



Sharifa Al Harthy makes it to the Forbes Middle East 2014 Most Powerful Arab Women List



Petrogas spreads its wings to Europe

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• If you wish to contribute in the next issue, please email us at [marcom@mbholdingco.com](mailto:marcom@mbholdingco.com) with an outline of what you wish to contribute.

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# Chairman's Message



“ *Being a responsible corporate is an important pillar in the MB Holding Group's foundation and I hope to see other companies also contribute more actively.* ”

Dear Colleagues,

The last quarter of 2014 has been an exciting one with several key developments and processes reaching fruition.

The MB Holding Group officially launched the 'Dr Mohammed Barwani Msc Chair Programme' in association with Miami University. The policy and programme is accessible to all employees across our Oman operations however the final selection will be based on both quantitative and qualitative parameters and will be assessed by a management 'Scholarship' panel. Good education is one of the most important and sustainable gifts that one can give in life. Through this programme, the Company is committed to fulfilling its endeavour in nurturing and developing promising employees who will assume senior leadership positions within the Group.

The Group also launched new improved HR policies such as new travel policy, leave policy amongst other policies aimed at creating greater transparency between the management and employees.

For the first time this year, MB Holding conducted Family Day at Shangri La Barr al Jissah Resort & Spa. The event started with a safety briefing from the hotel and the commencement of several games and activities for both adults and children. There were several team building games for both men and women which they thoroughly enjoyed. Post lunch, there was a special award ceremony felicitating employees who have been working with the company for 5 and 10 years respectively. It is always heartwarming to see employees who have been in the company for so long and have contributed to its growth.

MB Petroleum Services (MBPS) recently received the prestigious OHSAS 18001 certification for its standards in Occupational Health and Safety Management System. The company is now

internationally recognized for its high level of standards in HSE which is aligned to OHSAS 18001 and monitored with strict parameters that are used globally. Its subsidiary, Gulf Drilling LLC also received the ISO 9001:2008 compliant certification by DNV Business Assurance Management Systems. This certification is valid for all services of onshore drilling for the oil & gas sector in the Sultanate of Oman. To receive this certification, both MBPS as well as Gulf Drilling LLC implemented an effective quality management system complying with the requirements of this standard. I am certain that they will raise their standards by incorporating best industry practices.

Petrogas E&P has undertaken several social activities which are aimed at supporting communities within which they operate. Being a responsible corporate is an important pillar in the MB Holding Group's foundation and I hope to see other companies also contribute more actively.

On the personal front, I am very happy to note that Sharifa has been named the 6th Most Powerful Arab Woman in Forbes Middle East's 2014 listing of the 200 Most Powerful Arab Women. She has been an integral part of the company since its inception and has actively supported in developing it into one of the biggest multinational organisations globally. For me it is also a matter of personal pride and I look forward to her valuable contribution in the future as well.

I hope that each and every one of you has a productive and fruitful 2015!

Regards & Good Luck!

**Dr. Mohammed Al Barwani**  
**Chairman, MB Holding Company LLC.**

# Sharifa Al Harthy makes it to the Forbes Middle East 2014 Most Powerful Arab Women

*Sharifa Mohammed al Harthy, Vice-Chairperson MB Holding was named the 6th Most Powerful Arab Woman in Forbes Middle East's 2014 listing of the 200 Most Powerful Arab Women - Family Business category. The prestigious ranking extends from Algeria in North Africa to Yemen in the Arabian Peninsula.*

Forbes ranking included family businesses, as well as those set up by enterprising first generation entrepreneurs. To create this ranking, Forbes considered privately held companies and used published financial statements and official websites. Each respective company was then contacted and asked to provide further detailed information with regard to the candidates' Degree of power associated with the position; years of professional experience; family generation the individual belongs to (in the case of family businesses only); individual's media interaction and online presence; number of years in operation; number of countries in which the organisation has operations and number of employees.

There were 3 distinct categories: '200 Most Powerful Arab Women 2014: Executive Management', '200 Most Powerful Arab Women 2014: Government' and '200 Most Powerful Arab Women 2014: Family Business'. She ranked an impressive 6th in the latter. Forbes also acknowledged her role as the Chairperson of Mohammed Al Barwani Charity Foundation. The foundation aims to provide scholarships to students who are covered by the social welfare scheme, support patients who require medical treatment locally or abroad (covered by the social welfare scheme), support families under the social care (insurance) scheme, offer humanitarian aid in cases of emergency & disasters and support Omani Women Associations.

Sharifa is rightly credited with playing a pivotal role in setting up



the MB Holding Group in 1982 and supporting its development into one of the biggest multinational organisations globally. She has been instrumental in advising the group companies on human resources policy and development. She also plays an active role in nurturing and developing government and community relations.

## ***The Ministry of Health recently felicitated MB Holding Company for its contribution towards helping the blood banks by donating blood***

The Ministry of Health recently felicitated MB Holding Company for its contribution towards helping the blood banks by donating blood. MB Holding Company conducts a blood donation drive at its Azaiba Clinic every year.



# Chairman, participates in the Open Minds Forum



Industry leaders, thought gurus and extraordinary minds from across the world participated in the recently concluded 'Oman Minds Forum', held for the first time in the Sultanate of Oman. The two day thought leadership forum engaged participants through key note speeches by world renowned speakers, interactive discussions and networking sessions. Chairman, Dr Mohammed Al

Barwani, took centre stage on day 2 of the forum in a session that was moderated by Sheikh Khalfan Al Esry. In his session, the Chairman spoke about the need to synergise, motivate and educate (SME) young Omani entrepreneurs as well as the role of the corporate sector in shaping the nation. Talking about his entrepreneurial success, Dr Barwani said, "Go with your gut feeling. When your gut

says something is wrong, do not let other people make you believe otherwise. Also, have patience and don't rush into things. Think about what you want to do and take calculated risks."

At the end of his session, he expressed joy at being invited to the forum. The two-day forum was held at the Oman Auditorium of Al Bustan Palace Hotel (a Ritz Carlton Hotel).



# 44

MB Holding  
Group  
celebrates  
National  
Day at its  
headquarters



***The MB Holding Group celebrated the 44th National Day at its headquarters in Azaiba. The day was marked with festivities and a special lunch being served for all employees.***

The entire office was decorated in National colours with flags draped around the front facade of the office and streamers and balloons aplenty. In his opening speech, Said Al Jabri, Director - Corporate Operations, thanked His Majesty for the glorious Renaissance and



wished for his speedy recovery. He also expressed his loyalty to Oman on behalf of the MB Holding employees. There was a special traditional dance performance by the Al Mukhaini

band (who hail from Suwaiq) to commemorate the National Day. The song and dance performance was well received by all employees.



# *Usama Barwani appointed CEO of Petrogas E&P*

Usama Barwani has recently been appointed as the new CEO of Petrogas E&P, the exploration & production (of oil & gas) arm of the MB Holding Group. Usama takes over from Jean Denis Bouvier who was its earlier CEO.

