSRUs in Egypt

Egypt’s gas challenge is not simply about having sufficient gas reserves. It is whether enough gas can reach the national grid each day, at the right time, to serve power plants, factories and other consumers.

When domestic output falls faster than new production can come online, the system needs a bridge. Gas imported via pipelines can fill part of the gap of that bridge, but it is tied to a limited number of routes and suppliers. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) opens access to a wider global market—yet an LNG cargo cannot enter a pipeline while still a cryogenic liquid.

This conversion challenge explains the return of floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) to Egypt. An FSRU receives LNG transferred by a delivery carrier, stores and regasifies it, then meters the gas and sends it to the onshore network via a high-pressure connection into.

Egypt’s First FSRU

Höegh Gallant began commercial operations for the EGAS at Ain Sokhna on April 29, 2015, under a five-year charter. BW Singapore followed in October 2015 and, by early 2016, was sending 500–600 million standard cubic feet per day (mmscf/d) to the grid. The two vessels gave Egypt import capacity when domestic gas supply was under pressure, according to Höegh Evi and BW Group. Their subsequent exit was not a failure of the model; it proved its reversibility. After Egypt declared gas self-sufficiency in September 2018, Höegh Gallant’s contract was converted from FSRU service to LNG-carrier employment. Unlike a fixed terminal, floating infrastructure could be released when the supply-demand balance improved; this later allowed Egypt to restore import capability quickly when the balance tightened again, according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (MoPMR) and Höegh Evi.

Why the FSRUs Returned

By 2024, rising power demand, weaker domestic production and interruptions to regional pipeline supply had reopened the gas gap. Höegh Galleon was deployed to Ain Sokhna within months, with potential gas delivery capacity of up to 7.5 billion cubic meters per year (bcm/y). What began as another interim measure rapidly became a broader import system as demand on increased, according to Höegh Evi. The shift accelerated as Egypt’s LNG requirements increased. LNG imports rose from approximately 10.67 million metric tons (mmt) in 2024 to 16.4 mmt in 2025, representing a year-on-year (YoY) increase of around 53.7%, according to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS).

From One Vessel to a Multi-Entry Network

Ain Sokhna is the main gateway, with Höegh Galleon and Energos Eskimo at SUMED and Energos Power at Sonker. Energos Winter added a Mediterranean entry point at Damietta, while Energos Force at Aqaba can feed the Arab Gas Pipeline for the benefit of Egypt and Jordan. In June 2026, the MoPMR put the four domestic units’ combined regasification capacity at approximately 2.7 bcf/d; the Aqaba vessel has a peak send-out specification of 750 mmscf/d, although actual volumes available to Egypt depend on shared requirements and pipeline conditions, according to MoPMR. Geography matters as much as the headline capacity. Three berths at two Egyptian coasts, plus a regional route through Jordan, reduce dependence on any single-entry point. Backup capacity was tested on July 29, 2026, when a drone-caused fire affected Energos Winter and the LNG carrier GasLog Salem at Damietta. No casualties were reported, and the government said alternative supplies had been secured, according to the Egyptian Cabinet.

Egypt’s FSRUs Capacity and Storage Profile

	Höegh Galleon	Energos Eskimo	Energos Power	Energos Winter	Höegh Gandria
Location	Ain Sokhna (SUMED Port)		Ain Sokhna (Sonker Port)		Ain Sokhna (SUMED Port)
Receiving Capacity (mmcf/d)	750	750	750	450	1,000
Storage (m³)	170,000	160,663	174,156	138,250	160,000

Source: MoPMR

From Short Term Bridge to Long Term Safeguard

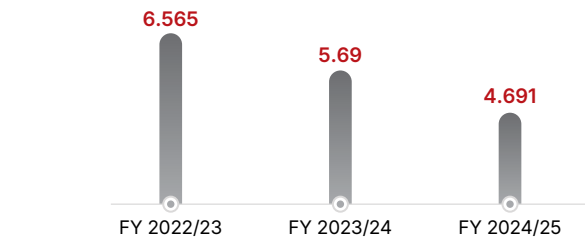
The planned arrival of Höegh Gandria marks a shift in Egypt’s FSRU strategy. Scheduled for deployment at SUMED in Q4 2026 under a ten-year EGAS charter, the vessel will replace Höegh Galleon and provide up to 1,000 mmscf/d of peak regasification capacity, according to Höegh Evi. This decade-long commitment moves floating terminals beyond seasonal contingency toward strategic insurance against production declines, demand peaks and regional supply disruptions.

