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AL SUWADI POWER'S BARKA 3 PLANT OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED



H E Ahmad al Shehhi (second left) inaugurated the Barka 3 power plant on Wednesday

Muscat Daily staff writer

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MUSCAT -

The Barka 3 power plant, owned by Al Suwadi Power Co, was officially inaugurated on Wednesday by H E Ahmad al Shehhi, Minister of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources.

The ceremony was also attended by senior representatives of the government, the Public Authority for Electricity and Water (PAEW) and the Oman Power and Water Procurement Co (OPWP).

Barka 3 and Sohar 2, which is owned by Al Batinah Power, are twin facilities with 744MW power generation capacity each. Both plants, with a total installed capacity of 1,488MW, account for about 27 per cent of Oman's



main interconnected system's (MIS) total installed capacity of approximately 5,589MW. Sohar 2 power plant was inaugurated on Monday.

Speaking at the event, Mohammed al Mahrouqi, chairman of PAEW said, "Barka 3 and its twin facility Sohar 2 are the outcome of the execution of the visionary policy of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said towards developing and enhancing the provision of electricity for all citizens and residents in Oman. The launch of these projects is in line with the sultanate's strategy, which aims at increasing local and foreign investments in electricity generation and at establishing a firm economic foundation that relies on private-sector participation."

The inaugural ceremony was also attended by Willem Van Twembeke, CEO and president of GDF Suez Energy International. GDF Suez is the biggest shareholder in both Al Batinah Power and Al Suwadi Power.

Speaking on the occasion, Twembeke said, "At present, we are the region's leading private developer of power and water projects. Oman holds a very special place at GDF Suez, not just for the business that we operate here, but for the long relationship and for the deep respect and values that we share with our stakeholders in the sultanate."

GDF Suez has stakes in six of the eleven projects contracted by OPWP.

The Barka 3 plant commenced full commercial operation on schedule on April 4, 2013. The EPC contractors were Siemens AG of Germany and GS Engineering and Construction Corporation of South Korea.

<http://www.muscatdaily.com/Archive/Business/Al-Suwadi-Power-s-Barka-3-plant-officially-inaugurated-31at>

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Barka power plant to meet growing consumer demand

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The Barka 3 Power Plant, which entered into full commercial operation in April 2013, was officially inaugurated by Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Mohamed Al Shehhi, minister of regional municipalities and water resources. Photo - Supplied

Barka: The Barka 3 Power Plant, which entered into full commercial operation in April 2013, was officially inaugurated yesterday to help meet the fast growing demand for electricity.

The plant is located about 80km northwest of Muscat and is owned by Al Suwadi Power. The engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractors were Siemens of Germany and GS Engineering and Construction Corporation of Korea.

Together with its twin facility the Sohar 2 Power Plant, owned by Al Batinah Power, these represent a total investment of \$1.7 billion, and a total installed capacity of 1,488 MW. This accounts for about 27 per cent of Oman's total installed capacity in the Main Interconnected System, which is about 5,589MW.

Sohar 2 plant

The Sohar 2 Power Plant was inaugurated on Monday. GDF Suez Energy International was awarded the Barka Phase 3 and Sohar Phase 2 projects in 2010.

The inauguration ceremony of the Barka plant was attended by Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Mohamed Al Shehhi, minister of regional municipalities and water resources; Ahmed bin Saleh Al Jahdhami, chief executive officer of Oman Power and Water Procurement Company (OPWP); Willem Van Twembeke, chief executive officer and president of GDF Suez; Przemek Lupa, chief executive officer of Al Suwadi Power, Jurgen De Vyt, chief executive officer of Al Batinah Power and other officials.

Like the Sohar plant, the energy for electricity generation in the Barka plant is obtained from the combustion of natural gas.

Addressing the ceremony, Al Jahdhami said that the inauguration of the plant is in line with the government's policy to increase the supply of electricity in all parts of Oman.

In his speech, Twembeke said that Barka 3 achieved an impressive reliability over 2013 of 99.73 per cent without environmental incidents. "A great job done by the STOMO operation and maintenance team at Barka 3 who, by end February, passed 972 days without a lost time accident."

"We will continue to commit our skills and expertise for the efficient management of Al Suwadi Power and for the continued smooth operation of the plant in close collaboration with our partners and the government of Oman," added the chief executive and president of GDF Suez.

<http://www.timesofoman.com/News/31665/Article-Barka-power-plant-to-meet-growing-consumer-demand>

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RO 308 million power plant opens in Barka

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BARKA — The Public Authority for Electricity and Water (PAEW) and Al Sawadi Power Company yesterday celebrated the inauguration of power plant 3 in the Wilayat of Barka in the Governorate of South Al Batinah that cost RO 308,000,000 during a ceremony held under the patronage of Ahmed bin Abdulla al Shihi, Minister of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources. Present at the launching ceremony were a number of under-secretaries, ambassadors of some friendly countries and shaikhs. The full operation of the plant began in April 2013 with an output capacity of 744 MW of power. The plant

employs Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) technology, which consists of two gas turbines, each combined with a heat recovery steam generator (HRSG) and one steam turbine.

Barka power plant 3 is one of the best plants in power generation at the huge commercial level in the Sultanate. Ahmed bin Saleh bin Ali al Jahdhami, CEO of Oman Power and Water Procurement Company (OPWPC) delivered a speech, at the beginning of the ceremony, saying that the agreements signed by the Government of the Sultanate during the month of August 2010 with Al Sawadi Power Company, a shared investment company between domestic and foreign private sector, provided that the company would construct a new plant for the production of electricity with create-own-run system, and OPWPC would buy power under the power purchase agreement for 15 years from the date of commercial operation of the project. He added that the project agreements also include that Al Batinah Power Company would offer up 35 per cent of its shares for public subscription in 2014.

Willem Van Twembeke, CEO of Al Sawadi Power Company delivered a speech during which he said that the close relationship between the Sultanate and GDF SUEZ is not new, but extends to 1996 when the company launched its first independent power plant in the Wilayat of Manah, when the Sultanate was at the beginning of its path towards the privatisation of the electricity sector. A documentary was screened during the inauguration ceremony on Al Sawadi Power Company, along with some poems and traditional songs reflecting the achievements of the Renaissance in all fields. On a related level, Mohammed bin Abdullah al Mahrouqi, Chairman of PAEW said, in a statement, that Barka 3 is one of the strategic projects in the area of production of electricity in the sultanate, and is part of the strategy that aims at increasing domestic and foreign investments in electricity production and the creation of an economic base that depends closely on the participation of the private sector.

He added that Barka 3 comes to meet the growing needs for electricity, including the urban, industrial and tourism expansion in the Sultanate, as demand on electricity in 2013 was 4634 MW. He pointed out that the projected growth in electricity demand over the next five years would be at a rate of 11 per cent and the expected electricity demand would be 9133 MW by 2019. He added that the agreement signed with the Government stating that Al Sawadi Power Company would offer up 35 per cent of its shares for public subscription during 2014. — ONA

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