SPECIALISTS IN AL SHAHEEN
Navigating complexity, unlocking potential in partnership with Qatar Petroleum

Generating the greatest possible value from the nation’s natural resources is essential to achieving Qatar’s 2030 National Vision. Together with Qatar Petroleum, Maersk Oil has been developing Qatar’s largest offshore oilfield for over twenty years. By drawing on more than two decades of unrivalled Al Shaheen experience and expertise, over 1.5 billion barrels of oil have been extracted from the field, which now contributes over one third of Qatar’s daily production. We are the specialists in Al Shaheen.
Qatar’s North Field, with 24.5 tcm (865 tcf) of natural gas reserves, is the largest non-associated gasfield in the world and was discovered in 1971. After beginning production from the field in 1991, Qatar Petroleum invested in the development of large-scale liquefaction facilities in partnership with international oil companies through the Qatargas and RasGas ventures to utilise its competitive advantage and access to open seas. Between 1999 and 2010, 14 LNG trains were brought on line, including the largest in the world. This makes Qatar the largest producer and exporter of the commodity globally, with a total liquefaction capacity of 77 million tonnes per year. The country accounted for 31.3 percent of global LNG trade in 2014 with exports totalling 76.4 million tonnes.
Diplomacy & Politics

Qatar’s extensive financial reserves and stable political environment are poised to carry the market through the oil price downturn for at least the medium term. The government is holding to large-scale domestic and international energy investments, aiming to expand oil and gas development both at home and abroad as well as maintain its position at the world’s leading supplier of LNG.

Exploration & Production

Qatar Petroleum is aiming to expand production at established oil and gasfields such as Dukhan and the North Field, as well as stepping up its international exploration and production efforts with new investments in countries as far afield as Canada and the Republic of Congo. Meanwhile, the government is looking to restructure long-term hydrocarbons concessions that are coming up for renewal in order to secure greater gains from its resources at home.
Qatar exported 76.4 million tonnes of LNG in 2014, and the country’s unmatched capacity for LNG production positions it to remain dominant despite a changing global market. Even as rival supplies begin emerging from markets such as the US and Australia, Qatar’s established infrastructure gives it an advantage, particularly during a period of low commodity prices.

The Qatari downstream sector is evolving to add greater value to local oil and gas resources. Although the country has seen two major petrochemicals projects cancelled, a number of new developments are in the works to transform hydrocarbons into niche and high-value products such as helium and hydrogen. Meanwhile, a carbon dioxide recovery unit at the Mesaieed methanol plant will raise output by 90,000 tonnes per year.

Demand for power is rising in Qatar along with the expansion of the country’s population and economy. New generation projects such as Umm Al Houl Power’s Facility D independent power and water plant are in the works to satisfy this demand. Power developments abroad are also being given a boost, as investments are made or planned in Oman, Turkey, Kenya and other markets.

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QATAR 2015

Engineering & Construction

Engineering and construction contractors in Qatar are shifting their focus to brownfield work as the country’s market matures. Projects have been undertaken to maintain and upgrade Qatar’s existing upstream facilities, such as the $2.3-billion Plateau Maintenance Project, designed to prop up production at Qatargas 1’s LNG trains, and the $1.5-billion Laffan Refinery 2 upgrade project, which will double the facility’s output when it is complete in 2016.

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QATAR 2015

Banking, Finance & Legal

While the slump in global oil prices has left Qatar without new additions to its roster of hydrocarbons financing projects, the country has extensive resources and solid financial buffers in place to weather a drop in oil and gas revenues. A mid-2015 Qatar National Bank report forecast a 138-year stretch for the country’s gas reserves at current rates of production. Meanwhile, an upgrade to “emerging market” status confirms Qatar’s economic momentum.
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The new face of Qatar Petroleum

Qatar Petroleum (QP) supervises and drives Qatar’s energy industry. In the last quarter of 2014, the company initiated a restructuring programme that ended in June 2015. As a result of low oil prices worldwide, QP has streamlined its activities and is consolidating its international presence under the leadership of president and CEO Saad Sherida Al Kaabi.

In September 2014, Al Kaabi was appointed to the newly created position of president and CEO of state-owned QP. At a time when the price of Brent crude was on a downward slide but still above $100 per barrel, the move marked a shift within the national oil company. Previously, Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, minister of energy and industry, had been the face of QP. Under his leadership, the company and the government body ran concurrently, almost as a single entity. The change will give QP greater autonomy, though Al Sada will retain a symbolic role as chairman.

