

# the arabian sun

October 27, 2021 | Vol. LXXVI, No. 41

a weekly Aramco publication for employees



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Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser conducts the inaugural pumping of fuel at a new line of service stations in the Kingdom. Nasser was joined by Total CEO Patrick Pouyanné, center, and Yasser M. Mufti, Aramco's vice president of Fuels. (Photo: Ahmed El Itani/MPD)

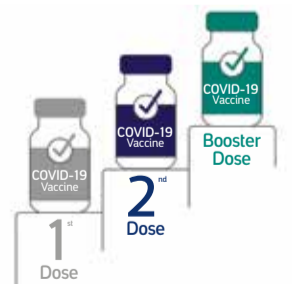


Scan the QR code to see the JHAH FAQs webpage.



## Together we can end the pandemic: Important COVID-19 vaccination update

JHAH is pleased to offer **COVID-19 booster vaccinations** in line with Ministry of Health (MOH) directives. Currently, the booster dose is available to Aramco employees and their eligible dependents **aged 60 years or older**, who received their second dose at least eight months ago.



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# Al-Rumayyan: Saudi-U.S. relations at ‘dawn of a new era’

Washington, D.C. — In a keynote address, HE Chairman Yasir O. Al-Rumayyan congratulated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Middle East Institute (MEI) at a gala dinner held on Oct. 21 at the Ritz Carlton in Washington, D.C. In his address, Al-Rumayyan highlighted the long history and bright future of the Saudi-U.S. partnership and gave insights into how Aramco plans to work with U.S. partnership on delivering the Kingdom’s commitments toward an energy transition.

Founded in 1946, the MEI is a Washington-based non-partisan think tank providing expert policy analysis, and a hub for engaging with Middle Eastern art and culture. The MEI’s mission is to increase knowledge of the Middle East among citizens of the U.S. and to promote a better understanding between the people of these two areas.

Attendees at the MEI gala dinner included top government officials, diplomats, and policymakers.

## Rich legacy

In his address, Al-Rumayyan focused on the rich legacy of the Saudi-U.S. partnership.

“For me, it’s more than just a partnership,” Al-Rumayyan said. “It’s a friendship, founded on trust and mutual respect. It is a partnership based on common interests and shared goals. A common interest in stable global energy markets. A shared sense of responsibility for a peaceful and profitable world beyond our borders.”

Al-Rumayyan said that the Saudi-U.S. partnership marked its beginnings to May 29, 1933, the date of the historic concession agreement between King Abdulaziz Al Saud and Standard Oil of California, one of the charter members of the company that became Saudi Aramco.

This concession agreement ushered in



During his participation in the Middle East Institute gala dinner, HE Chairman Yasir O. Al-Rumayyan received the Distinguished Global Leadership Award for 2021. The award recognized Aramco’s more than eight decades of leadership in economic, social, and cultural development and its promotion of regional peace, as well as its contributions to Middle East-U.S. relations, in building a sustainable future. The award also recognized Aramco for its foundation support of local communities, empowerment of women, championing of the arts and education through cross-cultural dialogue and exchange, and its response to global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

a period of prosperity and development that improved the lives of Saudi citizens, and that made Aramco the world’s most valuable oil company, Al-Rumayyan added.

In his role as Governor of the Public Investment Fund, the Kingdom’s sovereign wealth fund, Al-Rumayyan said the time has come to grow and diversify Saudi Arabia’s private sector beyond oil and gas, to produce more goods and services at home, to attract more people into the Kingdom, including investors, entrepreneurs, creators, pilgrims, and tourists.

## Low emissions future

Al-Rumayyan also said that while Aramco continues to deliver energy to global customers, and thanks to its network of research laboratories in the U.S. and other countries, it is fast becoming a technology leader. In addition, Aramco remains committed to its long heritage

as the lowest carbon intensity producer of energy in the industry, as the Kingdom prepares for a “low emissions future.”

In addition to continual improvement of our industrial processes to reduce emissions, Aramco is aligned with the Kingdom’s Vision 2030 goals, supporting the Kingdom’s Saudi Green Initiative, which will boost investment in renewable energy projects such as the 1.5-gigawatt Sudair Power Plant, the construction of the world’s largest green hydrogen power plant, and the planting of 10 billion trees in coming decades.

“Our enemy is not carbon, which is one of the building blocks of life on Earth. Our enemy is unchecked carbon emissions,” Al-Rumayyan said. “To win this fight, we must value all efforts, all options, and all technologies that reduce the flow of greenhouse gases into



We’re moving from a relationship based on oil to a partnership based on the supply of clean energy in all its forms, a growing trade in materials, a growing exchange of ideas, a partnership based not on resource extraction, but on long-term value creation.

— HE Yasir O. Al-Rumayyan

our atmosphere. So, let us make and win that argument together.”