Apart from his new role at Petrogas E&P, Usama is also the Managing Director of United Engineering Services as well as Director at MB Holding Company. He has obtained a B.Sc. in Petroleum Engineering from Tulsa University (USA) and M.Sc. (Energy, Trade and Finance) from City University, London. After completing his Petroleum Engineering he was employed with Daleel Petroleum for two years and has gained experience in the operation and management of the E&P business. He has attended numerous courses, seminars and conferences around the world.

Mohammed Al Barwani, Chairman, MB Holding Group, said, "Prior to being appointed as the CEO of Petrogas E&P, Usama also held senior positions at United Engineering Services and MB Holding Company. He brings new ideologies that are required to steer the company into its new phase of growth and development. I am confident that he will do well in this role by further consolidating the company's position in the global arena."

Talking about his appointment as CEO of Petrogas E&P, Usama added, "I am humbled to be given this role and responsibility. I look forward to working with our dedicated employees to further the company's market leadership and growth by enhancing existing practices and embracing new ones."

Usama is also on the Board of Directors of Taager Finance Company SAOG, an independent leasing entity and is Chairman of Flexible Industrial Packaging Co. SAOG, a company engaged in the manufacture of flexible packaging, each of which are publicly



traded on the Muscat Securities Market. He joins the company at an exciting time, with skilled and competent professionals increasingly playing a central role as change agents within organisations, addressing the challenges and opportunities created in moving to a sustainable economy.

Established in 1999, Petrogas E&P is the holding company for MB Group's Exploration and Production (E&P) assets in Oman, India and Egypt. Petrogas E&P subsidiaries are engaged in the full range of Oil & Gas activities from exploration through appraisal, development and production.

## *New CEO addresses his team*

Petrogas E&P, held a gathering of all its employees to welcome their new CEO, Usama Barwani on board. He was welcomed by Mohammed Al Ghufaily, HR Manager, Petrogas E&P after which Usama took to the stage. He gave a brief

introduction about himself and shared his thoughts on the way forward for Petrogas. This was followed by a healthy discussion where he interacted with the employees and answered their questions.







Usama Al-Barwani CEO, Petrogas E&P LLC (sitting third from left) along with the Petrogas Europe Management Team

## Petrogas spreads its wings to Europe Chevron's oil & gas entities

***In 2014, Petrogas purchased all the outstanding shares of Chevron Exploration and Production Netherlands B.V. (CEPN), including its subsidiary Chevron Transportation B.V. (CT) later renamed Petrogas E&P Netherlands B.V. (PEPN) and Petrogas Transportation B.V. (PT). CEPN was a 100% subsidiary of Chevron Netherlands Holdings B.V. Accordingly Petrogas registered its subsidiary in the Netherlands, Petrogas Europe (PGE) (registered as Petrogas International E&P Coöperatief U.A.), to manage its assets in the Netherlands. PGE is also responsible to further enhance the company portfolio of Exploration and Production assets in Europe and the region.***

The purchase includes operating working interests in 11 blocks in the Dutch sector of the North Sea. This includes seven blocks, with working interests ranging from 23.5% to 34.1%, which make up the A/B Gas Project. Also included are working interests ranging from 46.7% to 80% in three blocks that contain other producing fields and a 100%

working interest in the P2 exploration block.

Petrogas values the talent pool of employees at PEPN and currently employs 189 personnel including 127 employees and 62 regular contractors in offshore and onshore positions. The company will continue to develop and add further value

to its current assets.

PEPN owns an operated interest in the A and B Blocks (including the recently acquired A15 and B17 licences), Q1 Block (including the Helm, Helder, Hoorn and Haven fields), P9 Horizon field (straddling P9a and P9c), Halfweg field (straddling Q1 and Q2c) and



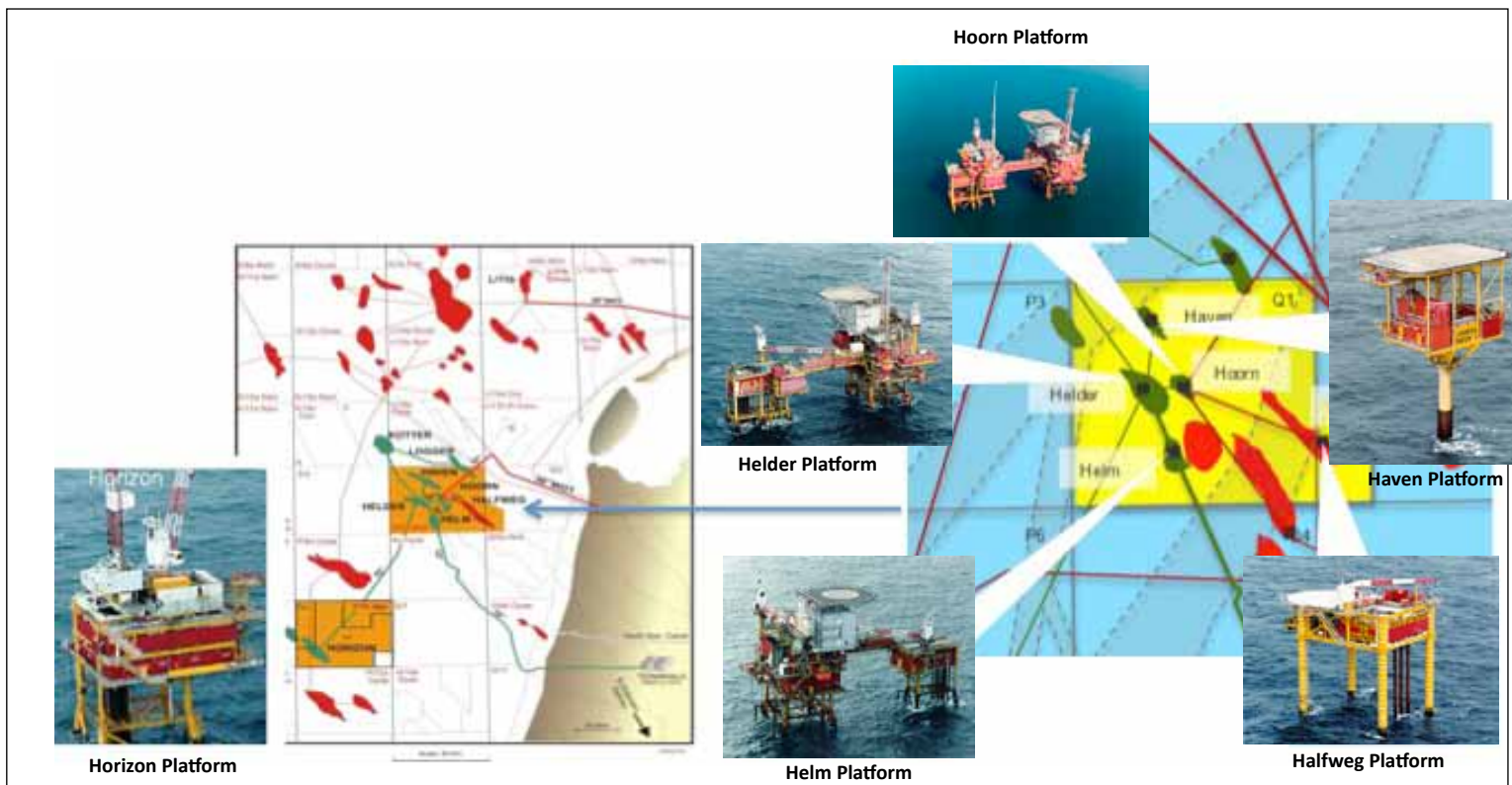
## - enters the Netherlands by acquiring in the Netherlands

the P02 exploration block.