QP’s restructuring was seen as necessary to increase organisational efficiency, which had been hindered by the extent of its non-core business interests and decentralised operating structure.

RESHUFFLE: Al Kaabi, former director of oil and gas ventures, has reorganised the industrial giant to realise the company’s objective of becoming a global force among national and international oil companies, on par with the hydrocarbons industry’s leaders.

Established in 1974, the hydrocarbons giant had grown to a point where its size was making it difficult to manage because of non-core business interests. Numerous departments and a decentralised management have hampered the company’s efficiency. QP’s restructuring initiative has been an effort to streamline the company’s processes by simplifying the internal structure and merging departments.

“We are in a period of oversupply in the industry, and we must be very efficient as an organisation. While we have no control over markets and prices, we do have control over our costs and expenditure,” Al Kaabi said in a June 2015 QP press release.

On June 23, 2015, Al Kaabi announced that the restructuring, initiated in late 2014, was complete and that there were no plans to extend the process.

“IT is normal for leading companies to frequently reorganise in order to meet the requirements of the ever changing competitive environment and deliver on their new strategic objectives, which is what QP did,” the president and CEO said.

As QP subsidiaries continue to review their internal structures, further changes are expected to take place over the next year. QP is also relinquishing its management responsibilities of land allocation in the Mesaieed Industrial City.

UPSTREAM FOCUS: While QP has reaffirmed its commitment to upstream operations, additional growth in the gas industry is restricted by an ongoing moratorium limiting exploration at Qatar’s North Field. The play holds the world’s largest non-associated gas reserves at an estimated 24.5 tcm (865 tcf). Although the moratorium limits opportunity, progress has been made on Qatar’s latest gas mega-project, the Barzan gas development. As of August 2014, 95 percent of train 1 was completed. The first train is scheduled to come on line in 2015 and train 2 is expected to start up by in 2016. The natural gas facility is expected to produce 45.3 mcm (1.6 bcf) of gas daily for sale.

Qatar’s healthy natural gas market has allowed it to concentrate on oil development. Oil production has severely declined in recent years, falling from 845,000 to 709,000 barrels of oil per day (bopd) between 2007 and 2014, according to OPEC figures. Crude oil production in August 2015 was down to an average of 643,000 bopd.

While this decline is primarily a result of reservoir mismanagement and falling production at the Dukhan onshore oilfield, the depletion of other QP-operated offshore developments, such as those at the Maydan Mahzam and Bul Hanine fields, has also played a significant role in the country’s attenuated oil production. In July 2014, QP announced plans to invest around $11 billion until 2028 drilling 150 new wells in Bul Hanine to more than double the field’s production by 2020, to 90,000 bopd.

QP is also assessing redevelopment plans for Dukhan and Maydan Mahzam fields. Production stood at around 225,000 bopd at the Dukhan field and 22,000 bopd at Maydan Mahzam in 2013. However, the global oil price slump will undoubtedly affect the execution of the government’s expansion projects. No announcements related to these developments have been made since July 2014. However, Abdullah Al Attiyah, the former minister of energy and industry, told TOGY that he
Qatar's Oil Production Fell from 845,000 to 709,000 bopd from 2007 to 2014

The Golden Pass Projects is Expected to Cost $10 Billion

QP Opened Bids for a Partnership at Its Al Shaheen Oilfield in May 2015

INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION: QP's large-scale restructuring has also resulted in the absorption of Qatar Petroleum International (QPI), the company's foreign investment arm, which was created in 2007.

"QPI has delivered on its mandate by securing a multi-billion-dollar portfolio of global investments with leading international companies. This strategic transition combines the strength of both companies to become a fully integrated international energy player," Nasser Khalil Al Jaidah, former CEO of QPI, said in a QP press release.

Noting the company's international aspirations, Al Kaabi announced that QPI's investments were being evaluated and foreign production acquisitions would follow restructuring and integration.

QP has plans to introduce export capabilities at its Golden Pass LNG import and regasification terminal at Sabine Pass, Texas. A joint venture between QP (70 percent), ExxonMobil (17.6 percent) and ConocoPhillips (12.4 percent), the Golden Pass project was completed in 2010.