Al-Rumayyan concluded his speech, saying that the Saudi-U.S. relationship is “approaching the dawn of a new era.”

“We’re moving from a relationship based on oil to a partnership based on the supply of clean energy in all its forms, a growing trade in materials, a growing exchange of ideas, a partnership based not on resource extraction, but on long-term value creation,” he said.

“And although we cannot predict the future, there’s one thing I know for sure, whatever happens in the years ahead, the world’s most important energy partnership will be red, white, blue — and green.”

# Aramco expands focus on emerging sectors at FII

On Tuesday, Aramco announced plans to expand its focus on emerging sectors to drive private sector innovation and investment.

During the Future Investment Initiative, it outlined potential new projects in green hydrogen, sustainable technology solutions, advanced nonmetallic building materials, and digitalization.

The company is pursuing investment opportunities in projects that could potentially reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, following the recent announcement of its ambition to achieve net-zero Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions across its wholly owned operated assets by 2050.

Details of new initiatives were outlined as global leaders and investors gathered at the Future Investment Forum to discuss the future of venture capital and key issues facing the world.

Amin Nasser, Saudi Aramco president and CEO, said: “Our plans illustrate our focus on developing innovative projects and investments, which support our long-term business strategy and strive to have a positive impact. Collaboration will be crucial in promoting economic development and creating new opportunities, as we expand our portfolio, diversify our business, advance low carbon energy technologies and develop sustainable solutions.”

## Five MoUs signed

To move its program forward, Aramco has signed five Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the following companies:

• **Modern Industrial Investment Holding Group and Intercontinental Energy** — An MoU to develop a green hydrogen and ammonia project in Saudi Arabia.

• **South Pole Carbon Asset Management Ltd. and Yousef Abdulrahman Al-Dhabyan Agricultural Est. (YADGREEN)** — Two separate MoUs to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a National Green Services company to develop and innovate nature-based solutions that help reduce GHG emissions.

• **BFG** — An MoU focused on localizing the manufacturing of advanced nonmetallic building materials, as well as collaboration in research and development.

• **ABB** — An MoU to explore localization of digital technologies for oil and gas applications, including domestic capacity building in the process automation system and instrumentation fields.

The MoUs are expected to complement Aramco’s continued investments in oil and gas, with further announcements on its Jafurah gas program expected in the near future.



Nasser added, “The Ministry of Energy, led by HRH Abdulaziz bin Salman, Minister of Energy of Saudi Arabia, has enabled a business friendly investment environment for strategic initiatives and programs, including advancing our work on the Jafurah gas field, which will play an important role in the expansion of our gas operations, support diversification of our portfolio and benefit the Kingdom’s business sectors.”

# Greener goals

## CEO: We are ready for the challenge of sustainability

Dear colleagues,

The world is at a critical point in addressing climate change, which requires bold, decisive actions to ensure long-term sustainability. For Aramco, we have a responsibility to balance climate action while continuing to reliably produce and supply the essential energy that billions of people around the world need from us.

Today, we have risen to this historic challenge by announcing Aramco's ambition to achieve net-zero Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions across our wholly owned operated assets by 2050.

The company announcement complements the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's goal to reach net-zero emissions by 2060.



Over many decades, Aramco has managed our production efficiently and invested heavily in Upstream optimization, methane reduction, flare gas minimization, and reservoir management. The result is an Upstream carbon intensity rating that

is among the lowest in the world. This also means that we emit some of the world's lowest levels of greenhouse gases per barrel of oil produced.

We intend to leverage our strengths to meet the energy needs of society by maximizing the value of the materials we produce, while minimizing the impact of greenhouse gases. This is more than a goal, it is mission critical for our company, our industry, and our world.

By applying the talent, technology, and resources of our great company, I am confident we are ready for the challenges ahead of us, and look forward to your commitment for us to achieve our net-zero emissions ambition by 2050.

Sincerely,  
Amin Nasser, president and CEO

## Our ambition: Reach net-zero emissions by 2050

Aramco has announced its ambition to achieve net-zero Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions across its wholly owned operated assets by 2050.

This ambition is an important part of the company's focus on long-term shareholder value creation by advancing its goals through a companywide approach in sustainability.

The company plans to disclose further details in its forthcoming Sustainability Report to be issued in the second quarter of 2022.

The company announcement complements the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's goal to reach net-zero emissions by 2060.

### Addressing one of the century's biggest challenges

Aramco chairman HE Yasir O. Al-Rumayyan, said: "Aramco recognizes both the scale and urgency of the climate



Aramco has a uniquely strong platform from which to lead the global industry to meet this challenge, and we are delighted to announce our ambition to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

— HE Yasir O. Al-Rumayyan

challenge as well as its responsibility to help address it, as the world's largest energy company. Reducing emissions, while meeting the world's continuing energy needs, is one of the biggest challenges of this century.

