Unlocking Tunisia’s Resources

Tunisia has an important place in the history of OMV, as it is the country where one of Austria’s largest listed industrial companies launched its very first economic international exploration and production project back in 1971. Since then, Tunisia has become an important part of the company’s Middle East & Africa core region with the acquisition of Preussag’s international business in 2003, further strengthened by the Pioneer and Medco acquisitions in 2011.

OMV is committed to invest further into the development of additional resources in Tunisia, in particular in South Tunisia.

Currently OMV’s activities are focused on exploration, production and infrastructure development in South Tunisia.

In 2003, OMV acquired the international assets of Preussag Energie in Tunisia which were comprised of TPS, operating five concessions, and SEREPT, operating the Ashtart concession on behalf of its co-holders ETAP and OMV. In the same year, OMV signed the Jenein Sud exploration permit. In 2005 the Warda-1 well exploration was successfully drilled and tested, resulting in the first of a series of gas-condensate discoveries in the licensed region.

In August 2017, OMV divested its 50% stake in the Ashtart oil field, an offshore field in the Gulf of Gabès as well as OMV’s 50% stake in the operating company SEREPT. The divestment fits with OMV’s global strategy to optimize its portfolio.

OMV is progressing the development of the Nawara concession, which was granted in February 2010 within the Jenein Sud exploration area and contains most of the current discoveries. In 2011, OMV significantly strengthened its position in the South by acquiring the Tunisian Upstream business of Pioneer and Medco. These acquisitions complement OMV’s existing assets, Jenein Sud and Nawara.

OMV has a working interest in one exploration permit (Jenein Sud) and twelve production concessions in Tunisia (operated and non-operated).

In 2017, OMV’s equity production in Tunisia was 6.5 kboe/d.

Concessions and Projects

The TPS fields, one offshore and three onshore, are located in the vicinity of Sfax and Kerkennah Island. Oil is gathered in two stations and then transported to the La Skhira oil storage and export terminal.

South Tunisian concessions: two exploration wells were drilled in 2015 in order to unlock more reserves in the region. The Sondes 1 well was an oil discoveryOMV, ETAP and Thani have been granted the Sondes concession in October 2017. Benefsaj Sud concession was granted to OMV and ETAP in August 2018.

The Anaguid East Development Project was carved out of the Anaguid permit, granted and gazetted in September 2014 after five oil discoveries made in the course of the 2012/2013 drilling campaign. The development, completed in November 2016, consists of permanent facilities (pipelines and processing equipment), which enables the gathering of well fluids from the Anaguid area and their transportation, with the associated gas, to the Waha Central Processing Facility. The 50 km multiphase trunk line has eliminated road transportation and the flaring of associated gas. It will also play a strategic role in the future gas development of South Tunisia. The project was completed with zero HSSE incidents and within budget.
The Nawara Gas Development Project

The Nawara concession was granted out of the Jenein Sud exploration permit in February 2010 as a result of the successful drilling of nine gas/condensate discovery wells. The project aims to deliver gas and by-products to the Tunisian market replacing a significant volume of gas currently imported from Algeria.

The Central Processing Facility within the concession will pre-treat raw gas and recover condensate. A 370 km 24” diameter pipeline will transport the gas from Nawara to the Gas Treatment Plant in Gabès where further processing will yield commercial products (sales gas, condensate and LPG). The Nawara project is a key strategic infrastructure project unlocking South Tunisia’s gas resources and as such has been designated a project of National Interest. For OMV, this joint project with ETAP is a substantial part of its growth story in Tunisia and within its international portfolio.

The project progress has been negatively affected as a result of the recent low oil price environment and other challenges faced, such as land management issues and the social unrest in the South. This has manifested itself as increased costs and delays in first commercial production.

Community Relations

OMV is drawing on decades of experience implementing sustainability projects in OMV countries, and promoting awareness of best practices within the oil and gas industry. In Tunisia, OMV is directing its community development and community relations efforts towards employment, local content, land issues, education and skills capacity building, through the provision of support, expertise and investment. The main community relations project in Tunisia is the Tataouine Skills to Succeed (StS) project; a vocational training and economic social development initiative aiming to improve employability of local people in Tataouine in various industries. The project was implemented by Hilfswerk Austria International in cooperation with the local authorities and education institutions. It provides young people with skill building and business development classes, making use of the Austrian apprenticeship (dual education) system and experience. Skills to Succeed Project created 368 jobs, 51 small businesses and trained more than 1,300 beneficiaries in different disciplines during the last five years.

Leaving a lasting OMV footprint StS was created in January 2018 as a local NGO implementing programs, now to be funded by other donors.

RSE Tataouine

OMV Tunisia reinforced its community relations investments in Tataouine through a joint oil companies’ sustainable project with its contribution being USD 1.7 mn over three years. 360 beneficiaries in 2017.

Nawara Project CSR Programs

The first Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project for the Central Processing Facility and Pipeline is being implemented in Gabès, Kebili, Medenine and Tataouine, with a budget of USD 4.5 mn. The project addresses community grievances of unemployment, weak infrastructure, and local contractor’s non-competitiveness by investing in targeted programs focusing on employability and self-employment, local supplier capacity building, and support to regional development and civil society.

The second CSR project is covering the area around the Nawara Gas Treatment Plant in Gabès. With a budget of USD 265,000 the project aims to improve community relations around the GTP through a civil society capacity building program.

Health & Safety

OMV applies its global standards and best-practice principles in health, safety, security and environment strictly and continuously across all activities in Tunisia. We strive to engage with all our stakeholders; to improve safety behaviours and standards, to minimize the impact on the environment and to enable sustainability in our operations.