In 2012, QP and ExxonMobil decided to add an export terminal to the Golden Pass facility and ship up to 15.6 million tonnes of LNG yearly, taking 70-percent and 30-percent stakes, respectively.

The project, dubbed Golden Pass Projects, is expected to cost $10 billion. A joint venture between US company CB&I and Japan's Chiyoda Corporation was awarded the front-end engineering and design contract for the facility in July 2014. After the company's internal restructuring was completed in June 2015, Al Kaabi confirmed that QP was now waiting for the necessary permits from the US administration before beginning construction in 2016.

The View Forward: The oil price slump has highlighted the need for companies to remain lean and diversify their business interests to stay competitive in a tumultuous industry. As the price per barrel continues to fluctuate, businesses are attempting to plan for sustained low oil prices.

With an estimated 25.7 billion barrels of oil in proven reserves, according to the BP Statistical Review 2015, QP's restructuring and commitment to upstream activities, at home and abroad, is a prudent move in the current economic environment. Previously known for its gas export capabilities, QP is turning increasingly to oil activities as a means of boosting its long-term profitability and contributions to government revenues.

The company remains state controlled and operates throughout the entirety of Qatar's hydrocarbons value chain, via subsidiaries and joint ventures. This has exposed the company to risk and has had the added effect of limiting the development of the private sector in the oil and gas industry.

By capitalising on the totality of the country's hydrocarbons resources while concurrently divesting unnecessary interests, QP hopes to cement its position as an industry giant in spite of the slump.
QATAR PETROLEUM’S COMPANIES AND INVESTMENTS*

*This is a simplified version that represents Qatar Petroleum’s key companies and investments.
INTERVIEW

Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, chairman of the Al Attiyah Foundation for Energy & Sustainable Development, talks to TOGY about Qatar’s position in the LNG market and how the country has reacted to fluctuations in the oil and gas industry through diversification. Al Attiyah, former minister of energy and industry and managing director of state-owned Qatar Petroleum, set up the foundation in 2015.

Adapt to the volatile market

Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, chairman of the Al Attiyah Foundation for Energy & Sustainable Development, talks to TOGY about Qatar’s position in the LNG market and how the country has reacted to fluctuations in the oil and gas industry through diversification. Al Attiyah, former minister of energy and industry and managing director of state-owned Qatar Petroleum, set up the foundation in 2015.

How has Qatar become the largest LNG producer and exporter in the world?

In 1992, Qatar was a minor oil-producing state and one of the smallest in OPEC, producing about 350,000 barrels of oil per day. That year, the price of oil averaged $19.30 per barrel. These were challenging times for the global energy industry. It was at this time when we made the decision to ramp up the development of our natural gas production, which is based on resources in the North Field, the largest non-associated gasfield in the world. The North Field holds almost all of Qatar’s total gas reserves of 24.5 tcm (865 tcf).

The ambitious progress of our LNG industry necessitated the development of cutting-edge technology and large capital expenditures. This approach paid off. Japanese utilities provider Chubu Electric Power signed a long-term LNG sale-and-purchase contract as Qatar’s first customer in 1992. Companies in South Korea, China, India, Thailand, Spain, the UK and Belgium followed suit, securing long-term demand for Qatar’s LNG production.

Since then, the country has been able to bring 14 LNG trains on line, with a combined production capacity of 77 million tonnes per year. Qatar as a country has mastered the entire LNG value chain, from extraction to liquefaction and marketing of the product. The Qatar Gas Transport Company, known as Nakilat, boasts the largest LNG fleet in the world, with 61 vessels. The company delivers LNG from Qatar to markets around the world.

How has Qatar diversified its production to contribute to the long-term energy demands of both regions?

Qatar is located halfway between Europe and Asia, enabling it to contribute to the long-term energy demands of both regions.

How has Qatar diversified its production to extract value from its hydrocarbons reserves?

Qatar has been able to attain value from its oil reserves, which are estimated to be 25.7 billion barrels. The country produces about 700,000 barrels of oil per day and the necessary investments are being made to sustain this production. With around 1.3 million barrels of oil equivalent of condensates and natural gas liquids produced every day, Qatar’s total liquid production averages 2 million barrels per day.

