



May - August 2013



UES has been awarded a 5 year extension by Occidental Mukhaizna LLC (50)

MB Holding Group felicitates its Long Serving Employees (4)



Mawarid Mining lends its support to the Oman Association for Disabled in Sohar (37)



Mohammed Al Barwani Charity Foundation provides scholarships to students (9)

Petrogas E&P extends its support to Muscat Autism Centre (32)



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

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



“Corporate Social Responsibility is central to our business and we will continue to nurture the communities within which we operate.”

Dear Colleagues,

It has been an interesting first half of 2013 to say the least. United Engineering Services (UES) has been recently awarded a 5 year extension on its work with Occidental Mukhaizna LLC for the Slotting Equipment and Related Services Contract. This is further credit to UES's reputation as a trusted and leading service provider for Sand Control Services in Oman and in the region.

One of the highlights of this quarter has been the MB Holding Group's Long Service Awards held in Muscat, Oman earlier this year. It was so good to see such a committed and loyal group of employees from various companies within MB Holding Group present. 70 employees were felicitated, grouped in categories of 15 years, 20 years and 25 years respectively. The Group is built on the dedication and loyalty of its many employees, and I would like to thank you all once again for your continued commitment and hard work.

MB Petroleum Services (MBPS) has maintained its focus on HSE. They have collectively achieved 4 million man-hours without lost injury time (LTI). This is an outstanding achievement and it once again reaffirms our commitment to protecting our employees who often work in challenging environments.

It is heartwarming to note the progress and contribution

made by our group companies in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility. Petrogas E&P has extended its support to the cause of Autism by supporting the Association of Early Intervention for Children with Disability and Muscat Autism Centre. UES and MBPS have continued their support to the 'Drive Safe Campaign' and 'Education and Empowerment of Omani Youth'. While UES has partnered with Shumou'a Al Maarifa School in Ibri, MBPS has lent it support to Al Imam Muhanna Bin Sultan School in the capital.

Our mining and exploration arm, Mawarid Mining LLC has also conducted a host of corporate social responsibility programmes. The company has offered support to the Oman Association of Disabled in Sohar as well as helped build new homes for people near the Safwa mine area. They have also built public halls in the villages of Riwaide, Al Ajeep, Arja, Rahab and Al Ghuzayn.

In our endeavour to grow responsibly, so far we have seen very positive achievements across the board. Corporate Social Responsibility is central to our business and we will continue to nurture the communities within which we operate.

Regards & Good Luck!

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

MB Holding Group serving employees



The MB Group of Companies held their third Long Service Awards function in April this year. The event was held at Intercontinental Hotel, Muscat and honoured employees from various group companies for their dedication, loyalty and commitment over the years.

The evening was a huge recognition to the 70 employees who through their dedication and commitment contributed to the growth of the group. They were grouped in the categories of 15 years, 20 years and 25 years respectively.

The heads of the various companies presented the long serving employees with a certificate and a memento as a token of appreciation.

It was a touching moment when the employees who have been with the company for over 25 years expressed their gratitude to chairman Dr Mohammed Al Barwani and reiterated their loyalty to the company.

On the occasion, Dr Mohammed Al Barwani, Chairman, MB Holding Company, said, "The success of the MB Group of Companies has been because of its people. As a company, we have always believed in hiring the right people, giving them the right tools and ensuring that they work in a conducive environment. These employees who have been felicitated tonight have shown their commitment and loyalty to the company and I thank each and every one of them. We are what we are because of their hard work and dedication."

The evening's highlight included a special fusion performance by Jean Luc, Senior Project Manager,



MUSSTIR who played the Oud and the Muscat Sisters on the piano & violin. This fusion team enthralled the audience with their compositions.

felicitates its long









Mohammed Al Barwani Charity Foundation provides scholarships to seven students across various universities in Oman



The Mohammed Al Barwani Charity Foundation has provided scholarships to seven students in the sultanate to pursue their higher education in various vocations. This funding is part of its commitment to the Ministry of Social Development which was pledged last year. As part of this programme, the Charity Foundation provides financial support to four students under the social welfare scheme and funds three interior missions of students with limited income for four years with the foundation year.

Sharifa Al Harthy, Chairperson of Mohammed Al Barwani Charity Foundation, said, “We take our commitment towards the development of the communities within which we operate with utmost seriousness. Empowerment of Omani youth is one of the focus areas for our Corporate Social Responsibility



programmes. Education is probably the best support that one can give the youth from a long term sustainability perspective. Therefore, when the Ministry of Social Development contacted us with the 7 candidates, we thought it would be an ideal opportunity to support them.”

She continued, “We are happy to

partner with the Ministry of Social Development and support the education of Omani youth – especially those under the social welfare scheme. I would also like to thank the Ministry on behalf of Mohammed Al Barwani Charity Foundation for helping us fulfill our objectives.”

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, distributing *zakat and sadaqa*, providing humanitarian aid in cases of emergency and disasters and supporting Omani Women Associations.

MB GROUP OF COMPANIES QABOOS UNIVERSITY & CALEDONIAN



MB Group of Companies recently participated in the career fairs that were held at the Sultan Qaboos University as well as the Caledonian College of Engineering. An annual feature, the fair attracted a large number of prospective job seekers to the MB stall. The main objective of the company's participation in the Career Fairs was to offer career development and training opportunities to qualified Omani nationals.

The company launched Tatweer - The Graduate Development Programme last year at the Sultan Qaboos University Career Fair. Tatweer is an example of the company's commitment towards training & development. It is a two year programme that provides on and off-the-job learning and development in the technical and non-technical disciplines. The objective of the programme is to enable graduates to quickly develop the required knowledge and skills in the early

stages of their career, and that allows them to assume an established role and contribute effectively to the business in the fastest possible time.

Joe Tan Hook Laing, Group HR & Planning Manager, MB Holding Company, said, "Students with leadership potential are developed and groomed to become effective leaders by developing their leadership competencies through the appropriate training, work exposure, self-learning, coaching and

a succession plan which will enable them to assume suitable leadership roles over time."

The company personnel were present at the stall to meet and interact with the prospective job seekers and explain the various career options. A large number of youth especially those graduating this year submitted their CVs, expressing keen desire to work with one of the most prominent companies originating from the Sultanate.

PARTICIPATE IN THE SULTAN COLLEGE CAREER FAIRS



The main objective of the company's participation in the Career Fairs was to offer career development and training opportunities to qualified Omani nationals.



An annual feature, the fair attracted a large number of prospective job seekers to the MB stall.

Mohammed Barwani Charity Foundation supports the development of residential building in Seeb



The Mohammed Barwani Charity Foundation recently supported the development of a residential building in Seeb. A survey conducted by the Wali of Seeb's office revealed that there was a need to construct a commercial/residential building in South Maabela area.

The 5 storey building comprises 5 commercial stores. The income generated from the rent will go towards the education of children under the social welfare scheme. A completely charitable initiative, this project has been financed by various organizations and individual donors.

Sharifa Al Harthy, Chairperson, Mohammed Barwani Charity Foundation, said, "When Mohammed Al Busaidi, the Wali of Seeb approached us for support, we thought it was the perfect opportunity to contribute towards the betterment of the families living in the community. There are several students who will benefit from this initiative and we are happy the Wali's office approached us as well. We look forward to seeing positive outcomes and we hope that this model

is adopted in other wilayats as well, as it is a very good model for a self-sustaining community."