The AB platforms and infrastructure, the Q1 pipeline system, the P9 pipeline and certain equipment at the Horizon platform are owned by PT. PT receives tariffs and opex recovery from the users of these facilities (including PEPN).

PEPN has been active in the Netherlands since the mid-1960s and producing oil since 1982 (then operated by Unocal). The first production from the Helm and Helder platforms in block Q1 took place in 1982 and a grand celebration took place in 2012 to mark a significant milestone of 30 years of offshore oil production.





**P/Q Fields and Platforms operated by Petrogas**

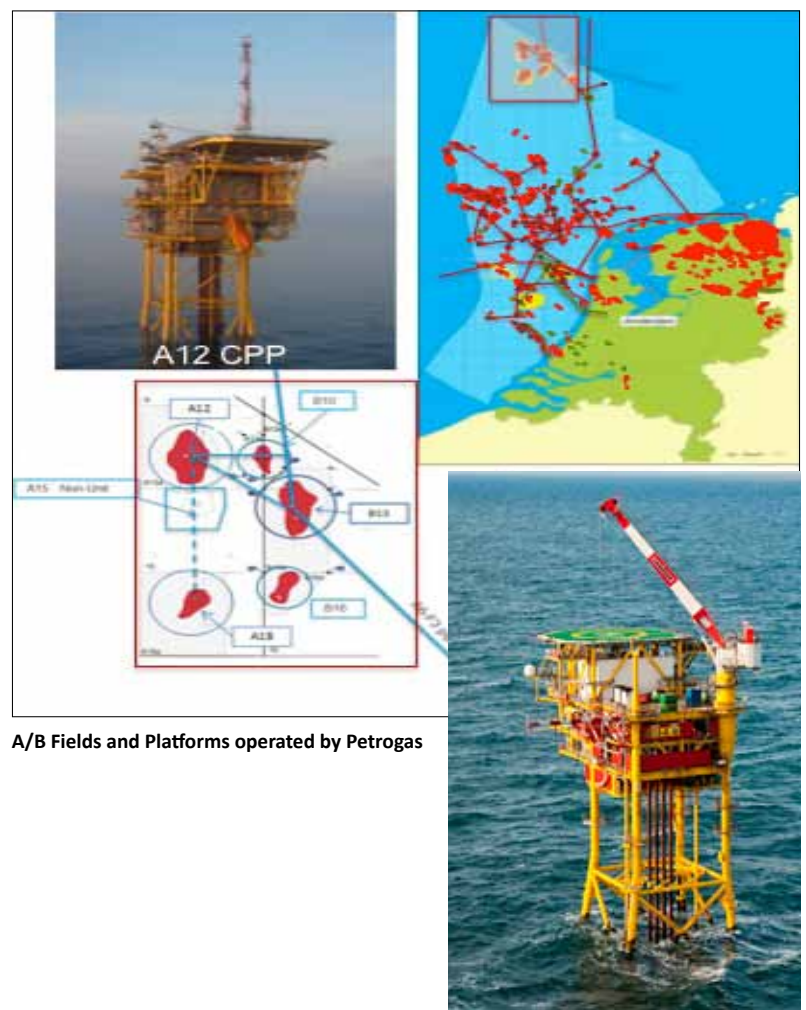
Currently there are 6 platforms in the P/Q fields operated by Petrogas. Chevron acquired Unocal and its interests in the Netherlands in 2005 and in November 2014 Petrogas acquired it from Chevron. In 2005, the company and its partners were granted production licenses enabling the development of A/B shallow gas fields in the Dutch North Sea.

A central processing platform and an export pipeline were installed in Block A12 in 2007. The first gas production was achieved in December 2007 and since then the B13 (unmanned) production platform has been commissioned and brought online as of December 2011.

The development of the A18 field is currently ongoing and the fabrication of the A18 platform is underway. The pipeline from the future position of the A18 platform to the A12 Central Processing Platform was successfully laid in position mid-2014. In the third quarter of 2015, it is expected that the A18 Platform will be transported to its future position and installed. Three production wells will then be drilled and first gas production from A18 is expected shortly afterwards.

In December 2013, the company acquired two blocks from Centrica Production Netherlands. In block A15a (production license), Petrogas has a working interest of 27% and in block B17a (exploration license), Petrogas has a working interest of 23.5%.

In 2014, total average daily production was in the tune of 2,400 barrels of crude oil (~1,950 net) and about 117 million cubic feet of natural gas (~40 million net). The barrel oil equivalent daily production net to the company was in the tune of 8,800 boepd.



**A/B Fields and Platforms operated by Petrogas**

# *MB Holding Group celebrated Omani Women's day*



MB Holding Group celebrated Omani Women's Day by surprising its women employees with a token of appreciation for all their hard and commitment towards work. A special memento was also presented to Sharifa Al Harthy, Vice Chairperson, by Said Al Jabri, Director - Corporate Operations.



# MB Holding Group employees participate in the 9th Women's Bowling Tournament

The Ministry of Sports (Women Sport Activity Department) recently organised the 9th Women's Bowling Tournament at the Oman Bowling Center. Many companies such as Royal Air Force Oman, Oman Electricity Transmission Company, Ministry of Sports, Omran as well as several subsidiaries of MB Holding participated in this event. Each team comprised four players with one spare. The score card was divided into 4 aspects: individual score, partner players, team players on each day while on the fourth day, the top 16 teams proceeded to compete as 'Master Player'.

Shamsa Rashid Al Shukairy from MB Holding won third place as an individual player. Team UES won second place and Daleel Petroleum won third place in the 'team' category.



# *MB Holding Group Blood Donation Drive a success*

The MB Holding Group held yet another blood donation drive at its head office in Azaiba recently. The drive, which is an annual event, garnered a good turnout of employees from across the group. It was held in association with the Central Blood Bank at the Department of Blood Services and the MB Clinic.

To encourage greater participation, an internal awareness campaign was conducted across the group. Dr Yahya Abdul Gawad, Chief Medical Officer, MB Holding Company LLC, said, "This is the 7th year that we have been conducting the blood donation drive at our office. Medically speaking, blood donation enhances the production of new red blood cells and reduces the risk of heart diseases. It energizes the body and gives one a sense of fulfillment by actively contributing to a noble cause."

Said Al Jabri, Director-Corporate Operations, MB Holding, said, "Donating blood is a noble way to serve humanity, especially those who are in critical need of blood. The need for blood by patients being treated for injuries, routine surgeries and diseases is ongoing and must be met every day. Hence we undertake this campaign annually."

The MB Clinic has been conducting the blood donation drive on a regular basis and also encourages employees to get regular checkups in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle.