The country has diversified its hydrocarbons industry by becoming the largest producer of gas-to-liquids in the world. The Pearl and Oryx plants have a combined production capacity of around 170,000 barrels per day, along with additional production of LPG and condensates. Qatari natural gas contains relatively large quantities of helium, which must be separated. We are the second-largest producer of helium and the top exporter worldwide. We have further expanded downstream, using our natural gas to produce electricity for the country and develop a solid petrochemicals sector.

In what ways can Qatar build on experience to further develop its energy industry?

The country has already accomplished the necessary infrastructure, experience and know-how across all sectors of the energy industry, paving the way for future developments. Qatar has developed its own model for the hydrocarbons industry under the leadership of the Ministry of Energy and Industry and state-owned Qatar Petroleum, and with the support of major international oil companies. Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, minister of energy and industry, and Saad Sherida Al Kaabi, president and CEO of Qatar Petroleum, will continue to drive the Qatari industry forward and position the country as a major global provider of hydrocarbons. Qatar is located halfway between Europe and Asia, enabling it to contribute to the long-term energy demands of both regions.

How have changes in the global hydrocarbons industry impacted Qatar, particularly in light of the downturn in oil prices?

Qatar can easily live with the price of oil below $60 per barrel and with lower natural gas prices. State revenues from the energy industry have always been invested wisely in the country’s economy to diversify the industry. The Qatar National Vision 2030 aims to find the balance between a hydrocarbons-based and a knowledge-based economy.

Commodity prices are cyclical, and industry players always adapt accordingly. We can forget about oil at $100 per barrel for the next decade and live with it as long as Qatar and the industry adapt to the new situation. The necessary steps have been taken, and the Qatari government has based its new budget on the price of oil being between $45-50.
This is a conservative estimate showing that Qatar is rationalising its expenses and concentrating on major projects that bring added value to the country. Qatar Petroleum has also gone through a period of change to adapt to the new market outlook, and I am confident that the right steps have been taken.

Qatar has been a member of OPEC since 1961. How has OPEC reacted to the changes in the oil industry during the past few years? The fall of commodity prices is just a consequence of the changes in the energy industry at the global level. Over the past few years, the US has ramped up production to become a major producer of both oil and natural gas. The US has been able to do this by developing its unconventional resources.

The market has been flooded with additional production coming from existing and new players in North America as well as players in other parts of the world. At the same time, global economic growth slowed down, as did the demand for oil in major consuming countries such as China and India.

In the first quarter of 2015, global oil production averaged around 94.6 million barrels per day, while the demand was 93 million barrels per day in the same period. OPEC produced about 33 percent of the entire output.

The market share of the organisation is not what it used to be. OPEC has lost part of its ability to influence as a swing producer. It now has no interest in cutting production. This is what OPEC did in the 1980s, a move that resulted in losses in the organisation’s market share, while prices did not pick up.

What are some potential challenges OPEC may face in the near future? The background has changed as producers and consumers are more diverse, meaning that new producers will emerge. OPEC will remain a source of stability in global oil markets in this era of greater competition and will continue to play a major role in the dialogue between consumers and producers. OPEC members will continue managing and co-ordinating their levels of production.

Now that Iran may ramp up its oil production after nuclear negotiations may lead to the lifting of sanctions, the country might account for a greater share of OPEC’s output. This may be the organisation’s next challenge. However, I believe that OPEC will be able to put politics aside and adapt to these changes in the hydrocarbons industry. Furthermore, Iran’s production will increase progressively, and growing markets in Asia and elsewhere will absorb the country’s additional volumes.

Qatar is rationalising its expenses and concentrating on major projects that bring added value to the country.

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Source: IMF

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In late 2015, RasGas is bringing on line the first of two natural gas trains associated with the $10.4-billion Barzan Gas Project. Construction of the new gas extraction facilities in Qatar’s North Field, the world’s largest non-associated gasfield, started in 2011. Total production from the project’s twin trains is expected to reach 45.3 mcm (1.6 bcf) of natural gas per day once it reaches full capacity in 2016. Most of the natural gas produced from the plant will be marketed domestically for power generation and water desalination purposes to meet the growing demand of Qatar’s population.

On April 28, 2015, Qatargas and RasGas officially inaugurated the Jetty Boil-off Gas Recovery Project. The estimated $1-billion endeavour, which began operations in October 2014, enables the collection and discharge of boil-off gas from LNG ships during loading at six LNG berths at Ras Laffan Industrial City’s port. After the gas is compressed, it is sent back to Qatargas and RasGas’ LNG trains for use as a fuel source or reconversion into LNG. This system will allow for a reduction in flaring by 90 percent and carbon dioxide emissions by up to 1.6 million tonnes annually.