"Aramco has a uniquely strong platform from which to lead the global industry to meet this challenge, and we are delighted to announce today our ambition to achieve net-zero green-

house gas emissions across our operations by 2050."

### Aramco's ambition

Amin Nasser, Saudi Aramco president and CEO, said: "As the largest provider of energy to the world, Aramco's ambition to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions across our operations in less than three decades is a historic step forward that will help tackle the most

pressing challenge facing humanity.

"Our past success has not been measured by quarters or business cycles, but across generations. The same will apply to the positive results from our net-zero ambition, as the actions we take in the coming years will help safeguard our planet for future generations.

"The road ahead will be complex, as the world's transition to a more sustainable energy future will require collective action and major technological breakthroughs," said Nasser. "But we remain focused on delivering reliable and affordable energy, investing for the long term as our efforts to further reduce emissions gain momentum."



Watch CEO Amin Nasser's announcement

## Engineering and innovation drives F1 action

# Aramco brings the energy to U.S. Grand Prix

By Susan Gonzalez

Austin, Texas — The Formula 1 (F1) Aramco U.S. Grand Prix returned to the U.S. and the state of Texas with drivers competing at the Circuit of the Americas (COTA), the first track in the U.S. to be purpose-built for F1 and host to other famed races.

Aramco's long-term global sponsorship with the international race was announced in 2020, marking the company's first global sponsorship of a major sporting event and connecting Aramco with a worldwide audience of 500 million racing fans.

Dedicated fans packed the stands for three days to watch practice and qualifying sessions as well as on race day, which drew a sell-out crowd of 140,000.

In the spirit of innovative F1 racing, Aramco has a team of dedicated research-

ers and engineers working to develop low emission transport solutions to help reduce the carbon footprint from transportation.

"Engineering excellence is at the heart of everything we do," said Mohammed Y. Al Qahtani, senior vice president of Downstream, Aramco. "We share a commitment to driving innovation through our work with engines and fuels to lower emissions, enhance performance, and make a real impact in reducing emissions in the automotive sector and beyond."

There was no shortage of energy as 10 teams took to the track for 56 laps; with winner Max Verstappen driving for team Red Bull Racing.

Race weekend activities included track side experiences such as Pit Lane Walks, Hot Laps, and Truck Tours. The Aram-



Mohammed Y. Al Qahtani, who presented the winning trophy to Max Verstappen and experienced his first Formula 1 race, said he was impressed with the technology behind the remarkably fast machines.

co hospitality suite in the Paddock Club area offered a unique vantage point over the team garages and pit lane with a clear view of the start and finish line.

Next on the schedule, F1 goes to Mex-

ico City for Round 18 in early November and then on to Brazil, Qatar, and in early December (Dec. 3-5) to Saudi Arabia for the 2021 Saudi Arabia Grand Prix taking place at the new Jiddah Corniche Circuit.

# Aramco research comes out strong at World Oil Awards

## Five awards historical record for the company

To meet Upstream's ambitious operational and business plans, we must continuously strive for improvement and in doing so, develop innovative ways to uphold Aramco's competitive advantage in the oil and gas industry. To this end, Aramco's Upstream research arm, the EXPEC Advanced Research Center (EXPEC ARC), leads the company in identifying and developing technologies that continuously improve its operational and business performance.

The company's efforts have always been recognized by regional and international renowned organizations, of which is the prestigious World Oil Awards. The World Oil Awards has been recognizing and highlighting the industry's leading innovators and innovations for the past two decades. This year, the nominations covered 18 award categories, encompassing the full breadth of the Upstream industry, from exploration, to drilling, completions and production, as well as digital transformation, safety, and sustainability.

On Oct. 14, Aramco and EXPEC ARC were recognized at the 20<sup>th</sup> World Oil Awards ceremony that was held in Houston, TX, in a return to the traditional in-person setting. Aramco was recognized as a winner in five categories, four of which are from EXPEC ARC, and one winner from Northern Area Oil Operations (NAOO), doubling last year's number of awards received, and setting a new record for the company and the research organizations. The received awards cover traditional and emerging domains, highlighting the company's efforts in the whole Upstream value chain. It also focuses on its efforts toward digital transformation and reducing its operations' carbon footprint.



Members of the Aramco Houston Research Center team receive the awards on behalf of Aramco during last week's World Oil Awards ceremony in Houston.

bon footprint.

Aramco's recognized individuals, technologies, and projects included Dr. Guodong "David" Zhan for the Innovative Thinker Award, the First CCUS and EOR Intelligent Field Project for the Best Digital Transformation Award, "Indestructible" Drill Bit Cutter Technology for the Best Drilling Technology Award, Beyond Zero Routine Flaring for the Best Health, Safety, Environment/Sustainable Development — Onshore Award, and the Field-Scale Acoustic Oil-Water-Fines Separation for Sustainable Produced Water Management for the Best Water Management Technology Award. The winners are an inspiration to all their peers in the industry, not only in terms of the breadth of achievements, but also through the demonstration of vision and innovative thinking.