# The sound of music



**Jean Luc, General Manager Design & Construction, Musstir discusses his love for Oud and all things music in a fun conversation with the Marcomm team...**

It's true when they say - music is universal and has no boundaries. Most of us have experienced the sheer impact music has on our mind and soul. Music transcends borders of time and space and connects at a level that most people probably cannot comprehend. Ask Jean Luc, General Manager Design & Construction, Musstir and he will concur!

Despite having received his formal education from Institut Supérieur d'Architecture de l'Etat-La Cambre, in Architecture and CEPAC – Solvay Business School, Université Libre de Bruxelles in Business Management from Brussels, Belgium along with a complimentary Diploma in Islamic Studies from Université Libre de Bruxelles; Jean Luc was always musically inclined. He managed to play some instruments with friends who were interested in Celtic folk music as well as in the band of the Academie des Beaux-Arts in Brussels. "Playing a musical instrument has always been a wish and a dream for me," he fondly adds.

However this stimulus was enough to ignite the hidden passion for music and during his first stint at Morocco he purchased an Oud. He remembers, "After I left Belgium in 1986 to go and work in Morocco, I was exposed to Arabic music and started liking it. I became a fan of Marcel Khalife, a well-known Lebanese oudist, composer and singer. Eventually I bought an Oud by the end of my first stay in Morocco but went back to Belgium soon after." He could not really pursue his hobby much once back in Belgium.

Another work assignment took him to Cairo in 1998 and this time he started learning playing the Oud a lot more seriously. First at the Zamalek Music School and then for a few months with Nasser Shamma, a famous Iraqi Oud player who established 'Bayt El Oud' at the Cairo Opera.

Later on, when working as Construction Manager in Abu Dhabi, he took lessons with Ali Hassan, another well-known Iraqi Oudist who studied in the Baghdad Conservatory. By

After office hours - Jean Luc





now, having fallen in love with this classical instrument, he also grabbed the opportunity of a distance learning programme offered by Dr. Salem Abdul Kareem (he was a teacher at the Baghdad Conservatory) to perfect his skills further.

Although, he currently works as General Manager Design & Construction and oversees all projects developed by Musstir, when asked about his favourite renditions, he quickly rattles off a few well-known names - 'Musica Orfa' by Jameel Bashir (Iraq), 'Samai Nahawand' by Masoud Jamil (Turkey), 'Itr Al Ghajar' by Anouar Brahem (Tunisia), 'Resonance' by Driss El Maloumi (Morocco) and 'The Water Wheel' by Hamza El Din (Sudan).

"I spend my leisure time playing the Oud. It's what makes me happy," he quips, when asked about his favourite pastime. He is happy with the way music is promoted in Oman and feels that the Government is doing well to promote art & culture among Omanis. "Music/musicology is taught in the Sultanate at the University level and excellent Omani musicians regularly perform in Muscat.

There is an association that teaches and promotes Oud playing (Jamiat Hawat El Oud) and the recently opened Royal Opera House Muscat offers excellent and diversified programmes," he says.

Even though a lot of music today is digitally enhanced and thus loses its charm, the Oud still retains the tradition high notes. He explains, "From a musicological and technical point of view Middle Eastern music cannot be performed with fretted instruments (like the guitar), instrument with fixed notes (trumpet, saxophone, piano) or with electronic instruments that are calibrated on the 'equal temper'. The equal temper is a shortcut which the whole classic Western music theory (the 'Harmony') is based on. It cuts

(mistakenly) the octave ( the range of musical notes between the first note of a scale and the last one) into equals half-tones, while other musical theories and traditions rely on natural intervals, as defined by the Greek philosophers and relayed by the Arab authors like Al Kindi, Al Farabi, Mawsili."

"Non-fretted instruments or instruments with mobile frets like some Turkish ones are fundamental to the essence of Middle Eastern music. In that perspective, charm cannot be lost," he concludes.



# MB Holding conducts its first HR Open Day



**MB Holding recently conducted its first ever HR Open Day at its new Training Centre, in the MB headquarters in Azaiba. The engrossing discussion based half day event included various knowledge sharing initiatives undertaken by the Group.**

With a commencement note by Said Al Jabri, Director - Corporate Operations, the day kicked off with outlining the objectives of the session, the future endeavours to be undertaken by HR as a functional body as well as the journey the Group has taken on till date.

The programme included presentations made by various HR managers of their respective businesses. In total, seven organizations made their presentations, MB Holding, MBPS, United Engineering Services (UES), Petrogas, Mawarid Mining, Musstir, and MB Informatics (MBI). Each of the HR managers articulated their business standings, present ongoing initiatives and future plans & challenges.

This was followed by an in-depth session on Talent Management by Badran Al Hinai. He spoke at length about the importance of selecting the right talent and nurturing it. He also shared his plans



to take the company forward in terms of talent management and resourcing and was followed by an in-depth question and answer session.

The Open Session, that followed, allowed the participants to share thoughts, discuss and ask questions to the presenters on the various ideas and topics raised. A



Lean Management initiative was rolled out by Stephen Brass, Head of Learning & Development, which shared the fundamentals of the topic and the possible way forward for the organization.

The highlight of the day was the launch of 'Dr. Mohammed Barwani MSc Chair Programme'

in conjunction with Miami University, USA by Chairman, Dr. Mohammed Al Barwani and Vice-Chairperson, Sharifa Al Harthy. This initiative, will allow employees within the group to attain scholarships to further their education.

Through this programme, the Company

is committed to fulfilling its endeavour in nurturing and developing promising employees who will assume senior leadership positions within the Group.

The programme ended with closing remarks and acknowledgement of everyone's contribution by Said Al Jabri.



# *Dr. Mohammed Barwani MSc Chair Programme launched in conjunction with Miami University, USA*



Earlier this year, at a special function, Chairman, Dr Mohammed Al Barwani unveiled the 'Dr Mohammed Barwani MSc Chair Programme'.

This programme has been launched in association with Miami University, USA as part of the company's continuous efforts in developing and nurturing its employees. Each year, the company will offer an Msc scholarship grant to one staff member across its operations in Oman. The application criteria, selection process & final selection will be based on both quantitative and qualitative measures and will be undertaken by a management 'Scholarship' panel.

Speaking on the occasion, Said Al Jabri, Director - Corporate Operations, said, "We are extremely happy and proud to launch this programme across the MB Holding Group operations in Oman.

This prestigious programme is specially designed for people who want to progress in their career and also aims to further development opportunities that support localization efforts of the company. We encourage all employees to apply for this

programme following discussion with their respective managers."

To receive details of this programme and to apply for the same, one needs to get in touch with the respective company's HR department.