On June 2, 2015, the Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation, also known as Kahramaa, awarded K1 energy, a consortium of Japan’s Mitsubishi Corporation (98.5 percent) and Tokyo Electric Power Company (1.5 percent), a $2.5-billion contract for the construction of the 2.52-GW gas-fired Facility D independent water and power plant. The plant’s desalination capacity will be about 517 million litres per day and it will be the largest facility of its kind in the Middle East. Construction is expected to start in October 2015 and is slated for completion by the end of 2018.

In late 2015, Maersk Oil Qatar announced plans to quadruple the number of Qatari citizens employed in leadership positions at the company by 2017. In 2014, this figure increased by 12 percent. As of the beginning of 2015, the company’s Qatari employees numbered 215, accounting for 23 percent of its total workforce. Maersk Oil Qatar spent about $962 million on local goods and services in 2014, which represents 63 percent of its total yearly expenditures. Maersk Oil is the operator of the behemoth offshore Al Shaheen field, Qatar’s largest oil producing field.
QATAR AT A GLANCE

POLITICAL

- Official name: State of Qatar
- Official language: Arabic
- Political system: Constitutional emirate
- Head of state: Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani

ECONOMY

- Currency: Qatari riyal ($1:QAR3.65)
- GDP: $212 billion (2014)
- Share of oil and gas in nominal GDP: 51.1 percent (2014)
- Major trading partners: China, Japan, South Korea, the UAE, India

GEOGRAPHY

- Area: 11,586 square kilometres
- Capital: Doha
- Natural resources: Natural gas, oil, fish

ENERGY

- 2014 natural gas reserves: 24.5 tcm (865 tcf)
- 2014 natural gas production: 177 bcm (6.25 tcf)
- 2014 oil reserves: 25.7 billion barrels
- 2014 oil production: 709,000 barrels per day

The Qatar 2015 Investors Index

The Qatar 2015 Investors Index rating of 84.1 percent indicates a positive outlook for the country’s hydrocarbons industry, in spite of the domestic impact of the downturn in world energy markets. In a context of political instability in the Middle East, the country stands as one of the top destinations for investments and for companies to do business.

More than 97 percent of respondents described business conditions in Qatar’s oil and gas industry as favourable, and 76.5 percent believed it would improve over the next year.

FORWARD THINKING: The 94.1 percent of respondents that agreed 12 months from the survey’s date would be a good time to invest reflects relatively high expectations and the likelihood of a business upswing in the near future. Investors remain fairly confident in the strength of Qatar’s industrial base, as 73.5 percent thought that it is a good time to invest in the country, and 82.3 percent thought that their company’s revenue would increase during the following 12 months.

The positive financial outlook, in spite of the global fall in oil and gas prices, suggests companies’ efforts towards efficiency and streamlining are coming to fruition.

LOCAL CHALLENGES: While a strong sense of confidence prevails, 52.9 percent of respondents described doing business in Qatar as difficult. A lack of clarity on government policy and the strategy of the national oil company are mainly to blame. Still, 29.4 percent thought industry policies were pro-business, and 44.1 percent rated them pro-business, but restrictive. Almost two-thirds of investors considered it difficult to start an oil and gas business in Qatar. Contributing factors included administrative barriers, a saturated market and a shortage of highly skilled workers.

SAFE HAVEN: Investors remained relatively confident in industry policies, procedures and tendering processes, as 61.8 percent agreed they were transparent. Qatar also appeared relatively untouched by regional geopolitical concerns, suggested by the 66.7 percent of respondents that rated the country as stable and the remaining 33 percent that rated it highly stable. Once again, Qatar stands as one of the top choices among investors, with appeal both in the short and the long term.

ABOVE THE INDEX: The TOGY Investors Index is designed to measure confidence among oil and gas investors as expressed in their level of spending in any given market. The index is valued based on the responses of major oil and gas executives in this market. The survey consists of five attitudinal questions in which participants are asked to give positive or negative responses.

A reading above 50 on the index represents a positive perception among oil and gas investors, while scores of less than 50 suggest a negative outlook. The Qatar 2015 Investors Index is based on the responses of 34 oil and gas executives.