MB Group of Companies hold a blood donation drive at its head office, in Muscat, Oman



More than 80 employees participated in the drive, making it a huge success

The MB Group of Companies held a blood donation drive at its head office in Azaiba recently. This drive evoked a good response with several employees participating in actively donating blood. It was held in association with the Central Blood Bank at the Department of Blood Services and the MB Clinic.

Several employees across the group came forward to donate blood at the MB Clinic. Dr Yahya Abdul Gawad, Chief Medical Officer, MB Holding Company LLC, said, "We look for opportunities to contribute to the community. Organising a blood donation drive offers a valuable chance to save lives, especially during times of emergency. We have been conducting this drive



every year and we hope to continue it in the future."

He added, "Medically speaking, blood donation enhances the production of new red blood cells and reduces the risk of getting heart diseases. It energizes the body and gives one's self a sense

of fulfillment. It also plays an important role in the act of saving a life."

The MB Clinic has been conducting the blood donation drive for the last 6 years. As part of the drive, all employees are encouraged to come forth and donate blood.



MB Informatics celebrates *Holi*



Holi – the Indian festival of colours is celebrated to welcome the spring season as well as the onset of the harvest festival across India. During this festival people greet each other with colours and celebrate the occasion with much gaiety and excitement.

To celebrate Holi, MB Informatics (MBI) India organized a small event – “Holi Milan” at its premises. The entire office was decorated with colourful balloons and posters. All the employees gathered together in the evening to celebrate. The evening began with a Holi Tambola wherein each number was depicted by different colours (E.g. 0- red 1 – green etc.) The game was followed by snacks and sweets. And as usual the best was kept for the last – the colours. All the employees played with dry colours and painted everyone with colours of love and togetherness. The event was enjoyed by all and brought smiles and fresh energies within the entire MBI team. And that is the real reason behind celebrating this festival of colours - to leave all worries behind and look forward to a new beginning.

Dilip Phadnis, COO, MB Informatics, said, “This was the first such celebration organised by the HR and Administration team at MBI. With the team growing in size and diversity, it is important to inculcate team spirit and camaraderie within MBI. We hope to have many such joyous events in the future.”



Third batch of Emerging Leaders Programme commence training



The development of emerging leaders continues to be the main focus for 2013 and demonstrates the Group's on-going commitment to grow and nurture its 'talent pipeline'. With this in mind, the third group of participants for the 'Emerging Leaders Programme (EmLeP)' was rolled out and commenced their first training module.

Comprising professionals and managers from various group companies, the participants will undergo a series of training modules that will cover a range of topics that run over a period of ten months. Collectively, these modules will provide our in-house talents with leadership, business, strategic thinking and people management capabilities to assume leadership roles in various operational spheres within the MB Group.

The programme, which was officially launched by Dr Mohammed Al Barwani, Chairman, MB Holding Company last year is designed and developed in collaboration with a

well-established regional training provider. It consists of seven modules covering the relevant aspects of leadership and management, and includes topics such as developing and implementing a business plan, change management, team building, leadership and emotional intelligence, and decision-making.

The programme is part of the larger people and skills development initiative by the Group, and aims at developing and nurturing leadership talent at the supervisory, middle

and senior management levels. The participants were selected based on a set of criteria through a rigorous process involving the Line, Business and Corporate Human Resources as well as the Management of the respective Companies.

As future leaders, the participants are expected to be good role models to their team members and colleagues i.e. practice what they have learned, "walk the talk", and behave in a manner that befits their leadership potential.





MB Holding sponsors Environment Society of Oman's (ESO) annual Charity Ball

MB Holding was the gold sponsor of this year's annual ESO charity ball. The primary objective of the ball is to raise funds through ticket sales, raffle sales, auctions and by use of donation cards. This year the society raised RO 85,000. The funds raised will go towards training fresh Omani university graduates.

Through previous fundraising balls, ESO hired and trained seven Omani employees. The charity ball offers much needed support and administrative assistance as well as the opportunity to further increase the number of research, community outreach and education projects across Oman.



His Majesty visits Saih Al Shamkhat- Bahla camp

Mattar Al Omairi and his colleagues conduct a horse show during the reception of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said



MBPS felicitated for extending support to Bahla Equestrian Association

MBPS helps construct a public hall in the Wilayat of Shaleem



MB Petroleum Services partners with **SAIH AL BARAKAT** **SCHOOL** in Manah



MB Petroleum Services (MBPS) has carried out a number of social activities in Oman. Last year, MBPS partnered with Al Muhanna Al Iman bin Sultan School in Muscat.

In offering a diverse programme to support Omani youth and students as well as promote a prosperous and responsible society, MB Petroleum Services has now partnered with the Al Manah School in Dakhliyah.

The partnership will provide the Al Manah School with stationary and school supplies for 84 students under the social welfare scheme, uniform with shoes for 84 students under the social welfare scheme and a cheque of RO 2,116 presented to the school to provide lunch coupons to 84 students under the social welfare scheme covering a period of four months (one semester).

MB Petroleum Services - Oman conducts its first Town Hall Meeting



MB Petroleum Services (MBPS), Oman, conducted its first Town Hall meeting which was chaired by Madhusudan Swami, CEO - Oman & Middle East.

Held for the Azaiba head office staff, the objective of this exercise is to improve employee engagement by sharing key business development activities with them as well as

providing solutions to any unresolved issues.

This direct interface between the employees and the senior management of the company also endeavours to motivate them to contribute towards the growth of the company.

During the meeting, the CEO gave

a presentation on MBPS' first quarter HSE results, field operations achievements, key challenges, people management, recruitment challenges and business development opportunities. This was followed by an interactive question & answer session.

All the employees were happy to be part of this initiative and looked forward to many such gatherings.





A bright future

In a lively discussion with the Marcom team, Amour Barwani, Workover Manager, MB Petroleum Services (MBPS) tells us why he thinks MB Petroleum Services is an ideal organisation to work for...

“I always kept MBPS on my radar as my future work destination,” says Amour Barwani, Workover Manager, MB Petroleum Services. Ask him why MBPS and he immediately replies, “I always had a feeling that MBPS has everything to offer young Omanis who want to grow and excel in their careers. I am very glad that my instinct didn’t fail me.”

A graduate in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Westminster, Amour specialized in exploring air and diaphragm pumps. He says, “Mechanical Engineers must combine a good understanding of science, mathematics and computers with a good knowledge of current technology. I have always been fascinated with learning new things since I was young. I loved to build things and delve into the mechanics of how things work, how objects move etc; so this seemed like a perfect extension to that curiosity.”

Prior to that, he completed his B Tech in plant maintenance from Wirrel College in England and soon found himself working in Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) as a junior mechanic in the field. However, his first official job came much later when he completed his B Tech in plant engineering. He remembers, “I was so excited that finally I was going to implement what I studied and do the stuff that I enjoy doing most - that was working with huge Diesel Engines, Gas Turbines and compressors, but at the same time I had some fear as I knew taking first steps into the working world can be difficult.” Despite a few apprehensions, Amour was ready to interact with new people and grapple with the new tasks and challenges that came his way.

Although he enjoyed his work stint, deep down he felt something was amiss. He knew that the company he then worked for was a temporary learning curve



Amour Barwani, Workover Manager, MB Petroleum Services (MBPS)

and he had his eyes and heart set on MBPS. In 1999, he applied for a job in MBPS but was not entirely satisfied with his job profile and decided to not take up the offer. Despite rejecting the offer, he was very sure that he would give it another shot after a few years and that is exactly what he did.