# MB Holding HR team launch several campaigns

**The 7 wastes of lean**

The waste in Lean can be memorized using the acronym - **TLMWOOD**

- Transportation**: Transportation is the unnecessary movement of raw materials, parts, paperwork, data and finished goods.
- Inventory**: Inventory is maintaining excess quantities of raw materials, parts, and work in process, paperwork, data and finished goods.
- Motion**: Motion is unnecessary human movement. Unnecessary movement (walking, reaching, lifting, etc.) wastes time and energy.
- Waiting**: Waiting waste is when the progress to the next process or step is hindered resulting in an idyl situation.
- Overproduction**: Overproduction is producing more than is needed – before it is needed.
- Overprocessing**: Over processing is doing more work than is really necessary, or making work more complex than is necessary.
- Defects**: Defects are producing parts or services which don't meet the customer specifications. They create repair or rework which wastes time and resources at every level of the organization.

*In lean organisations, everyone relentlessly hunts out waste and minimizes or eliminates it.*

**Go Lean**

**Session on PUNCTUALITY**

"Punctuality is one of the cardinal business virtues: always insist on it in your subordinates."  
*Don Marquis*

- This session is open to all employees within the Group.
- This is a walk-in presentation and will not require any registration.

**Awareness Level Program**  
Keeping in mind our continued effort to provide common topic programs, this session is part of the campaign to address, understand and implement what affects us all. Covering the topic at a generic level and addressing cross sectional understanding of the topic, is the main objective of the program.

**The Program will address:**

- Understand the nuances of time and punctuality
- Its effect on business and on others
- How is this behavior formed and cultivated?
- How can we collectively change this behavior?

Conducted through group discussion with minimum presentation, this interactive session will take place between **10:30am and 12pm** on the **4th September** at the **Sahma Meeting Room, Petrogas Office**. Lunch will be served following the presentation.

If it were your own business, would you not work with **integrity & honesty?**

Avoid **Conflict of interest**

- Dedicate your time to performing company duties
- Declare any business which is in direct competition with your existing job
- Don't get involved in the hiring of immediate family members

Let's instill a sense of ownership among us...  
**TOGETHER WE CAN!**  
*'Work is Worship'*

Aimed at bringing about a sense of ownership and responsibility among employees, the Human Resources department spearheaded by Said Al Jabri, Director - Corporate Operations recently launched an internal campaign on Punctuality, Conflict of Interest and Anti-Corruption. This campaign was launched across all group companies.

Launched in phases, the three crucial topics spoke of the importance of working with honesty and integrity and report any untoward behaviour to the respective superior immediately. The posters covered the topic at a generic level and addressed a cross sectional understanding of the core topics. The primary agenda of this successful campaign was to instill a sense of belonging among the employees that 'together we can'!

MB Holding & MB Petroleum Services also launched the Lean Campaign as part of the lean initiative campaign. The campaign aims to enhance process efficiency as emphasized by our corporate values. Lean Management is a set of

If it were your own business, would you... offer or accept a **bribe?**

**NO FOR CORRUPTION**

- Forbid the authorisation, offer, promise, payment or giving of money or anything else of value to business contacts or government officials
- Forbid the solicitation, acceptance or receipt of any bribe or kickback
- Report immediately if someone tries to bribe you

Let's instill a sense of ownership among us...  
**TOGETHER WE CAN!**  
*'Work is Worship'*

management principles which offers tools and techniques to eliminate waste and provides most value from the customer's perspective, while consuming the fewest resources and utilizing the talents of people who do the work. The main advantages of lean management

include:

- Provides a higher return on assets
- Reduces costs
- Increases efficiency: same base and same number of personnel
- Provides better service quality
- Reduces non-value added products

Lean processes provide a way to do more with less – less human effort, less equipment, less time and less space – while coming closer and closer to providing customers with exactly what they want, when they want it, where they want it and at a price that meets their cost/value expectations.

In line with the overall HR strategy of providing an engaging work environment that enhances business performance, the Human Resources department also conducted and 'Employee Engagement Survey' across MB Holding, Petrogas E&P, Musstir and United Engineering Services. All employees were encouraged to take the online survey which would establish baseline data for further improving company's performance.

# Gulf Drilling receives ISO 9001:2008 certification

Gulf Drilling LLC, a fully owned subsidiary of MB Petroleum Services LLC Oman has been certified as ISO 9001:2008 compliant by DNV Business Assurance Management Systems. This certification is valid for all services of onshore drilling for the oil & gas sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

To receive this certification, Gulf Drilling LLC implemented an effective quality management system complying with the requirements of this standard.

On receiving the certification, Salim Al Harthy, CEO, Gulf Drilling LLC, said, "DNV is one of the world's leading certification bodies/registrars offering the latest in management systems certification services. With this certification under our belt, we have already commenced our journey towards increased business improvement and excellence."

He added, "The ISO 9001:2008 relates to quality management standards with the objective of ensuring that we provide the best quality products & services to our customers. This is an assurance to our clients that the company meets the minimum standards and has the necessary control systems to ensure that it meets and exceeds its contract requirements. One of the key benefits of a properly implemented and managed ISO 9001:2008 system is the establishment of clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all personnel across the company. Thus, all employees have a clear understanding of what is expected of them."

Gulf Drilling LLC was formed in 2013 with the objective of providing quality services while nurturing and developing the Omani talent pool in the drilling services sector in the sultanate.



# Mohammed Barwani Charity Foundation spreads cheer amongst children at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital



Recently, the Mohammed Al Barwani Charity Foundation (MBCF) brought extra joy to the children in the pediatric ward of Sultan Qaboos University Hospital. In its efforts to provide support to patients, the Foundation distributed goody bags among children across the wards. The wards were decorated with colourful balloons to make it festive and there was a clown who brought smiles to the children's faces with his antics.

Sharifa Al Harthy, Chairperson, MBCF, said, "The Holy Month of Ramadhan is a time of giving. We believe that children are the future and what better way to celebrate this Holy Month than bringing a smile to their beautiful faces. One of our key agenda at the Foundation is to support Omani Youth be it through education, medical assistance or supporting families under the social welfare scheme. We are glad that the children at Sultan Qaboos

University Hospital are happy."

Iman Al Barwani, Manager - Corporate Communications & CSR, Petrogas E&P, added, "This event is supported by our Foundation as an extension of continuous support and collaboration extended through our CSR programmes to Sultan Qaboos University Hospital in appreciation of its efforts in sustaining the overall health of citizens in Oman."



## **MB Holding Group & Mohammed Al Barwani Charity Foundation offer support to citizens of Gaza**

In its ongoing efforts to support Gaza victims and aid relief work, MB Holding Group and the Mohammed Al Barwani Charity Foundation pledged funding to the Oman Charitable Association. The money is part of an initiative undertaken by the Oman Charitable Association and will be sent to Gaza. While the Mohammed Al Barwani Charity Foundation pledged RO 20,000, the MB Holding Group employees also donated from their August salary.

Sharifa Al Harthy, Chairperson, Mohammed Al Barwani Charity Foundation, said, "This aid aims to provide provisions to the Palestinian people living through a horrific

humanitarian crisis. Any such conflict has medium to long term impact on the local population both physically and mentally. A donation through Mohammed Al Barwani Charity Foundation is a commitment to address these needs and provide resources to a fully integrated rehabilitation process."