### RESPONSE

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<tr>
<td>Very easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extremely difficult</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How would you rate the level of transparency in this oil and gas market?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very transparent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transparent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not transparent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrupt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How would you rate the level of political and economic stability in this oil and gas market?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highly stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unstable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly unstable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Survey conducted by The Oil & Gas Year in Qatar between January 2015 and July 2015

The Who’s Who of the Global Energy Industry
A history of collaboration

Qatar began developing strong ties with countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas starting in the early 1990s. The Middle Eastern nation has attracted foreign investors to support the development of its energy industry and has continuously aided the growth of its partners’ economies through deliveries of hydrocarbons and various foreign investments.

Qatar is a major supplier of energy resources to Japan. With 16 million tonnes of LNG delivered per year, which accounts for 18 percent of our LNG imports, the country is the second-largest supplier of LNG to our country. Qatar is also Japan’s third-largest oil supplier and produces 11 percent of our total oil imports.

Seeking economical LNG prices and securing needed LNG from producing countries at the global level are important challenges for Japan’s future energy policy. Maintaining stable and reliable energy supply is the most important factor for Japan’s energy security, and Qatar is our most reliable and stable partner. Qatar proved that it is ready to respond to emergency situations after the Tohoku earthquake in 2011, when it shipped additional LNG to Japan. Japan was a member of the international consortium that developed Qatar’s LNG industry from the initial stage as pioneer, investor, financier, off-taker and engineering contractor starting in the mid-1980s. This helped to enhance our excellent relationship.

His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani paid an official visit to Japan in February 2015 and met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Both sides expressed their intention to strengthen ties and diversify the domains of their bilateral co-operation. Japanese companies will participate in new projects in Qatar as both investors and contractors, and they are encouraged to take part in projects supporting the 2022 FIFA World Cup and the Qatar National Vision 2030.

The UK-Qatar relationship was successful in 2014. Two-way trade exceeded £5 billion, and Qatari government investment in the UK was more than £30 billion. The highlight was the visit to the UK of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

In the energy industry in particular, the relationship is strong and continues to grow. In November 2013, the UK and Qatari energy ministers signed a bilateral energy communiqué in Doha, followed by further meetings in London in June and October 2014. In March 2015, Stephen Lovegrove, permanent secretary at the UK’s Department of Energy and Climate Change, visited Qatar for high-level talks with Qatari ministers and senior officials. Qatar is a key partner for the UK’s energy security and our most important LNG supplier. In 2013, Qatar provided 18 percent of total UK gas imports, and LNG overall met 13 percent of total UK gas demand. Qatar’s South Hook LNG terminal at Milford Haven in the UK has the capacity to supply 20 percent of total UK gas demand.

Gas will continue to play a key role in the UK energy mix. There will be increased demand for electricity generation as we will reduce the use of coal to meet international climate change targets, and several nuclear power plants will come off stream in the 2020s. Declining domestic production will lead to increased import dependency, which will be met by both LNG and pipeline gas. This highlights the importance of Qatari LNG to the UK. British companies have played a key role in helping Qatar deliver its 2030 National Vision as well.

To strengthen bilateral co-operation, His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani paid his first official visit to India in March 2015, where he met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

During this visit, six agreements and memorandums of understanding were signed to further strengthen bilateral relations and promote investment in India from Qatar. Qatari companies are encouraged by the governments to increase their involvement in India’s national development strategy, ‘Make in India’, by participating in projects related to the new industrial corridors, such as the one between Delhi and Mumbai.

Bilateral trade between India and Qatar stood at nearly $17 billion between 2013 and 2014, of which $16 billion was in the import of energy-related products from Qatar. Qatar is the largest supplier of LNG to India. Since 2004, India has been importing 7.5 million tonnes of LNG from Qatar per year under a 25-year sales and purchase agreement signed between RasGas of Qatar and Petronet of India in 1999. In addition to that, India bought more than 5 million tonnes of Qatari LNG on spot markets and under short-term contracts in 2014. Qatar is also India’s 10th-largest oil supplier, providing it with about 5 million tonnes of oil per year. The Gulf nation also supplies India with fertiliser products, such as urea. The Qatar Chemical and Petrochemical Marketing and Distribution Company, known as Muntajat, opened an office in Mumbai in 2014, affirming its commitment to the Indian market.