### Historical record

This historical record for Aramco and EXPEC ARC is a continuation of our outstanding and strong presence in this awards venue that has been steadily increasing for the past years. Aramco has been announced as a finalist eight and 13 times in 2019 and 2020, respectively. This year, the company had a total of 16 award finalists, 10 technologies and six professionals, surpassing all competitors in the number of finalists. Out of the total, six technologies and five professionals are from EXPEC ARC and its affiliated research centers around the globe.

The shortlisted technologies and professionals were competing in 10 different categories against the industry's top companies, institutes, and individuals. These categories range from an individual level such as the impressive "Innovative Thinker Award" category, to lifetime achievements as in the "Life-



At the heart of Saudi Aramco's innovation, lies the company's most valuable asset, its people who strive for innovation, and we welcome the reinforcement of this principle by our industry peers.

— Nasir K. Al Naimi

time Achievement Award" category, all the way to the impact of the technology as in the "Best Digital Transformation Award" and "Best Exploration Technology Award" categories.

Such recognitions provide assurance that we are on the right path and give motivation to proceed forward. The awards and nominations in multiple categories of the 2021 World Oil Awards reflect the ongoing dynamic march toward creating new technologies. In this year's annual event, Aramco is honored to be considered as the industry participant with the most nominees among industry partners such as Baker Hughes, Halliburton, and Schlumberger. Aramco accounts for

16% of the 2021 World Oil Award finalists being nominated.

### Leadership in Upstream

The number of the nominations and the multiplicity is pronouncedly impressive, which shows Aramco's efforts in competing to excel in major domains of the entire Upstream value chain. "This year's awards further state Aramco's leadership in Upstream technology development, where we accounted for the highest number of award finalists for a second year in a row. That speaks to the high quality of our researchers and the technologies nominated, which leads to propelling the company to achieve its strategic goals," said Ashraf M. Al-Tahini, manager of EXPEC ARC.

The value of the company's investment in Upstream R&D is already paying dividends in the form of recognition from industry peers. Waleed A. Al Mulhim, executive director of Petroleum Engineering and Development said, "Since its inception, the EXPEC Advanced Research Center has reaped many benefits that aided the company to achieve its strategic objectives. Being recognized by prestigious entities for our sustainability and digital transformation accomplishments is a further testimony to the efforts that has been exerted. It also provides assurance that we are moving in the right direction as our company continues to transform and grow."

Dawood M. Al-Dawood, vice president of NAOO, added, "Being recognized at this well-respected international event is a testament of our commitment to continuously enhance our operational efficiency while promoting sustainability and safety. It demonstrates the company's active approach to address global environmental challenges and reduce emissions. This would not be possible without the commitment of dedicated teams in the fields who make us proud at the highest international platforms."

### Our people are key

Aramco views these international recognitions along with our operational and technological challenges, as organizational catalysts to continuously strive for improvement and innovation. Nasir K. Al Naimi, senior vice president of Upstream, along with the rest of the leadership team, appreciate the global recognition by the industry of our people's innovation capability. "At the heart of Aramco's innovation, lies the company's most valuable asset, its people who strive for innovation, and we welcome the reinforcement of this principle by our industry peers."

#### List of Saudi Aramco's 2021 World Oil awards:

- **Innovative Thinker Award (Individual)** — Dr. Guodong "David" Zhan
- **Best Digital Transformation Award** — First CCUS and EOR Intelligent Field Project
- **Best Drilling Technology Award** — "Indestructible" Drill Bit Cutter Technology
- **Best Health, Safety, Environment/Sustainable Development — Onshore Award** — Beyond Zero Routine Flaring
- **Best Water Management Technology Award** — Field-Scale Acoustic Oil-Water-Fines Separation for Sustainable Produced Water Management

# A Kingdom first | Aramco and TotalEnergies launch joint service station retail network

By Eamonn Houston

**Riyadh** — In what has been described as a “milestone” by president and CEO, Amin Nasser, Aramco and TotalEnergies have launched the first two service stations of a joint retail network in the Kingdom’s cities of Riyadh and Saihat.

Stations in the network will operate under the Aramco or TotalEnergies brands, providing motorists with quality fuels and premium retail services.

Aramco signed off on the 50/50 venture with TotalEnergies in 2019.

“With our long-standing partner TotalEnergies, we are creating a premium network that will enhance the experience of Saudi Arabia’s motorists and travelers. As the Kingdom scales up tourism projects, we can expect domestic travel to increase, along with demand for hospitality and travel services. With our entry into retail, we plan to deliver the best experience possible for customers, while creating opportunities for Saudis to pursue careers in retail and marketing,” Nasser said.