Iman Al Barwani, Vice Chairperson, Mohammed Al Barwani Charity Foundation, who handed over the cheque to the Oman Charitable Association on behalf of the Foundation, added, "Due to the difficult humanitarian conditions experienced by the people in Gaza, the Foundation has allocated its support to provide some relief. We hope others also follow suit and

support the Palestinian people to alleviate their sufferings especially in areas of food, health and shelter."

The Mohammed Al Barwani Charity Foundation has been formed by the shareholders of the MB Group of Companies in 2011. It has been formed with the objective of supporting a number of activities including providing scholarships to needy students, providing support to families under the social care (insurance) scheme, needy patients who require medical treatment locally or abroad, providing humanitarian aid in cases of emergency & disasters and supporting Omani Women Associations.

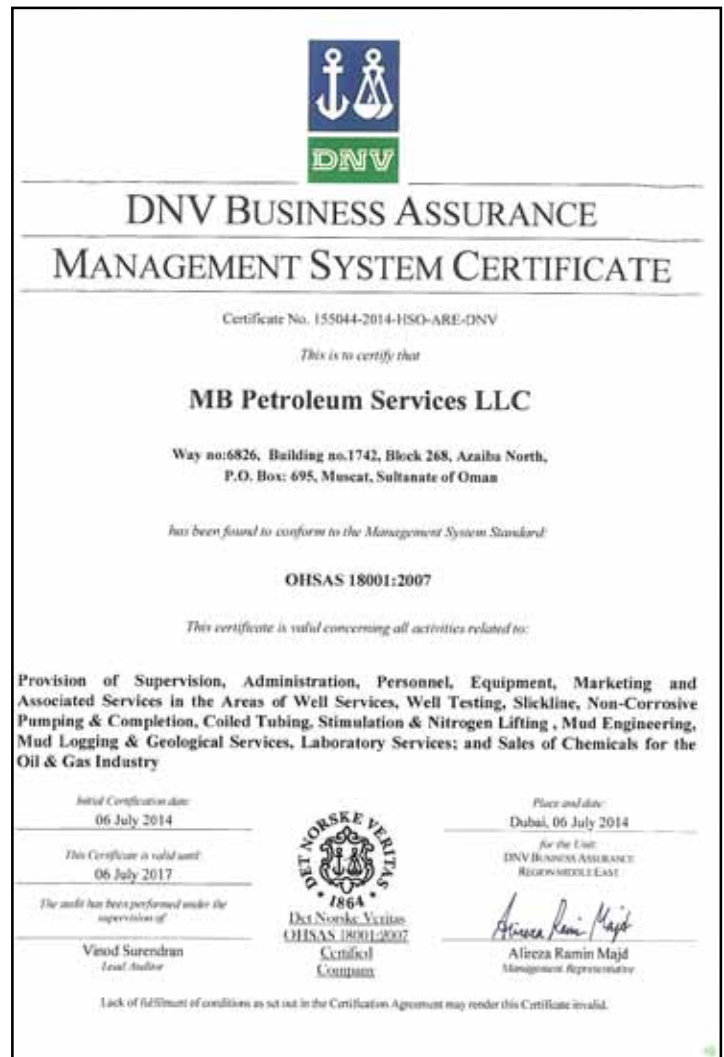


# MB Petroleum Services receives OHSAS 18001 certification

MB Petroleum Services, the integrated oilfield and drilling services division of MB Holding is OHSAS 18001 certified. This means that the company is now internationally recognized for its high standards in occupational health and safety management systems. OHSAS 18001 enables an organization to have control over and knowledge of all relevant hazards resulting from normal operations and abnormal situations and improve its performance.

Some benefits of this certification include reduction of accidents and incidences, staying abreast of relevant legislation and reduce the likelihood of prosecution and fines, standardization of HSE management systems keeping in mind international procedures and rules. It also allows the company to demonstrate a serious commitment towards health and safety of its employees as well as the community at large.

Madhusudan Swami, CEO – Oman & Middle East, MBPS, said, “The OHSAS 18001 mark is a globally recognized symbol of our organization’s ongoing commitment to excellence, sustainability and reliability. Organizations of all kinds are increasingly concerned by achieving and demonstrating sound Occupational Health and Safety performance to their shareholders, employees, clients and other stakeholders by managing the hazards and improving the beneficial effects of their activities, products and services. We are very happy that MBPS has received this certification and this further reaffirms our commitment to stringent legislation and measures to foster Occupational Health and Safety protection and welfare.”





MB Holding Company LLC

More than 5000 employees across 20 countries  
united in Vision & Mission



## MB Holding Group supports SME's at the Business Opportunities Forum 2014

***The MB Holding Group lent its support to Small & Medium Enterprises (SME) at the recently concluded Business Opportunities Forum 2014 held at the Oman Exhibition Centre. The Group was represented by its key subsidiaries MB Petroleum Services, Petrogas E&P and United Engineering Services.***

MB Petroleum Services (MBPS) also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Compass Oil Services. The MoU was signed by Khamis Al Hinai, GM – Oman, MBPS and Hakim Al Abri, Managing Director, Compass Oil Services in the presence of senior MBPS officials. On the occasion of the signing ceremony, Khamis said, "As one of the leading oilfield services company in the Sultanate, we support the In-Country Value programme based on strengthening Oman's economy, creating employment for qualified & skilled Omanis, as well as development of small and medium enterprises. In taking this a step ahead, we have partnered with Compass Oil Services who will provide us with reliable and cost-effective drilling solutions. We are confident of their capabilities and wish them all the success."

Hakim Al Abri, Managing Director, Compass Oil Services, said, "We are humbled that a leading oilfield services company such as MB Petroleum Services has partnered with us for their

drilling requirements. As an SME, our focus has always been in providing the best in class service and we will do our best to meet and exceed their requirements by providing superior quality service."

The second edition of this forum, in continuation to its first edition held in Northern Batinah Governorate, aims at strengthening the level of cooperation between the large companies in private sector and SME through providing tenders and contracts. Besides the participation of the companies from private sector, this year's forum attracted wide participation from various Arab, East Asia, Africa and European companies giving a global touch to this forum that will remain an attraction point for foreign investors who are interested in establishing trade partnership with Omani businessmen.

The conference was held under the auspices of His Highness



Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture and organised by the Oman Chamber of Commerce

and Industry, Oman Oil Company and Public Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises.

# MB Petroleum Services conducts Town Hall meeting



As part of its ongoing efforts to bring about greater dialogue and transparency between the employees and the management, MB Petroleum Services (MBPS) conducted yet another Town Hall meeting at the Park Inn. The meeting was chaired by Madhusudan Swami, CEO – MENA in the presence of senior MBPS employees.

The objective of the Town Hall meeting has been to consult staff on businesses progress, discuss increased safety standards and procedures as well as recommend a way forward for the company as a whole. This allows the employees to interact directly with the senior management as well as align their work principles towards a common objective.