In 2008, Amour reapplied at MBPS and was offered the position of a Workover Superintendent. One of the crucial challenges he faced was making a transition from the client’s side to the service provider side. He credits his team members and his superiors for encouraging him and for helping him with this transition. Realising his potential and commitment to hard work, Amour was promoted as a Workover Manager. Due to his hard work, he was enrolled in the ‘Experienced Leaders Programme’, which is designed to develop and enhance leadership, managerial and business skills to help manage the business more efficiently.

Currently, Amour is in charge of (18) Workover Rigs (hoists) operating in Oman for six (6) different clients. His priority is to ensure the safety of the circa 1200 crew who are working in the field and also ensure the smooth functioning of the department and its

upkeep, preparing annual budgets, monitoring expenses and administering all contracts assigned to the department to ensure that contractual deadlines are adhered to.

Where does he derive the motivation to stay committed? “My biggest motivation is to see MBPS doing well and being appreciated by our associates. Other than that, our Chairman Dr Mohammed Al Barwani for his sincerity and dedication to excellence and my immediate superior Khamis Al Hinai for his positivity and for all that he has accomplished at such a young age. He is a great example of a young Omani who has worked hard and achieved success.”

He continues, “The constant support and encouragement that I got from Khamis and the team has encouraged and motivated me to perform my duties well. I have gained considerable knowledge by watching our Chairman and my seniors at work. This is definitely one of the most satisfying phases in my career.”

Amour feels that the young generation of Omanis need greater focus and dedication in their work. He believes that they need to put their heart and mind into their work and support their organisation in order to succeed. Contrary to many, Amour thinks that working in a multicultural environment has more advantages. “Working with multinational organisation has more benefits than disadvantages. With a multinational company, we are bound to learn new techniques and ideas from our foreign colleagues. They bring with them a diverse amount of experience and understanding which is a valuable asset and therefore their mentoring young Omanis is only beneficial. This will help us develop our thoughts and skills and lead us to be well-rounded professionals.”

As an employee, Amour showcases immense passion and willingness to learn. We are sure he will go a long way!

Personal message:

Perform your duties to the best of your abilities. Encourage people around you to do their best. Be positive!



“My biggest motivation is to see MBPS doing well and being appreciated by our associates. Other than that, our Chairman Dr Mohammed Al Barwani for his sincerity and dedication to excellence.”



MB Al Ghalib commences its first operation in Iraq

MB Al Ghalib has commenced its operation in Iraq by deploying its first heavy workover rig IR-1001 in the Zubair Field, in the southern part of Iraq. This milestone marks MB Al Ghalib's entry into the competitive Iraqi Oil & Gas market. The company is currently in the process of mobilizing another rig IR-1002 which is scheduled to start operations by end July 2013.

Yousuf Al Hashmi completes his Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) Course



Yousuf Al Hashmi, HR Team leader, MB Petroleum Services (MBPS) has recently completed his Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) Course in Human Resources Practice. He completed his Bachelor Degree in Business Administration, Operations Management and Business Statistic from Sultan Qaboos University and an HR Practitioner Certificate from Oman Society for Petroleum Services (OPAL).

Through the CIPD course, Yousuf has successfully learned management techniques like Understanding organizations and the role of Human Resources, Resourcing Talent, Developing Self as an HR Practitioner, Recording, Analyzing and using HR information, Supporting good practice in Managing Employment Relations, Supporting good practice in Performance and Reward Management, Developing Coaching Skills in the Workplace, Developing Mentoring Skills in the Workplace and Supporting Change within Organizations.

"I am very happy and excited that I completed this course. This course

has been an eye opener and a great learning experience. It has taught HR practitioners like me a new way of thinking and working. It has given me the right skill set and tools to develop myself and effectively

"I am very happy and excited that I completed this course. This course has been an eye opener and a great learning experience."

contribute to the growth of the organisation," says a proud Yousuf.

He continues, "I would like to thank the senior management of MBPS, our CEO, Madhusudan Swami, and Mohammed Al Kharusi, Director – Corporate Operations, MB Holding for having faith in my abilities and encouraging me to take up the course. Without their help and blessings, I would not be able to do this."

Yousuf joined MBPS as an administrator in 2006. Due to his hard work and dedication, he quickly rose up the ranks and is currently working as HR Team Leader.

Oman Well Test Team Sets a Record



Leadership and teamwork helped the Well Test Team to continually reduce risk during a period of intense activity

In February 2013, the Well Test Team from MB Petroleum Services, working for BP on Khazzan, reached a remarkable safety milestone of three years without a 'day away from work'.

The Well Test Team has been involved in a period of intense activity recently with lots of equipment moves and the rig-up on KZN-12 incorporating significant layout changes. Mike Reynolds, Well Intervention Team Leader - BP Oman, said of this achievement, "MB Petroleum Services

has worked hand in hand with the BP team. We have been focused on delivering the same goal, which is to get the job done efficiently and safely."

This alignment has been supported by the MB team by sending some of their senior personnel to attend BP's Well Site Leader HSE leadership course in November last year. MBPS was also involved in a joint 'HAZOP' (Hazard and Operability) study with BP before the KZN-12 rig-up to continually reduce risk and to identify safer ways

to perform the job.

Commenting further on the performance, Alistair Roy, Completion Engineering Manager, BP Oman notes the role of BP's Well Site Leaders and their vast experience in leadership, plus the role of MBPS Well Test Team leadership. "Another thing that's impressive is the amount of equipment that has to be moved and coordinated, pressure tested, and commissioned. This is a great achievement by the MBPS Oman team."

MB CENTURY IS NEW ZEALAND'S ONLY WORLD-CLASS, ONE STOP SHOP ENERGY SOLUTIONS COMPANY



MB Century is New Zealand's award winning company that helps produce the energy that keeps the country running. The energy sector depends on MB Century's hard earned expertise and acknowledges the crucial role played by the company across the whole production lifecycle.

MB Century's services include:

- Geothermal & Oil/Gas Drilling
- Steamfield Design & Engineering
- Reservoir Data Logging
- Hydro Engineering/ Consultancy
- Process Engineering
- Geothermal & Hydro power Station Maintenance
- Heavy Fabrication
- Precision Machining
- Industry Coatings
- Water & Geothermal Sampling Analysis
- Environmental Monitoring
- Construction

MB Century knows what's important:

This is a challenging industry where high stakes projects and very real safety issues are a part of everyday operations. So it is vital for the company to understand what's most important for their customers.

- Responsiveness and Flexibility
- Commitment to ongoing improvement
- Sector leading R&D
- Delivering projects on time and on budget
- World class Health and Safety processes/culture

Along with this is their strong commitment to being a no-nonsense company and this makes them the 'smart and safe' option.

Four values underpin everything that MB Century does:

The company recently launched four Values to help make their 'no excuse' culture even stronger. Every employee working (over 200 staff) knows and applies these on a daily basis as part of their drive for continual improvement:

Responsive

This benchmarks everything the company does how it works together and how they treat their customers.

Safe (with us)

MB Century has the best health & Safety culture in the local industry and quite possibly in the world.

Ahead of the Curve

The company combines a great mix of hard-won 'hands-on' expertise with some of the best R&D in the sector to stay one step ahead.

Smart people

The company hires smart, proactive people who live by the 'no excuses' culture.

Some things you might not know about MB Century

The company does things that have never been done before – worldwide

The latest suite of drilling measurement tools are so ahead of the curve that they have been brought by most major players in the sector.

The company is in demand internationally

MB Century works with companies in Chile, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The company hires professionals

The company is big but particular about who they hire. Once hired, the company will ensure that they fast track your development.

MB Century is an award winning company

The company won the Medium-Large Business Category 'Business Excellence' Award at the 2012 BNZ Great Lake Taupo Business Awards, as judged by leading business experts from The university of Auckland's Icehouse.