At the Riyadh inauguration, Nasser toured the state-of-the-art new station with Patrick Pouyanné, chairman and CEO of TotalEnergies, Aramco’s vice president of Fuels, Yasser M. Mufti, and members of the company’s Retail Strategy, Public Affairs, and management. The group met with the two new station managers, who happen to be the first females to cover such a position in Saudi Arabia.

“The opening of these two first initial stations marks another step forward in reaffirming our long-standing partnership with Aramco, following our joint investments in SATORP since 2008,” said Pouyanné.

## Completing the value chain

The launch of the new branded retail network completes the circle of Aramco’s entire value chain, according to Mufti.

Aramco already has a global presence in 17,000 retail stations through a portfolio of joint ventures.

“I think that the context of this is that retail is one of the fastest growing segments in the oil supply chain. The growth is faster than that of refining,” Mufti said.

“There are also fantastic opportunities to upgrade the offering in what we



The recently unveiled service station in Riyadh is one of two recently launched, the other being in Saihat. The stations will operate under the Aramco and TotalEnergies brands, providing fuels and premium retail services. (Photos: Ahmed El Itani/MPD)

call the non-fuels business. Our vision is to use this as a starting point to expand across the Kingdom to all of the major cities, and to strive to deliver a differentiated customer offering within all of our stations.”

## Employment opportunities

Importantly, Mufti said, the new venture would open the doors for meaningful employment for young Saudis over a range of disciplines.

There are also the oversight positions of the non-fuels business, commercial transactions to secure retail tenants, and senior management and executive roles within the new venture.

“We think that this would be an attractive proposition for people, and we have seen that already. Prior to launch, we have been able to attract young Saudis, and we are extremely proud that the stations that we are launching will be manned by, not just Saudi males, but Saudi women,” Mufti noted.

## Branding

“Developing the company’s retail brand, from concept to fruition, was a remarkable journey that we are all proud of today,” said Nader D. Al Douhan, manager of Retail Strategy and Development.

“The opening of the first stations marks an important milestone as we continue to expand our presence in the Kingdom’s downstream value chain.”

— Amin Nasser

“I believe the Aramco retail brand we see today is a testament of the seamless collaboration and effective partnership with our colleagues in the Corporate Communication Department.”

Al Douhan noted that the opening of the first Aramco service station marks the company’s first entry into the business of consumer space.

“For that, the onus was on the team to work together to devise a differentiated customer offering to be designed around three brand pillars: convenience, energizing, and welcoming.”

## Meet the Managers



Nour Alanazi

Ibtssam Al Jaber

### Nour Alanazi

“I will be in charge of day-to-day operations, which can include inventory, employee scheduling, hiring and training, the ordering and receiving supplies, and offering promotions. I will also create and meet budgets and ensure that all of the equipment we use is in working condition. I will also deal with fuel supply and regularly report to company officials.”

“I was hesitant because this field is new to Saudi women, but this hesitation soon changed to passion and attachment to this type of business.”

“I think that there will be a greater participation by Saudi females, especially if they have the passion to work in such a field. And we should not forget that women have a major and global role in developing ways of working in various practical fields and sectors.”

### Ibtssam Al Jaber

“I’m glad to be a team member in this company and I’m looking forward to participating in the company’s transformation journey and vision.”

“Through my work, I hope to assume higher leadership responsibilities in the future.”

“I believe this type of venture will attract more females, specifically in the administrative functions.”



What do our new stations offer? Watch the video here.



The King Salman Energy Park (SPARK) was awarded the Innovative Project of the Year, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia National Pavilion, Expo2020 Dubai, was awarded the Hospitality Project of the Year at the recent 2021 Construction Innovation Awards in Dubai.



## Aramco shines at Construction Innovation Awards

Aramco's Project Management team recently took home a total of three awards from the 2021 Construction Innovation Awards in Dubai.

Attended by some of the most prestigious organizations in the construction and project management industry, the event showcased the accomplishments and game changing ideas of the top players in the GCC region.

### Innovation Project of the Year

The King Salman Energy Park (SPARK) was awarded the Innovative Project of the Year. The project implemented multiple construction innovations and technologies, which enabled SPARK to be the first silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified industrial city worldwide.

SPARK also achieved the first gold "Mostadam" certificate for industrial and infrastructure development in Saudi Arabia.

Innovations such as the podzolic-based green concrete, ConXtech steel modular buildings, glass fiber reinforced polymer rebars for concrete slabs, automated upstream/downstream power systems, including smart RMU, smart solar street lighting with CCTV cameras, and sand stabilization polymer were all utilized at SPARK.



Mohammed S. Al-Mana, right, earned a global award for his performance in the construction of the world's largest naphtha processing facility of its kind inside a refinery. Joining him for the award presentation was Abdullah A. Sughaiyer, left.