## *Petrogas E&P offers its support to the Oman Association for Disabled in Muscat*



***Petrogas E&P, the exploration & production of oil & gas arm of MB Holding Group places strong emphasis in giving back to the community within which it operates. In keeping with the broad categories identified and finalized by its parent company MB Holding Company, Petrogas E&P has lent its support to the Oman Association for Disabled in Muscat.***

Oman Association for Disabled was registered in 1995 pursuant to a Ministerial Decision. It is a Non-Governmental Organisation established to provide support, education and recreational activities for people with disabilities. The association also works towards achieving a better understanding of the needs of people with disabilities in the wider community. As part of the agreement, Petrogas E&P will provide cerebral palsy wheel chairs, sports wheel chairs, steel wheel chairs and home care bed with mattress to the association.

Iman Al Barwani, Manager – Corporate Communications & CSR, said, “At Petrogas E&P, we always look at new ways in which we can give back to the community. The company is firmly supporting the cause of a socially sustainable society through the implementation of community development programmes such as this one.”



Yahya Al Amri, Chairman, Oman Association for Disabled, adds, “We would like to offer our heartfelt appreciation to Petrogas E&P for this kind gesture. Since our association is non-profit, we rely on the private sector companies to fund our activities and needs. Through this generous contribution, the company has proved that it cares for the community. I hope this gesture encourages other corporates to come forward and support our association.”

# Petrogas E&P participates in 2nd Annual Solar Oil Field Conference



During the International 2nd Annual Solar Oil Field Conference held in Shangri-La recently, Dr. Said Al Mufarji presented a well-received technical presentation on “Conceptualizing Solar Powered EOR in Petrogas operated heavy oil fields”.

The talk covered EOR (Enhanced Oil Recovery) appealing concepts that could benefit the heavy oil field developments if solar thermal technology could be further developed to suit demands. The primary focus was on Satellites Small Fields which could benefit from a mobile Solar powered CSS (Cyclic Steam Stimulation) technology with power storage for continual night operations. The main objective is to reduce and eventually avoid costly diesel fuel consumption for successful operations tested in three of Petrogas’s wells using a diesel powered boiler.

Attended by international solar power professionals and technology suppliers, the presentation touched upon and described all major thermal technologies applied today including Steam Flooding, SAGD (Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage), Downhole steam generation and viscosity reducing chemicals. It also covered all types of major solar power technologies used today: Solar Parabolic Trough, Solar Tower, CSP (Concentrated Solar Power), PV (Photovoltaic) as power source, central tower, etc... A considerable account was given on the ongoing concerns related



to the existing solar power technologies used in the EOR business. The major concerns discussed included:

- Weather related aspects resulting in inefficiency or added cost caused by dust, wind, mist, storm, etc.
- Absence of or limited power storage for night and cloudy days’ operation.
- Solar unit immobility for scattered fields.
- Limited reserve challenges. i.e. solar power capacity commitment for limited reserves volume.
- Reservoir modelling complexity for variable steam rates and various

temperature injection rates.

- Overall commercial justification for scattered small fields.

The conclusion was a call for a feasible solar powered EOR technology to enhance heavy oil production. The unit should be mobile with power storage suitable for a few scattered small fields.

The speaker acknowledged the professional support and permission from the management given by Azhar Al Kindi, COO, Petrogas E&P to present the topic and to the subsurface team headed by Arafah Al Harthi, Petrogas Rima.

# Petrogas E&P supports the National Breast Cancer Genetic Testing Programme at Royal Hospital



As part of its on-going efforts to aid scientific research and development which in turn will benefit the Omani society, Petrogas E&P, the exploration & production arm of MB Holding Group lent its support to the recently established National Breast Cancer Genetic Testing Programme at Royal Hospital.

Through this programme, the hospital aims to improve breast cancer treatment & management, screening & risk management strategies of breast associated mutations as well as decrease genetic costs associated with international laboratories. The contribution by Petrogas E&P will be utilized to purchase reagent kits and consumables required to carry out genetic tests on up to 50 patients with young age and/or strong history of breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer in Oman. Although majority of breast cancers occur sporadically, breast cancers can also occur due to inherited genetic mutations. Clinicians in Oman are noting increasing numbers of breast cancer cases among young women below the age of 40.



Moreover, in Oman, the peak age-range of breast cancer patients is between 41-50 years. This is in stark contrast to Western countries where the peak range is 60-70 years. Hence, it is important to use genetic testing to assess cancer risk in patients and their families as this has important implications for their treatment and cancer surveillance.

On the occasion of unveiling the programme, Iman Al Barwani, Manager – Corporate Communications & CSR, Petrogas E&P, said, “One of the best ways to beat cancer is early detection & diagnosis coupled with personalized medical management. The National Genetic Testing Center intends to

do the same thereby reducing the overall cost of the national healthcare system. It will also give women who are genetically predisposed a chance to early detection and cure.”

Dr Anna Rajab, Director, National Genetic Centre, added, “We are very thankful to Petrogas E&P for partnering with us in this initiative. The involvement of corporates in such initiatives is both beneficial and heartwarming as their contributions help us provide better and up-to-date services and screening facilities to our patients. We encourage more corporates to take the lead from Petrogas E&P and help us in building a healthy breast cancer free nation.”

# Petrogas Kahil team visits Block 55



Members of Petrogas Kahil team recently visited Block 55 along with representatives from ALSafa Environmental & Technical Services LLC. The main objective of this visit was to carry out initial baseline Climate Environmental Impact Assessment (CEIA) of the Block and compile necessary data from various sources and areas. The assessment included air quality monitoring data, in order to submit a comprehensive environmental report to the Ministry of Environment & Climate Affairs. This was done to obtain the necessary approvals for environmental

permits and to apply the necessary control measures towards any potential adverse environmental risks.

The general objective of the CEIA study is to identify and evaluate all significant impacts on the receiving environment as a result of the activities conducted within the framework of the proposed project and to develop appropriate management plans for the mitigation of all real and potential adverse impacts. The CEIA study also included preparation of Environmental Management

Plan (EMP) for 2D Seismic acquisition and exploration including obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals from the Ministry of Environment & Climate Affairs (MECA).

The visit was also accompanied by representatives from Ministry of Regional Municipalities & Water Resources and Ministry of Heritage & Culture to complete hydrology/hydro geology and archaeological survey of the area. Overall, the site visit met its objective to commence operations in Block 55 with fully statutory compliance.

## HSE CORNER

*MBPS HSE*

### *Hoist 14 and CT-6 complete 11 years without any lost time incident*

Hoist 14 and CT-6 complete 11 years without any lost time incident. Hoist 102 completes 6 years without any lost time incident, while CTU-4 and CTU7 complete

1 year without any lost time incident. The crew of each unit has performed exceptionally well in achieving these milestones, which reflects the consistent

approach of everyone in MBPS in following HSE policies, procedures and the safe practices by looking after themselves and most importantly looking after each other.



# *KMA designs and builds a double pump trailer for MBPS*

MB Petroleum Services recently commissioned KMA to produce high quality pumps for its well services job. The order was for a double pump trailer which would be used to carry out high-pressure well servicing jobs.

KOLLER designed and built a light, compact and highly efficient unit which showed an impressive degree of maintenance friendliness and met performance demands as well.

