Unlocking Tunisia’s Resources

Tunisia has an important place in the history of OMV, one of Austria’s largest listed industrial companies, as it is the country where it launched its very first economic international exploration and production project in 1971.

OMV Activities in 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 comprised of a 50% stake in Thyna Petroleum Services S.A. operating company (TPS) and a 49% stake in the Cercina/Cercina Sud, El Ain/Gremda, El Hajeb/Guebiba and Rhemoura concessions, and SEREPT, operating the Ashtart concession on behalf of its co-holders ETAP and OMV. In the same year, OMV was awarded 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.

In December 2018, OMV divested its 50% stake in TPS together with its 49% stake in the concessions, through the sale of its 100% owned subsidiary named “OMV Tunisia Upstream GmbH”.

These divestments fit with OMV’s global strategy to optimize its portfolio.

In 2018, OMV’s equity production in Tunisia was 5 kboe/d.

Concessions and Projects

OMV has a working interest in two exploration permits (Jenein Sud and Borj el Khadra (pending) and eight operated and non-operated production concessions.

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

During the course of the 2012/2013 drilling campaign within the Anaguid permit, five oil discoveries were made. The Anaguid East Development Project was carved out of the permit in September 2014. The development was completed in November 2016.

In 2015, two exploration wells were drilled in order to unlock more reserves in the region. The Sondes 1 well was an oil discovery, which led to OMV, ETAP and Thani being granted the Sondes concession in October 2017. An additional concession, named Benefsej Sud, was granted to OMV and ETAP in August 2018 after a successful well, drilled in 2013.

Facts / Milestones

1971: The Group launched the first exploration and production project

1980: Halk el Menzel Concession was awarded

2003: Acquisition of Preussag assets; OMV is a 50% partner with ETAP in TPS and SEREPT

2006: Discovery of oil and gas in Jenein Sud

2010: Nawara concession (within Jenein Sud) which contains most of the current gas discoveries, was granted equally to ETAP & OMV

2011: Acquisition of Pioneer and Medco assets in South Tunisia

2012: Takeover of operator role in Nawara consortium

2014: Nawara Project was granted OMV internal final investment decision in March

2015: Nawara declared a project of National Interest by decree

2017: Divestment of OMV’s 50% stake in the Ashtart oil field and 50% stake in the operating company SEREPT

2018: Divestment of 50% stake in TPS and 49% stake in the concessions through the sale of OMV 100% owned subsidiary “OMV Tunisia Upstream GmbH”
South Tunisia Waha gas valorization project
The South Tunisia Waha gas valorization project supports OMV’s strategic goal of reducing GHG intensity through efficiency improvements alongside the commercialization of previously flared gas. The project scope was the installation of a gas valorization plant and two vapor recovery units to recover associated gas and the installation of the Anaguid gathering point and the construction of a 50 km pipeline to connect the Anaguid gathering point and the production of the Durra concession with the gas valorization plant. 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.

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 a low oil price environment and other challenges 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
In Tunisia, the focus is on employability and skill building, local content, and capacity building. OMV is directing its Community Development and Community Relations efforts towards these areas, through the provision of support, expertise and investment.

Skills to Succeed (StS) initiative
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.

Leaving a lasting OMV footprint StS was transformed in January 2018 as a local NGO implementing programs funded by other donors.

CSR Tataouine
OMV 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 contractors’ 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.

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