The team is in the process of implementing several other innovations such as smart inbound screening facilities for smart dry ports, mobile workforce management, smart construction labor hard hats, and asphalt paving material with recycled plastic and shredded rubber.

### Hospitality Project of the Year

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia National Pavilion, Expo2020 Dubai, was awarded the Hospitality Project of the Year. This award is usually given to the hospitality/tourism-related project that makes an important contribution to its surroundings, demonstrates construction best practices, and can show how construction techniques and technology have contributed to its success.

The project was selected because of its accelerated delivery, cost-efficiency, con-

tent creativity, innovation, and sustainability. Saudi's national pavilion is the second largest at Expo2020 Dubai, with a built-up area of 13,000 m<sup>2</sup> and a height of 27 m. The project's extraordinary and innovative design led visitors through a captivating journey to explore Saudi Arabia's rich heritage, diverse nature, transformation, and future ambitions.

The unique architectural design is in line with global standards of sustainable development. It has been awarded LEED Platinum certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Using the latest digital technology, the pavilion broke three Guinness World Records, including the most comprehensive interactive lighting floor, extended interactive water feature, and largest interactive LED mirror screen.

### Engineer of the Year Award

In addition to winning awards for projects, Aramco won an individual award for one of its employee's efforts. This award went to Mohammed S. Al-Mana, a senior project engineer who works with the company's downstream project management team.

Al-Mana holds a chemical engineering degree from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) and has technical experience in the refining and NGL industry. He is also a certified Project Management Professional by the Project Management Institute.

Al-Mana earned the award for his performance in the construction of the world's largest naphtha processing facilities of its kind inside a refinery. He played a key role in optimizing the project's scope resulting in significant CAPEX savings while achieving the project objectives. Al-Mana also led the campaigns for major equipment heavy haul and erection, which were executed safely.

During the pandemic, Al-Mana showed excellent leadership skills in managing materials and construction activities while keeping the work environment safe and received the company's Project Management Admin Area Excellence Award for his performance.

## Your voice

### Is recycling a solution to plastic pollution?



By Layla Alabdrabalnabi  
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Dhahran

The annual amount of plastic waste that is produced globally is estimated to be 300 million tons. Unfortunately, 79% of the plastic waste accumulates in landfills and oceans, 12% is incinerated, and only 9% is recycled.

Almost half of the world's plastic waste — 140 million tons — comes from the packaging industry.

Polyethylene (PE) is the most prevalent polymer found in plastic waste, accounting for 41.5% of municipal plastic waste by volume. It is a highly versatile plastic that comes in various forms. Polypropylene (PP) is the next most abundant type, accounting for 24.3% of the waste.

For example, Low Density PE (LDPE) is commonly used in plastic bags provided by grocery stores and retailers. These bags cannot be recycled due to their tendency to tangle within the re-

cycling machine, which could compromise the entire recycling process. Due to its relatively low-cost of production, but high processing costs, LDPE recycling is not economically viable. As a consequence, many recycling plants will not recycle this type of plastic. According to Environmental Protection Agency reports, only 6.2% of LDPE waste generated is being recycled.

While it may seem low, this rate is still higher than PP, which gets recycled at a rate of 3.0%. PP is generally found in consumer products' packaging, toys, and heavy-duty products like crates, containers, and auto parts. Despite its usefulness, recycling PP is difficult and expensive.

Another hurdle that plastics face is the size and weight of plastic products. Straws, for instance, are too light and small to be recycled and can damage the recycling equipment. Therefore,

the European Parliament has decided to take action to ban the use of single-use plastic such as straws starting from 2021 in Europe.

Another hurdle is that some plastic packaging materials are made from multiple layers of different polymers. And there's also a limit to the number of times plastics can be recycled before losing its chemical characteristics, all driving up recycling costs.

The development of new recycling technologies will hopefully overcome current barriers. In the meantime, there are some low hanging fruit that could be implemented to reduce attrition in plastic recycling, such as policies that mandate plastic packaging to be made from recyclable materials, or rules imposing the standardization of certain plastic uses, e.g., packaging and containers, to reduce layering, color, and other impediments.

# An IT game changer

## Aramco engineers develop augmented reality tool to track assets at Corporate Data Center

In the latest example of our ambition to be a leader in digital technology, a team of Information Technology (IT) engineers have deployed a new augmented reality (AR) tool to locate, verify, and provide key information about computer assets in the IT Corporate Data Center (CDC). After months of design, prototyping, and testing, the innovation was filed as a patent at the U.S. Patent Office in 2019, and was later granted as a patent in March 2021.

"This is a game changer for asset management in Aramco," said Ahmed M. Al-Shaikh, general manager of IT Infrastructure.

Ahmed A. Al-Abdullatif, manager of the Computer Operations Department, said: "This is the first AR project to be deployed in the IT CDC. This will elevate IT operations to a new paradigm and positions Aramco as an elite innovator in digital transformation."