MB Century was also the winner of the 2011 Deloitte Energy Excellence Awards in the category of Excellence in Health & Safety.

Erdöl-Erdgas Workover GmbH (EEW) - a reliable partner

Erdöl-Erdgas Workover GmbH (EEW) has been a reliable partner for many years now to a number of major German energy companies in the crude oil/natural gas industry, performing tasks in workover and drilling sectors up to a maximum tonnage of 220 tons hook load. Some units with a nominal hook load rating of 120 tons were pushed to the limits of their capacity by ever increasing loads encountered when pulling production casings loose.

Engineers at Erdöl-Erdgas Workover GmbH subsequently developed the "casing jack", which can lift up to 200 tons on its own with the aid of an integrated hydraulic system, to enable these new challenges to be met and tackled with a high degree of flexibility.

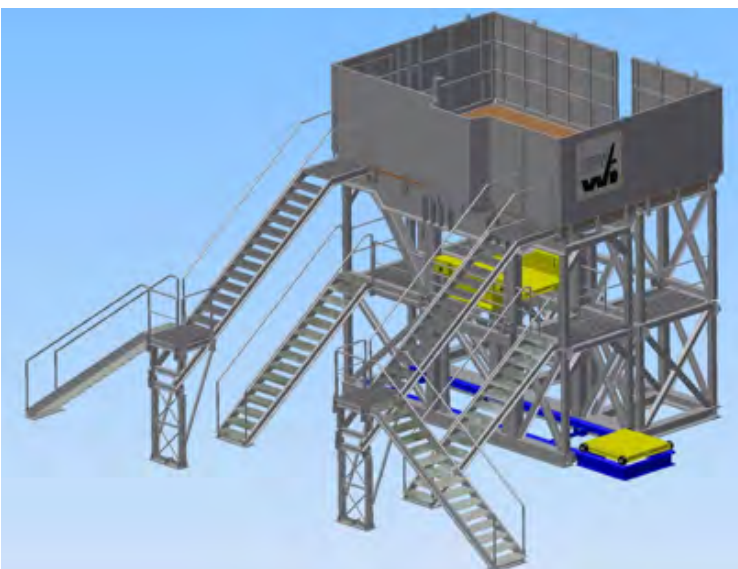
The platforms consist of four subassemblies (rotary platform, monkey board, rotary table substructure and monkey board substructure), two stair units, a hydraulic unit integrated into the monkey board, a BOP transport system and an EZY torque cylinder for making up and breaking the individual pipe connections.

Hydraulic power is supplied by the hydraulic unit

through four hydraulic cylinders, which move the spider table installed in the rotary table substructure vertically by 1,700 mm, allowing it to lift a maximum load of 200 tons.

This technical feature of enabling smaller systems to be combined with a platform became a huge market success. This prompted EEW to construct a further, even more optimized hydraulic platform.

In 2012, the Casing Jack 3 was built for a project in Portugal. This jack tower consists of a load beam with an integrated BOP trolley transport unit, a tower unit in which the lifting system with the spider platform is integrated, the rotary platform with a 20½" rotary table and an EZY torque, a skidding unit similar to that used in the Casing Jack 2 version and two stair units. A key point of this concept was reducing the necessary transport volume to a minimum to save refitting costs in the field and to enable work to be performed in a flexible and efficient manner. A 10-foot hydraulic container, from which all the required equipment is supplied with the corresponding power, is provided separately for operation of the hydraulic system. The hydraulic capacities were adapted for use in Portugal. The payback period for all investments was less than 15 months.



The basic setup of this system.



The jack tower



Pedaling his way to success

Ahmed Al Rahbi works as a Mechanic in the MBPS Wireline department. In a freewheeling conversation with the Marcomm team, he reveals all about his passion for cycling...

For a nation obsessed with football and Premier Leagues, Ahmed Al Rahbi, Mechanic, MBPS Wireline sure takes the off beaten path – a path that he created and has guided him to the roads of success.

As a young boy, Ahmed dreamt of becoming a football player like his idols Messi, Ronaldo and Kaka. He enthusiastically joined a club, but soon realized that it was not easy. There was too much competition and he felt he would not get the chance he deserved. Although slightly disheartened, he realized that sitting at home and doing nothing was emotionally draining and so he decided to pursue another hobby.

A chance meeting with a friend got him interested in cycling. He saw his friend riding a bicycle and decided that he would join in and since then he has been ‘hooked on’ to it. Soon Ahmed was cycling every day and joined the Seeb Club at a young age of 14. It was however not easy. He remembers, “When I met my



For a young man, Ahmed is extremely passionate and lights up at the mere mention of cycling.



coach Yousuf Khamfar Al Shukaili, initially he was hesitant to recruit me because it is a lot of hard work and practice. However I was persistent and seeing my dedication, he decided to take me under his wings."

He continues, "I practiced with him for three weeks and I was in severe pain. I decided to give up but my coach insisted that I stay and practice and assured me that I would be 'a hero' if I continued. I asked him if he was sure and he was extremely confident and that encouraged me to stay on. I rigorously practiced with him for two years."



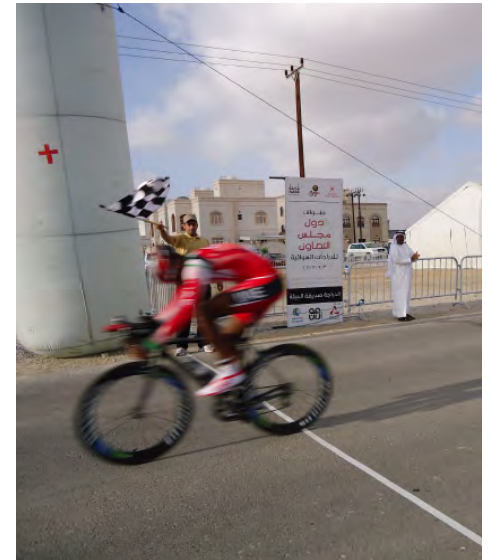
It was only then that Ahmed participated in his first professional race. It was a two day race all over Oman. "On day one I did not do well but on the second day I came first, so overall I did reasonably well," he smiles. He has since regularly participated in various competitions such as Tour of Dakhliyah, which was a 3 day race. "I came first," he gushes with pride.

Ahmed has also been participating in regional tournaments since 2005 and most recently he participated in



the Tour of GCC in 2011 which took place from Oman to Kuwait. He secured the third position. "I was very happy to secure the third position. It was an intense race and a different experience," feels Ahmed. Although he performed well, Ahmed rues about the fact that cycling as a sport is not given as much importance as say football. "All the bikers across the GCC have different gear and modern bicycles. They are trained to be professionals and invest in their gear, especially safety equipment. Here in Oman, it is very expensive as we have no support."

Ahmed feels that Team Cycling is a very different sport and as it requires hard work and dedication from all team members. "Cycling is not very well known in Oman. Some people think that this game is not meant for Arabs, it is more for westerners. They need to be made to understand through awareness and education that this sport is meant for everyone. It benefits the society as well as its people."





He strongly believes that cycling is not only an excellent sport but also a wonderful hobby to cultivate. “Cycling is very good for the health, mind and body. It keeps you fit, helps you de-stress and keeps you happy. Not only that, a bicycle is also a great mode of transportation and if you think about it – causes no pollution and therefore reduces our carbon footprint. It benefits us in many ways, but not many people in Oman understand it.”

