WIRTSCHAFTSFORUM NAH- UND MITTELOST®

No. 6 - November / December 2013 C 46321

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UAE heralds continued flow of large scale projects

Bv Helene Rana



As the economy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) continues to expand a number of large scale projects are being planned and realised.

On the central theme of crude oil production, Abu Dhabi has re-emphasised its goal of producing 3.5 million barrels a day (b/d) by 2017 – despite the minor hold-ups at field development projects – in the face of speculation that the delays may have set the target back by three years. In order to achieve this objective, up 700,000 b/d from the initial 2010 target, and boost production as the fields start to mature, Energy Minister H.E. Suhail bin Mohammed Faraj Faris al-Mazrouei stressed the importance of enhanced oil recovery (EOR) and the adopting of innovative production technologies, such as the injection of carbon dioxide, water or gas. H.E. Suhail bin Mohammed

Faraj Faris al-Mazrouei suggested that EOR could double current recovery rates.

Pointing to the success of a pilot scheme on the Rumaitha field, which belongs to the Emirate's 'North East Bab' onshore project and saw a daily injection of 1.2 million cubic feet of carbon dioxide, the minister announced that five further pilots are scheduled, two of which will begin in 2015 and three of which are still in planning. These plans are to be accompanied by an 8% (143,000 b/d) increase of its onshore crude production capacity as part of a new USD 1bn project to develop the fields at Sahil (100,000 b/d), Qusahwira (23,000 b/d) and, for the first time, Mender (20,000 b/d). The front-end engineering and design contract for this mega project has been awarded to Australia's Worley Parsons; the