Mounted on a heavy-duty drop deck trailer, the unit has two SPM TWS 600 triplex pumps. Each pump is connected to an Allison automatic transmission and driven by a 585 HP Caterpillar Diesel engine. The fully air-conditioned operator's cab guarantees comfortable operation of all functions of the unit.



## *UES takes part in WSTA Gulf Water Conference*

United Engineering Services LLC (UES) took part in the 11th WSTA Gulf Water Conference organized by the 'Ministry of Regional Municipalities & Water Resources', and 'Oman Water Society'. This conference was also supported by 'The General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council'.

The Agency Sales division participated in the event in partnership with 'Jindal Saw' and 'Endress + Hauser' and displayed products that cater to Water industry.



## *Hyspec Engineering to relocate to Moorfield Industrial Estate*

Hyspec Engineering Holdings Ltd will relocate to new premises at Moorfield Industrial Estate in Kilmarnock, UK. This move will create 80 new jobs in Scotland as part of a multi-million pound expansion project, it was recently announced.

The investment also aims to increase the firm's manufacturing capabilities and contribute to an overall rise in revenue of almost 130% by 2018 to £28m. The firm has

been aided a £1.1m grant from the Scottish Government's investment agency Scottish Enterprise. Jim English, General Manager, Hyspec Engineering, said, "Kilmarnock has a number of high-profile projects that are contributing to the ongoing regeneration of the town and Hyspec's expansion and employment plans will add positively to that. This expansion is testament to the attractiveness of Scotland as a location for investors, thanks to the skills of our

people, a competitive cost base and a well-developed business infrastructure."

He added that the grant from the Scottish Enterprise will support the company's five-year plan. "It is our intention to grow our site by 100% in revenue terms, coupled with vertical integration in new advanced technologies, and securing an additional 84 engineering personnel, to a cost of £11m approximately, over the five-year period."

# KOLLER conducts photo contest amongst its employees



KOLLER Photo of the Year 2014



Award presentation by the General Managers W. Linnewedel (left) and M. Grahovac (right)



Sebastian within his normal working environment



To strengthen the motivation and the team spirit of the employees, the management had initiated the competition "KOLLER photo of the Year". Every employee was called for taking a photo of his colleagues at their everyday work. Under the submitted photos the best was selected. The photographed employee and the photographer won prizes.

This year's winner's photo shows employee

Sebastian Junge testing a double drum wireline container unit for our customer SGS. Sebastian has already finished his apprenticeship at Koller and since then he works in the assembly of the Koller business unit Well Servicing Products.

After a short time period he has appropriated specialist knowledge all around that product group. He also shares his knowledge and

gives machine instructions and trainings to customers. For some time, Sebastian was already working as a service engineer in Dubai.

After the working hours and in his recreation time Sebastian enjoys the outdoors. No matter if on the quad bike, on the bicycle at a downhill race or in winter on the snowboard, he enjoys to go fast through rough terrain.

# KOLLER organized canoeing tour for its employees



KOLLER recently organised a canoe trip for its employees as part of its motivational & team-building activity.

After a picnic and the draw of boat crews, the Canadian team canoes were unloaded and lowered into the water. With sporty dedication, employees rowed 12 kms down the river Aller and

provided numerous races where not everyone always remained dry. At temperatures greater than 30°C some employees also took the opportunity to swim alongside the boat and cool down.

On a stopover, two matches were performed. The crews competed in the tug of war and a balance game against each other. The tour ended at a boat house with a tribute to the winning team. Afterwards the employees were able to invigorate themselves at a barbecue and sit together for some time and share thoughts. All participants were impressed by the tour and thanked the management for a beautiful day.





## UES celebrates National Day with fervour

United Engineering Services celebrated the 44th National Day across their offices. The special day was marked with a ceremonial speech, cake cutting and lunch across all their branches. A highlight of the event was the felicitation of long serving employees of 5 & 10 years respectively.







## *MB Holding conducts its first annual Family Day*

***MB Holding recently conducted its first annual Family Day at the Shangri La Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa. The day began with an opening speech from Said Al Jabri, Director - Corporate Operations, MB Holding who commended the organizers for putting together a well-planned event.***

This was followed a safety briefing from the hotel and the commencement of several games and activities for both adults and children. The children were amazed with the sheer number of activities available to them which included face painting and henna, magic show, other assorted games, inflatable bouncy castle and slides, clowns etc. For the budding dancers, there was a Dj who belted some popular numbers!

There were several team building games for both men and women which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Post lunch, there was a special award ceremony felicitating employees who have been working with the company for 5 and 10 years respectively. The certificates were presented by the shareholders to the employees.

This was followed by a raffle draw which drew immense excitement because there were several big items to be won like iPhone 6, Samsung (S4 and Note), iPad, 40" Plasma TV, shopping



vouchers, hotel stay vouchers, dinner vouchers etc. At the end of the evening a huge cake in honour of the National Day was brought out and cut by Chairman & Vice Chairperson of MB Holding. This moment was received with thunderous applause and everybody went home with a smile on their faces!







# Our new team members!

## MB HOLDING COMPANY LLC



**Zuwaina Al Tuwiya**  
Translation & Media  
Support Officer



**Rakhaya Al Hinai**  
Staff Nurse



**Yousuf Al Hashmi**  
HR Business Partner-  
Administration & Travel



**Ali Hamed Al Amri**  
Government Liaison  
Officer

## UNITED ENGINEERING SERVICES LLC



**Hamood Al Balushi**  
Storekeeper



**Sultan Al-Maqbali**  
Graduate Trainee



**Somarajan Rajeev**  
Electrician



**Yarub Al Nabhani**  
Storekeeper



**Ahmed Al Hashimi**  
HR Officer



**Suleium Al Aasmi**  
Maintenance Manager



**Yousuf Al Nabhani**  
Graduate Trainee



**Abdullah Al Shanfari**  
Deputy Chief Operating  
Officer



**Abdullah Al Mahrooqi**  
Assistant Drilling  
Supervisor



**Majid Al Saadi**  
HSE Advisor



**Khamis Al Alawi**  
Drilling Field  
Superintendent



**Hussain Al Raqmi**  
Electrical  
Technician-Rima



**Jalila Al Wahaibi**  
Administration  
Assistant - Kahil



**Sara Al Rawahi**  
HSE Record Clerk & Data  
Analyst - E&P



**Elias Al Kharusi**  
Senior Exploration  
Geoscientist - E&P LLC



**Sultan Al Kharusi**  
Internal Auditor - E&P



**Munthir Al Battashi**  
Geologist - Kahil

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**Petrogas E&P**  
Exploration & Production  
of Oil & Gas



**MB Petroleum Services**  
Integrated Drilling &  
Oilfield Services



**Mawarid Mining**  
Mining & Exploration



**United Engineering Services**  
Oilfield, Marine & Defence  
Engineering Services

- MB Holding LLC is a group of companies that has evolved into one of the fastest growing and most versatile players in the oil & gas, and mining sector in the Middle East with presence in more than 20 countries.
- It comprises over 5000 professionals from more than 51 nationalities delivering significant value and success.
- The MB group makes significant investments in the development and training of its employees to enrich personal learning and continually build local organizational capacity.