He credits the recent Tour of Oman race to the slowly changing mindset of the people in Oman. “People are slowly beginning to realise the importance of the sport ever since Tour of Oman has been conducted in the country.” Asked if he would like you participate in the Tour of Oman race, he excitedly replies, “Of course! Who would not? It is one of the most professional sports in the world and extremely competitive. I would love to participate and win. I would also like to participate in international races and put Oman on the world map.”

For a young man, Ahmed is extremely passionate and lights up at the mere mention of cycling. For someone who grew up loving football, like every other young Omani, Ahmed chose to pursue another hobby – an unconventional hobby and it has borne him good results!



Petrogas E&P extends its support to Muscat Autism Centre



Petrogas E&P has partnered with Muscat Autism Centre by supporting Omani youth and students with particular interest in children with special needs. As part of the agreement, the company has provided teaching aids to help children with autism, educational CD's to develop their skills, 6PC's for their class rooms, 6 educational tables with chairs specially designed for children and fixed blinds for 8 class rooms.

Iman Al Barwani, Manager – Corporate Communications & CSR, Petrogas E&P, pointed out, “Petrogas firmly believes in reaching out to communities within which it operates and make a difference. Children are the future of this nation and one of our central pillars is education and empowerment of children. Through this initiative, we hope to make a difference in the lives of these children and give them



the opportunity and respect they deserve.”

Mashaer bint Shamsan bin Abdullah,

Manager, Muscat Autism Center added, “Our centre is a non for profit organisation and therefore support from corporates is something we

encourage. We would like to thank Petrogas E&P for their generous contribution and for bringing a smile to the faces of our children.”



Petrogas E&P sponsors photography competition by Ministry of Higher Education



Petrogas E&P recently sponsored a photography competition titled ‘Littered Landscapes’ conducted by the Ministry of Higher Education in conjunction with Clean Up Oman. The competition held nationwide aimed at higher educational institutions. The last date for entries was April 30, 2013.

Conducted for the second time, the photography competition organized by Clean Up Oman, aimed at promoting awareness of the adverse impact of reckless dumping of litter on people, marine environment, avian life, flora and fauna.

Iman Al Barwani, Manager – Corporate Communications & CSR, Petrogas E&P, “The aim of our partnership with this programme is to inculcate the values of a socially responsible individual within the society. We also hope to train the young people and sensitise them towards the negative impact of littering on the community and the world at large.

Petrogas is committed towards the betterment of the community within it operates and partnering with this initiative is a solid step in that direction.”



Petrogas LLC Sahmah holds HSE Day



Petrogas LLC Sahmah recently held its HSE Awareness Day at Sahmah Oil Field under the main theme of “Journey to Goal Zero” and celebrating 4 ½ Years without Lost Time Injury. Petrogas LLC employees of field and the head office including Jean Denis Bouvier, CEO and line managers were joined by contractors on this occasion. A welcome address was delivered by field superintendent Idris Al Khusaibi, who emphasized on the achieved milestone and stated, “The Sahmah team have reached this milestone through team work, commitment and leadership and we are confident that through further directives the journey to goal zero can be achieved.”

A keynote address was delivered by the CEO who thanked all the participants and the Petrogas LLC staff on the achieved recognized milestone in HSE performance. This was followed by presentations from external suppliers and internal staff focusing on topics relating to HSE lateral learning, medical facilities, road safety and healthy eating habits.

As part of the programme, there was an exhibition held relating to operational environment and the history of currency. The programme concluded with a sports event, cultural entertainment and distribution of memento to commemorate the event and to recognize the contribution of employees towards the growth of the organisation.

The event highlighted areas of improvement and stressed upon the need to raise safety and health awareness among employees. It was a successful day, wherein the employees took back valuable tips to assist them in their day-to-day activities.





Mawarid Mining lends its support to the Oman Association for Disabled in Sohar



Mawarid Mining LLC, the mining and exploration arm of the MB Group of Companies 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, Mawarid Mining LLC has lent its support to the Oman Association for Disabled in Sohar.

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, Mawarid





Mining LLC will provide 15 Cerebral palsy wheel chairs, 15 Leisure & Sports wheel chairs, 10 Steel wheel chairs, 3 Power wheel chairs and 3 Electric bed with mattresses to the association, which will be given to the differently abled countrymen in the wilayats of Sohar, Shinas, Liwa and Khabourah.

Tariq Al Barwani, CEO, Mawarid Mining LLC, says, "At Mawarid Mining, we always look at new ways in which we can give back to the community. The company believes in mining with a human face and firmly supports the cause of a socially sustainable society through the implementation of community development programmes such as this one. Through

this contribution, we hope to make a difference in the lives of the differently abled people and put a smile on their face."

YahyabinAbdullahAlAmri, Chairman, Oman Association for Disabled, adds, "We would like to offer our heartfelt appreciation to Mawarid Mining LLC for this kind gesture. Since our association is non-governmental, we rely on the private sector companies as well as individuals to help fund our activities and needs. Through this generous contribution, Mawarid Mining LLC has proved that it truly cares for the community. I hope this gesture encourages other corporates to come forward and support our association."

Exploration update-Kazakhstan



Exploration drilling by Mawarid Mining Kazakhstan on the Boke LLP has returned encouraging results from the Yuzhnoye Prospect. To date, over 250 vertical Air Percussion Holes and 10 diamond holes have been drilled at Yuzhnoye. The initial results indicate that there is potential to define a shallow oxide gold deposit which

may be amenable to heap leaching. Results from the first diamond hole drilled at the prospect intersected primary sulphide mineralisation has reached a depth of 54. Work will continue at this prospect over the coming months to determine if an economical viable resource can be identified.

Mawarid Mining LLC wins Best Establishment Supporting Trade Union during the year 2012

Mawarid Mining LLC has been awarded the Best Establishment Supporting Trade Union during the year 2012 by Descent Work Press, Publishing & Advertisement jointly with The General Federation of Trade Unions. The trophy and award was presented by HE Taimur Bin Assad Bin Tariq Al Said to senior Mawarid Mining officials on International Labour Day, which is globally celebrated on May 1.

“It is a huge honour to be recognized for our efforts and I take this opportunity to thank all the employees of Mawarid for their support,” said Rashid Al Bimani, HR, Admin & Security General Manager, Mawarid Mining LLC.



Tariq Al Barwani addresses the Oman Mining and Quarrying 2013 Summit



The Oman Mining and Quarrying 2013 Summit was recently held in the Sultanate. The summit attracted over 18 speakers - both national and international - and over 60 industry professionals, whose major interest was in implementing new techniques and technologies to improve their operational productivity and efficiency in their current mining and quarrying projects.

Tariq Al Barwani, CEO, Mawarid Mining LLC, inaugurated the conference and asserted that Oman’s political stability coupled with its geological diversity make it an attractive country for mining investments.

He stated, “Like all new industries, there are significant challenges. Yet, Oman has all the right ingredients to create a vibrant mining industry. The country is a haven for geologists; it’s an open book.”

Talking about the company, Tariq noted, “Established in 1997, our focus has been on mining copper from the

VMS copper deposits in northern Oman and on growing internationally via direct exploration and investments. Although we are based in Sohar, we have a copper mine (Mandoos) located 45 kilometres from Sohar, and the copper concentrate is sold within the country and to overseas buyers through the Sohar port.”

He added, “Mawarid’s exploratory strategy is to develop Oman copper to achieve long-term sustainability and growth and to create a pipeline of diversified projects in the MENA region and internationally.”