### The journey, from inception to reality

Marwan Al Dulaijan, Operations Support Division head, said that, "IT took the lead to deploy the first AR proof of concept solution in the IT CDC" after an IT specialist from Computer Operations, Ibraheem Al Sheikh came up with the idea during a typical operational day. Seeing how AR had been implemented for asset maintenance and reliability in the industry, Al Sheikh thought that AR

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This will elevate IT operations to a new paradigm and positions Aramco as an elite innovator in digital transformation.

— Ahmed A. Al-Abdullatif

could be used to optimize daily operations.

Al Sheikh's idea was championed by Al-Abdullatif, and a team of subject matter experts was assembled to move this idea from proof of concept toward implementation. The team included Al-Sheikh (project leader), Zabnan Al-Dossary (project co-leader), Zubair Rajah, Bassam Shammasi, Abdullah Essa, all from the Computer Operations Department. Also assisting were Wail Ghanem from the IT Engineering Department, Wasmi Khaldi from the Communication Operations Department, and Rakan Maghribi from the Computer Application Department.



By scanning QR codes in the IT Corporate Data Center, a new augmented reality tool allows users to locate, verify, and discover key information about assets in the IT Corporate Data Center.

"The successful implementation of this conceptual innovative idea was due to the team's hard work and dedication to achieve the utmost results and exert their expertise and capabilities," said Al-Sheikh.

### Cutting-edge technology

To identify AR technologies that could contribute to this invention, project experts conducted market research of Fourth Industrial Revolution systems and tools. Their solution assisted IT analysts during the physical visit to the CDC, enabling them to perform operational work on a specific physical asset.

In the past, this task could be time-consuming due to the large size of the CDC, with multiple data halls and each with hundreds of racks that hold thousands of servers and IT assets. With this new technology, the IT analyst can input the re-

quired server details into the portable AR device, which will instantaneously display the server location and display the best navigation route to the CDC server.

Among the demonstrable benefits have included:

- Quick allocation and navigation of IT assets and their associated network connections
- Instantaneous visualization of IT asset details, the ability to visualize network connections between IT assets
- End-to-end view of network layout connections.

Al-Dossary said, "This solution will assist in expediting restoration time during an outage, as the IT support analyst can swiftly reach to any physical asset. This will provide an additional layer of asset verification prior to initiating any work on a physical asset."

## YLAB engages with Christian Bruch, Siemens Energy CEO

"The higher you move up in an organization, the more you have to realize that you, alone, can move nothing," was among insights shared by Christian Bruch, CEO of Siemens Energy, with Aramco's Young Leaders Advisory Board (YLAB) during a recent visit to the company.

Bruch spoke to YLAB members about leadership, the energy and technology industries, and the youth.

### On the energy industry

"You, as young leaders, are framing the narrative that there's more than one logic," Bruch said, adding that the energy discussion, as of now, is a little unbalanced because there are three important factors that should carry equal weights in the conversation, but do not, including reliability, affordability, and sustainability.

A balanced conversation on the energy transition gives all three factors equal weights, and this is where the role of technology comes in, he said.

Bruch elaborated that the global energy discussion is not only unbalanced, but is also more complex than it is currently made out to be. Therefore, solutions can-



Christian Bruch, pictured front third from left, recent spoke with members of Aramco's Young Leaders Advisory Board about the industry, leadership, and technology.

not be simplified and require a diverse portfolio mix.

Policy-makers and major players in the industry are urged to be transparent about the energy transition. He added that the transition, although it will yield desirable results in the future, can be painful and expensive.

### On technology and cybersecurity

Bruch emphasized that being data-driven is fundamental to the success of

energy technology companies. He went on to explain that, sometimes, the simplest of digital solutions can derive the greatest value.

Building on that point and connecting technology to the energy industry, he explained that energy efficiency is the biggest mover in the energy transformation, making technologies that impact efficiency of the utmost importance.

Being a data-driven company, while fundamental to the success of energy technology companies, carries with it the

increased risk for cybersecurity threats. Cybersecurity, Bruch said, is not about eliminating the threat of cybersecurity breaches, but is about detecting a threat early enough to minimize the damage.

### On leadership

On leadership, Bruch emphasized the importance of being passionate, remaining authentic, respecting facts, and focusing on people. He said that his best leadership moments have been when he observed the success of others, and when others saw him as their equal.

"If I ever stop being passionate, I should leave my job," Bruch said.

He also emphasized the importance of remaining authentic, focusing on people, and never forgetting the human aspect of conducting business. However, Bruch also emphasized the importance of respecting facts and figures, noting that no matter how much a leader believed in an idea or a vision, one must always keep an open mind and accept that the facts may not always support your vision, requiring one to be agile enough to revisit their vision as necessary.