Unlike an ordinary LNG carrier, it can regasify the cargo and supply the grid; unlike a permanent onshore terminal, it can be deployed within months rather than waiting four to six years to build a regasification unit, according to Höegh Evi.

This speed has become increasingly important as Egypt’s average daily natural gas production declined from 6.565 billion cubic feet per day (bcf/d) in FY 2022/23 to 4.691 bcf/d in FY 2024/25—a cumulative decrease of 28.5% over two years, according to the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS).

As replacing these lost volumes through new domestic production requires time, FSRUs have become the fastest means of converting imported LNG into pipeline-quality gas.

Egypt’s Natural Gas Production (bcf/d)



Source: EGAS



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INTERNATIONAL
ATTENDEES

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COMPANIES

120
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Key Egyptian Economic Insights in July 2026

Annual Headline Inflation

 **13%** +0.8 pp from June

Non-Oil Private Sector PMI

 **46.8 pts** +0.8 pts from June

Net International Reserves

 **\$56.294 Bn** +\$1.222 Bn from June

Avg Exchange Rate

 **50.3 EGP/USD** -0.79% from June

EGX Listed Petroleum Companies Performance in July 2026

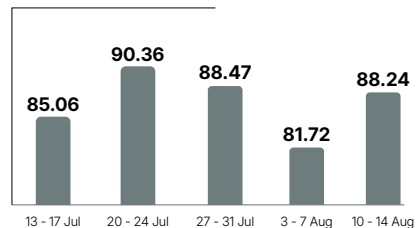
	Close Price 14.71 EGP	YTD Price Change 📈 1.52%	P/E* 16.48
	Close Price 4.69 USD	YTD Price Change 0%	P/E* 2.36
	Close Price 8.91 EGP	YTD Price Change 📈 28.57%	P/E* 7.41
	Close Price 52.77 EGP	YTD Price Change 📈 19.23%	P/E* 23.65
	Close Price 15.71 EGP	YTD Price Change 📉 19.85%	P/E* 15.65
	Close Price 36.62 EGP	YTD Price Change 📈 20.07%	P/E* 9.3

*Price-Earnings Ratio (P/E): the ratio of a company's share price to the company's earnings per share.

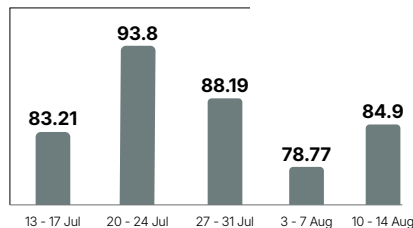
Petroleum Pricing Highlights

Average International Prices

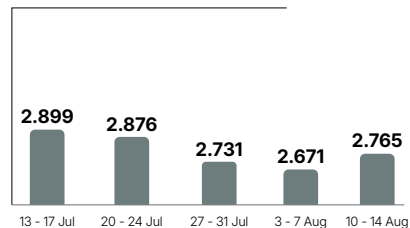
🛢 BRENT OIL (\$/BBL)



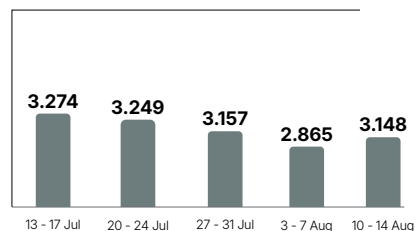
🛢 OPEC BASKET (\$/BBL)



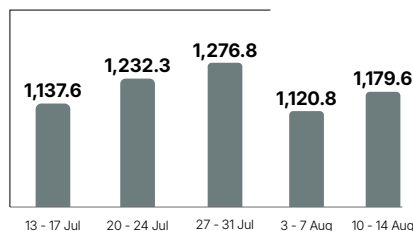
🔥 NATURAL GAS (\$/MMBTU)



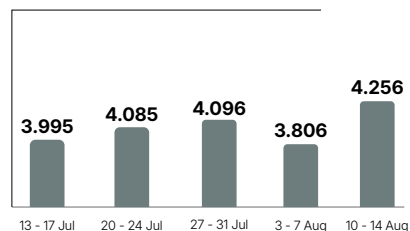
🛢 RBOB GASOLINE (NYMEX) (\$/GAL)



🛢 GAS OIL (NYMEX) (\$/MT)



🛢 HEATING OIL (NYMEX) (\$/GAL)



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