The conference featured speakers including Tariq Al Barwani, Marcos Beluco, Chief Executive Officer, Vale; Younis Al Amri, Chief Executive Officer, Gulf Triangle Group; Hilal Al Azri, Former Director General - Mineral and Metals, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Henry Antwi, Head of Mining, Oman Oil; AV Sthapak, Exploration Manager, Alara Resources Limited and many other renowned speakers.



MBPS Oman Wireline department reaches another safety milestone

MBPS Oman Wireline department recently completed 'Six Year LTI Free' milestone. This is testimony to the fact that each member of the team has taken safety seriously, procedures have been understood & followed, and the safety tools that are used, such as risk assessment and TBT's have been successful. It also means that everyone involved has worked with

safety as their 'first priority' and that the focus of the crews, supervision and support team, has been in the correct place.

The achievement is even more rewarding when considering the type of work performed and the potential risks involved, such as driving, mechanical lifting, pressure

testing and well intervention, manual handling, machine works etc. this achievement is something that both the department and the company can be truly proud of.

On behalf of MBPS management, congratulations to all involved with the Oxy Safah Wireline team and those who have contributed to this record.

MB Petroleum Services completes 4 million man hours without Lost Time Injury

MB Petroleum Services LLC has collectively achieved 4 million man-hours without any lost time due to injury (LTI) as on February 2013. The company sincerely expressed its gratitude to all team members for the effort and hard work put in to accomplish this feat. The company also thanked its clients and well-wishers on this occasion without whose support this milestone would not have been possible.

Going forward, MBPS requests each team member to keep up the good work by adhering to the established rules and procedures and set an exemplary benchmark

for the industry.

This achievement demonstrates the ability of a large and diverse group of people to come together and dedicate themselves to the common goal of maintaining MBPS's core values of protecting people, the environment, and assets while executing their wide variety of job responsibilities.

The management of MBPS is committed to further improvements in HSE.

Hoist 43 completes 2 years without LTI

Hoist 43 has completed 2 years without lost time incident and this further reiterates their commitment towards safety. In achieving this milestone, the crew obeyed rules and regulations, followed plans and procedures, looked after themselves and most importantly looked after each other. They worked together to mitigate all the involved risks and also eliminated all the associated hazards. This achievement is even more commendable considering the nature of workover activities on high pressure wells on Bahja and Zulyiah area.

Hoist 44 completes 2 years without LTI

Hoist 44 has completed 2 years without any lost time incident. The team managed to mitigate all involved risks and associated hazards. They will endeavour to sustain this performance and achieve more LTI free years.

Rig 108 completes 3 years without LTI

Rig 108 has achieved 3 year's without a lost time incident. This milestone was achieved due to the commitment of safety by listening and obeying to rules and regulations, following plans and procedures, looking after themselves and most importantly looking after their colleagues.

Hoist 42 completes 1 year without LTI

Hoist 42 has achieved 1 year without a lost time incident and this is even more commendable considering the amount of improvement that has been made post the last incident in April 2012.

Tailing's Dam Extension Complete



The tailings dam expansion has been completed as per the scheduled target date. The plan materialized successfully after 6 months of construction and an added feature was the fact that no injuries or equipment damage was reported during this period.

The dam has the capacity to hold an additional 3 million tonnes with wall elevation of RL 290 and is expected to contain the tailings for the next 3 years.

The management thanked the efforts

of all employees who contributed to the completion of the dam. The employees demonstrated deep commitment to occupational health and safety and displayed team spirit by working hand-in-hand to reach the target on time.

Sun, Safety And Heat Stress Awareness

During summer, we have long hours of sunlight compared to the winter months. This makes us enjoy our evening walk at the corniche, or soak our feet in the evening waters enjoyable.

On the other hand, it could also mean that we experience intense heat during the day. This phenomenon calls for attention of companies in industries wherein the frontline workforce is exposed to the heat and Mawarid is not an exception.

In preparation for the summer, the HSE team emphasized the

importance of keeping oneself hydrated throughout the day. Lectures were conducted at the copper plant and posters indicating hydration status by looking at the colour of the urine were posted near the urinals.

Apart from prevention of heat related conditions brought forth by summer, first aid briefing was also given to participants. These included instructions on how to manage heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat stroke and other heat related conditions at work or at home, both for employees and their family members.



Mawarid Wellness Campaign Generates Awareness Among Employees

In a bid to raise awareness about healthy living among employees, Mawarid Mining conducted a wellness campaign on weight, blood pressure and blood sugar control. This drive is in its 3rd year of implementation. The purpose of this drive was mainly to make employees aware of their stand in the health-illness continuum and to provide them a point of reference when it came to goal setting – be it losing weight or cutting the calories of the daily meal. The importance of regular exercise and healthy habits were also discussed.

Diabetic and hypertensive employees were given health education to improve their quality of life as well as taught few exercises that would be suitable for their medical condition. The medical experts also explained that to them that their condition would not be a hindrance in achieving the goal to remain fit and healthy.



In-House First Aid Refresher Course Conducted At Copper Plant And Mandoos Mines

A first aid refresher course was conducted at the copper plant and Mandoos mines earlier this year. The goal of this project was to provide general information to first time attendants and to update employees who have already received training in first aid. The course included lectures, discussions and live & recovery demonstrations. The participants were also taught general principles of bandaging and splinting during the second half of the first aid training session.



How To Respond In The Event Of An Earthquake

A presentation on the dos and don'ts in the event of an earthquake was conducted by one of the safety officers. Participants attended the 2 hour course that was conducted in 2 separate sessions. The goal of this presentation was to equip employees with hands-on knowledge on how to respond before, during and after an earthquake to minimize if not avoid its harmful effects-mainly injuries or the possibility of loss of life.



The HSE department of Mawarid Mining in collaboration with other departments continuously seeks to implement its plans for the year 2013 which aim to promote a safe workplace through in-house training.

United Engineering Services undertakes CSR Programmes with Azaiba Health Center & Shumou'a Al Maarifa School



United Engineering Services (UES) has undertaken its corporate social responsibility activities for 2013 by partnering with Azaiba Health Center in Muscat and Shumou'a Al Maarifa School in Ibri.

In line with the Corporate Social Responsibility objectives agreed upon by the MB Group, United Engineering Services has supported the Azaiba Health Center in Muscat and Shumou'a Al Maarifa School in Ibri.

This association is part of the overall objective to support and empower Omani Youth. The company has provided the Azaiba Health Center as well as Shu'moua Al Maarifa school with items that will aid and assist these institutions.





Usama Al Barwani, Managing Director, UES said, "It has always been UES's endeavour to support the community in which it operates. These initiatives are a step in that direction and I can confidently say that UES will continue to support such initiatives in the future as well. We are also thankful to Azaiba Health Centre and Shumou'a Al Maarifa School for giving us an opportunity to provide them with assistance."



Destiny's Child



In a no holds barred conversation with the Marcom team, Shoaeb Kasmani, Deputy CEO, United Engineering Services (UES) reveals how important it is to be sincere and dedicated in climbing the ladder of success...

What lies outside you and what lies around you is not as important as what lies within you. Shoaeb Kasmani, Deputy CEO, United Engineering Services (UES) is probably the perfect example of this. What you see outside is a cool deputy CEO, always approachable to his team and offers help at arm's length but when you dig deeper, you see the real man – hardworking, sincere and dedicated.

drawings for them – somebody with knowledge of Autocad. “They found me to be a perfect fit. It was more of a designer role as opposed to a drafting one,” he recalls. Within a few years of joining, he was moved to the field as a data acquisition engineer and rapidly progressed to become a senior operator and then a supervisor.