YLAB engages Siemens Energy CEO on tech, leadership, and more

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## What's the big deal? 'Offer' is a big deal!

At Aramco, **Offer** is a big deal — a huge deal! **Offer** is the official Aramco Corporate Benefit Program. But it's much more than your average benefit program.

Currently, **Offer** features more than 400 discounts, with 12 different categories of savings for everyone. Perhaps you are looking to furnish or renovate your home. Maybe you'd like to fix up your car, or even buy a new car. Or, more importantly, you're taking some time to pamper yourself or your family with weekend activities, new restaurants, or entertainment.

**Offer** has discount savings for all of these things, and all you need to do is show your ID card.

**Offer** is more than just a standard

corporate discount program — it's a privilege for all our employees, dependents, and retirees, and a critical part of our Employee Value Proposition. And **Offer** is constantly evolving. The company is working every day with our community and businesses to form solid partnerships with one goal: to give you the best deal possible.

### But don't just take our word for it

Hamad, a supervisor at Aramco, owns multiple vehicles and has to service them regularly.

"I'm very satisfied with my experience and always find myself browsing through the program's website for new deals," says Hamad.



their favorite ways to **Offer**, there are hundreds of different ways to save money. For example, our discount with insurance companies saves more than 30,000 **Offer** users money on their insurance premiums every year. And in the telecommunications category, **Offer** users have saved approximately SR8 million this year alone by using the exclusive discounts with our partners.

As part of Aramco's focus on health and well-being, **Offer** has put together a whole series of discounts in the health and fitness category. According to one of our partner companies in the sports business, Aramco employees have saved over SR179,000 at their store in 2021 alone.

### Offer puts you at the center

As you can see, **Offer** is more than just a benefits program — it's a way to bring happiness and create a positive impact on your well-being and quality of life. We have set a goal to make Aramco the "Best Place to Work." A key part of achieving that goal is putting our employees at the center of everything we do. You work hard to bring your best to our company every day.

Using **Offer** is just one small way that we can give our best back to you. Why wait? Check out **Offer** today and start saving!

Visit the **Offer** website at <https://hr.aramco.com.sa/apps/cdp>.

Hamad uses **Offer** to receive special discounts on many different types of automotive services. Recently, he saved over SR150 on a service that might have otherwise cost him over SR500. Hamad also saves thousands of riyals across a whole suite of services and annual inspections.

Ghalia is newly married, and she and her husband recently moved into a new home. Furnishing a home is expensive, as a dependent she was able to take advantage of the unique discounts provided by **Offer** to save money and receive exceptional service.

Using the Home Appliances & Design category, Ghalia was able to save up to SR8,600. As a result, she created a luxurious and well-appointed home at a fraction of her expected cost.

"Every time I enter a store, I'm excited to see what great deals **Offer** has for me," says Ghalia.

### Discounts for all Aramcons

While Hamad and Ghalia each have



## Dhahran Junior Tennis ace claims title at Bahrain tournament

By Chiara Ciampricotti Iacoangeli

Fourteen-year-old Issah S. Ali earned top honors, sweeping five set matches to claim the singles title in the International Boys 14 and Under Asian Tennis Federation held in Bahrain from Oct. 2 to 9.

Featuring more than 60 players from across Asia (including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, Uzbekistan, and the Philippines), the tournament features the highest grade of competition for this age category.

Issah, 14, is the son of Aramcon Amear Ali.

Having begun playing tennis at age 8, Issah quickly excelled, earning the top ranking in the Kingdom in the 12 and under category. And his first-place finish set a new high-water mark for the Dhahran Junior Tennis Association (DJTA), to which he belongs.

"Issah is an extremely talented individual who is hard working and dedicated to tennis," said Khazaei. "The success to date reflects his passion and dedication and the support he has received from family, coaches, and Aramco Recreation."

Issah had a strong summer in leading up to the recent win, winning four tournaments.

"Issah's hard work, dedication and the blessings from God, are key factors for his success, which has been thoroughly supported by Aramco's Recreation Department, and Saudi Aramco Schools, which he currently attends in Dhahran," added Amear Ali.

### Leading by Example

Issah was awarded his trophy by HE Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Khalifa of Bahrain. The DJTA really hopes that Issah's success will inspire the younger members to fol-



Issah S. Ali, 14-year-old son of Aramcon Amear Ali, recently captured top honors at a prestigious 14 and Under tournament in Bahrain.

low in his footsteps and add further joy for DJTA and Aramco's community as a whole.

The objective of DJTA is to promote the game of tennis through recreational and competitive programs for members within the Aramco Dhahran community. The DJTA is responsible for providing an enjoyable, enriching and developmental

program for over 350 children between the ages of 6 to 16.

The DJTA calendar provides weekly group coaching and a tennis league. There are monthly tennis tournaments, and in addition to regular ladder days, it also provides the most advanced players the opportunity to compete in national and international tournaments.