During his time with Well Test, he

was asked to work on several pre-qualification bids for MBPS due to his knowledge and business acumen. Seeing his potential, he was promoted as an agency sales manager for the Trading Division. The trading division of MBPS was formed into a new company – Crest Oil & Gas and Shoaeb was asked to head it. Although moving from the field was a relief, Shoaeb suddenly found himself outside his comfort zone. But true to his nature, he handled it well and saw the company through some of its biggest successes. This was also a time when the MB Group was

“For me it has always been clear – hard work, hard work, hard work. You cannot expect to succeed if you do not work hard and prove a point each time,” he says. A telling story since it has taken him just two decades to get to where he is today.

Shoaeb, who studied to be an engineer joined MB Petroleum Services (MBPS) way back in 1994 as a CAD draftsman. At that time, MBPS had won several contracts for Well Test and Wireline Services and they needed somebody who could make the technical





growing from strength to strength noticeably the Hungary acquisition and the forming of Petrogas E&P and Daleel Petroleum.

He believes that the growth of the group as a whole was a major contributing factor to his growth as well. “The MB Group has always fostered the growth of young engineers like me. Once they see drive within an individual, they recognize and develop it. I was one of the few lucky ones who would directly report to the Chairman and this interaction gave me some valuable lessons. The company also provided me with tools to develop myself professionally. I was fortunate to be part of MB’s exponential growth,” he says.

In 2007, the MB Group acquired United Engineering Services. UES had a trading division so it seemed to make sense to amalgamate both (UES & Crest Oil & Gas) the trading arms. Merging two companies is never an easy task because each company has its own merits and shortcomings but the senior management ensured that the transition was smooth. Shoaeb was asked to look after the agency sales division.

Despite the fact that the agency sales division did well and contributed to the overall profit and growth of the

company, it faced its fair share of challenges. Explaining the challenges faced, he says, “There is a set pattern with Agency Sales for example – you go out into the market, generate an enquiry, submit a quotation and get the order and it’s done. I realized that it this was a ‘PO Box’ job and that we needed to add value to prove our worth to our principals and customers. By adding value, your customer thinks that you are offering proactive solutions and your principal goes ‘wow! I have the right partner’. For example: when the Oxy tender came out, our partner Regent was trying to buy & slot the pipe in Canada and ship it to Oman. It was UES who went to Oxy and said, “You supply us with the pipe, we will set up a facility and slot it locally and even give you a stocking area so you have the added storage facility. Then UES went to

Regent and said that we would give them a facility and help set up a base for them regionally, and all they had to do was to Slot in Oman. This way we offered ‘added value’ to the customer as well as to the principal and won the contract. Rest in History”

Experiencing stiff competition from competitors and with fast reducing margins, it became pivotal for Shoaeb and his team to up the ante. “The business dynamics have changed. You need to be updated with all the market information, you need to have the right partner and the right workforce else you will fail.”

Why the need to enter the marine & defence sectors - Shoaeb immediately explains, “This particular segment attracts a very special audience. The basic idea is to manufacture fast





boats. This special fibre material technology which was previously unavailable to UES was made available by PPC through its facility in Melaka, in Malaysia. We thought it was a perfect opportunity to avail this technology and bring it to Oman. The boats are assembled in Oman and we tested them in Omani waters and they are now being considered as fast interceptor boats. What makes these boats unique is the fact that they can be customized as per client requirements.”

With the Government of Oman increasingly promoting the country’s beautiful coastline, Shoaeb feels that this is the right time to get into marine & defence engineering.

He is one of the few lucky employees who has had the opportunity to work for several companies within the MB Group and he feels that this wealth of experience is invaluable. “The experience I gained from working in the different companies has really helped me in UES especially when it comes to people management.”

Despite having had some moments of disagreements with colleagues in his formative years, Shoaeb feels that every experience has shaped him into what he is today, and feels that ‘listening to & motivating’ his team members is extremely important. “It is extremely important to motivate your team. When an office boy gives me a cup of tea and I thank him, that ‘thank you’ makes a big difference. What I have learnt over the years is to listen to the issues of your colleagues and reward them for their merit. The team member needs to understand that I am

not sitting in an ivory tower and that I have also faced the same challenges that they are currently facing. It is only grit and determination that has helped me be where I am today.”

He continues, “Team members get disheartened from time to time but you need to assure them that despite everything, they possess valuable skills and the potential to grow. A smile on your face takes you a long way.”

A technology buff, Shoaeb firmly believes that UES is best poised to take on competition locally as well as internationally thanks to its state-of-the-art divisions such as Machine Shop, Fabrication, and Blasting & Painting who have all the required accreditations. What adds to this is the fact that the company places strong emphasis on ‘In Country Value’ and provides opportunities to nationals. “With one of the best Machine Shop & Fabrication facilities in the country, along with the right talent, UES is undoubtedly on par with international standards. The technology know-how and best practices definitely makes us the partner of choice,” he says.

Always on the go, Shoaeb loves to spend his free time with his wife and three children, watch movies & travel.



Personal message: There is no substitute to hard work and with it comes success. Trust yourself and work hard.



United Engineering Services launched P-38 & P-46 high-speed interceptor boats in Oman

Earlier this year, UES launched its 1st boat, P-38 in Oman for sea trial. The boat was set afloat at the Oman Civil Aviation Club. The P-38 is intended for use by the Special Forces as a fast interceptor craft (capable of 60

knots) for special operations and general security duties.

UES also launched its 2nd boat, P-46. The boat was set afloat at the Oman Civil Aviation Club and

had a successful sea trial. The P-46 is 46 feet long and capable of a maximum speed of 50 knots. It is intended for general security duties and patrolling coastal and inshore waters.

UES participates in extreme sailing



Thousands of families and children attended the final day of Extreme Sailing 40 Act 1 to witness a nail biting finish and see the National team in the podium. The event offered spectators Try Sailing sessions sponsored by Bank Muscat along with variety of fun activities where guests and VIPs got an up-close and personal experience to see all the action on the water on board the power speed boats offered and sponsored by United Engineering Services.

ANSWER visits UES Facilities



Representatives from ANSWER, a Korean manufacturer of Fire & Safety equipment, Pressure Vessels, Piping and Valves recently visited the UES facilities in Ghala & Rusayl. During their visit, the company officials were given an overview of the workshop facilities including some of the latest technology that are being used by UES. The Korean officials were impressed with the state-of-the-art facilities and expressed keen interest in partnering with UES on future projects.

United Engineering Services LLC

has been awarded a 5 year extension by Occidental Mukhaizna LLC for the Slotting Equipment Contract



United Engineering Services (UES), has been awarded a 5 year extension by Occidental Mukhaizna LLC for the Slotting Equipment and Related Services Contract.

The earlier contract between Occidental Mukhaizna LLC & UES was first signed in 2008 for a period of 60 months. Five years of successful slotting and a further renewal of additional five years establishes UES as a trusted and leading service provider for Sand Control Services in Oman and the region.

Explaining the importance of this contract, Shoaeb Kasmani, Deputy CEO, UES, states, “We are extremely happy about UES’s current achievement. This contract extension demonstrates Oxy’s trust

in our capabilities and resources. Having well-equipped facilities coupled with a team of skilled engineers, technicians and an experienced force, we guarantee a high level of quality performance and service to its clients and principals. I am confident that we will continue this upward trend and serve our partners better in the future.

This achievement establishes us as a leading service provider for Sand Control Services in the region and showcases our commitment towards In-Country Value.”

UES supports the In-country value drive by employing fresh graduates from local colleges and universities.

The company offers Tatweer -The Graduate Development Programme which is an example of its commitment towards training & development of fresh graduates.

Given the diverse, complex and competitive nature of the business coupled with its ambitious expansion plans over the next few years, the company offers a ‘Leadership Development Programme’ that aims to develop existing and emerging leaders of its various divisions to deliver the company’s long term business goals and aspirations. In fact, the UES’s slotting facility has over 30 Omanis working constituting 80% Omanisation.

UES has partnered with Regent Energy Group Limited which specializes in steam distribution and sand control for Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) completion solutions within the Oil and Gas Industry.

Regent is globally credited with significantly advancing the sand control and steam injection exploitation technology. Regent’s know-how and technology, run and managed by trained Omanis, ensures that UES can now offer modern, state-of the-art and globally accredited sand control services in the Sultanate.

Oman Coast Guard team visit UES



The Oman Coast Guard delegation led by Colonel Badr Al Zadjali met the UES officials recently. The objective of this meeting was to provide the Oman Coast Guard with a full range of UES's capabilities with special focus on its fabrication and marine divisions.

The Oman Coast Guard team was impressed with UES's local capabilities as well as its plan and vision for its future. The team also visited the existing UES facilities in Ghala & Rusayl as well as the new Rusayl plot for the upcoming UES head office and its workshops.

Students of Dorat Al Khaleej Private School visit UES facilities

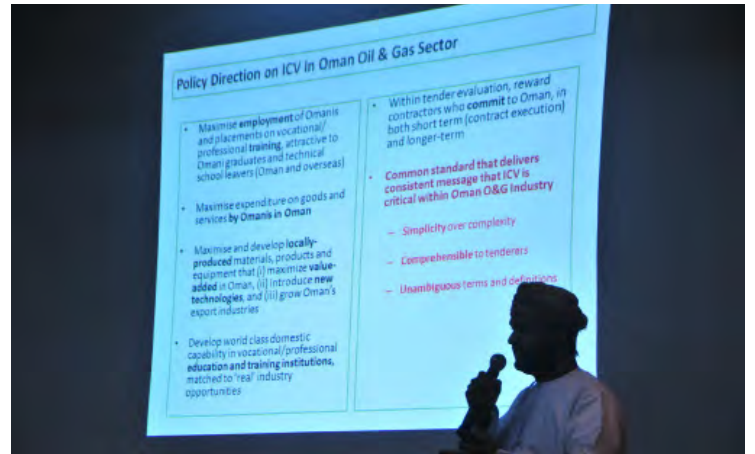


Sixteen students from business and ICT of the Dorat Al Khaleej Private School recently visited the UES office in Qurum and its facility in Ghala. The UES team members made a short presentation to the students explaining the history of the company and its current operations. The visiting students were exposed to the different



divisions such as machine shop, fabrication and blasting & painting. They were also introduced to several state-of-the-art machines that are used by UES. The purpose of the students' visit to the UES facility was to educate them on how one of the leading engineering companies in the Sultanate works.

UES senior management meets Ministry of Oil & Gas for standardization of In Country Value (ICV) requirements in Contracting and Procurement



United Engineering Services' senior business development team recently attended a meeting organized by the Ministry of Oil & Gas for standardization of ICV requirements.

Early last year, the Oil & Gas industry launched the ICV initiative which aims at maximising the spend on local goods & services and up-skill Omanis to assume skilled jobs in the oil & gas sector. After several rounds of discussions, the oil & gas operators along with OPAL's support, formulated and arrived at a standard ICV plan to be implemented across the industry.

The Ministry organised an engagement session for suppliers in order to provide an overview of new common standard ICV requirements for Oil & Gas sector in Oman. Policy Direction and ICV elements such as further investment in

fixed assets, research and development, training of Omanis, local sourcing of goods and subcontracted services as well as the development of national suppliers were discussed during the event followed by a Q&A session with the attendees.

UES is committed to ICV and aims at enhancing employability of Omanis by equipping them with the right skills; increasing employment of skilled Omanis by generating more jobs and laying the foundation to serve the oil and gas sector and related industries in Oman and the region.



UES key personnel attend business meeting with a Korean Delegation

Key members from UES attended a business meeting with a Korean delegation recently. These business meetings were organized by Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA). The aim of these meetings was to partner local companies with Korean companies that specialize in manufacturing items and components catering to the oil and gas industry. UES delegates met with various Korean company representatives with potential for future business partnerships.

High level delegation from Sultan's Armed Forces visit UES



A high level delegation headed by Brigadier General Abdullah Al Quraini and his team from Sultan's Armed Forces recently visited UES. The primary aim of this visit was to ascertain UES's capabilities in the area of Marine & Defence engineering. The high level delegation meeting was also attended by Dr. Mohammed Al Barwani, Chairman, MB Holding Company LLC.

After a detailed presentation on UES's credentials coupled with a tour of the UES facility in Ghala and Rusayl, Brigadier General Abdullah praised UES for its modern workshop and capabilities. After a tour of the facilities, Brigadier General Abdullah and his delegation were invited to take a ride on the P-38 signature interceptor boat manufactured by UES.

Petrogas E&P celebrates Family Day

Petrogas E&P held their annual Family Day at the Sifawy Hotel in Sifah. All Petrogas employees as well as their families attended this annual event.

The day was filled with fun and games, interactive sessions and workshops for all the participants. The day's proceeding was kicked off by Jean Denis Bouvier, CEO, Petrogas E&P. He said, "It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the Petrogas Family Day. This annual event brings together not only all our employees but also their families together for a day of fun, networking and interaction. Through this event, we hope to foster greater unity between our employees as well as encourage team spirit and partnership. I hope you enjoy your day at the Sifawy Hotel."

All the attendees thoroughly enjoyed the ride to the venue on a traditional dhow while gazing at the azure blue sea. Not only that, there were several fun activities that were organised on the boat. Sharifa Al Harthy, Vice Chairperson, MB Holding graced the occasion and became part of the family day celebrations, interacting with the employees and their families.

The highlight of the day was when Jean Denis Bouvier distributed certificates of appreciation to the long serving employees. It was an emotional moment for many employees to be recognized by the management for their dedication and contribution to the company. All the awardees thanked the management for the support rendered to them during their work tenure and voiced their trust and loyalty towards the company.

All in all it was a day of fun, laughter, joy and happiness and one that all the Petrogas employees will remember for a long time!







Our new team members!

MB PETROLEUM SERVICES LLC



Nadir Amur Al Hinai
Senior HR Officer



Farid Mechzoumi
MPLT Interpretation Analyst



Edgar Dante Arca
Project & Planning Engineer



Scott Barth
Wire Line Base Supervisor



Sean Heenan
Wire Line Fishing Supervisor

UNITED ENGINEERING SERVICES



Ganesh Nagarajan
Quality HSE Calibration
Inspector



Manoj Krishnan
Sales Engineer



Hussain Al Yahyaa
Administration Officer

PETROGAS E&P



Nusaiba Al Hakmani
HR Advisor



Salma Al Sharji
NOV Geologist



Marash Al Kalbani
Drilling Advisor



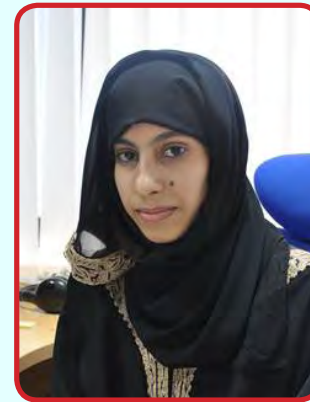
Zulaikha AL Darmaki
Administration Assistant



Vineet Hans
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