

Unified registration system for oil sector contracts

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By Conrad Prabhu – MUSCAT: Feb. 14: Oil and gas companies operating in Oman under exploration and production sharing agreements are now required to sign up to the Joint Supplier Registration System (JSRS) for the oil and gas industry, according to officials overseeing the implementation of this online service.

Registration via this single window system, conceived as part of the Oil and Gas Ministry's In-Country Value (ICV) initiative, is a prerequisite for suppliers and contractors – local and international – looking to compete for oil and gas contracts. A deadline set by the Ministry for suppliers to register via system expires today, February 15, 2015.

Ahead of the deadline, Oman Society of Petroleum Services (OPAL) organised a seminar for the benefit of suppliers and contractors. The event, held at the InterContinental Muscat, attracted more than 250 representatives from across all segments of the supplier fraternity. Also in attendance were officials representing the Ministry of Oil and Gas, Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), BP, and other operators. Local Omani SME Business Gateways International is operating the Joint Supplier Registration System on behalf of the oil and gas industry. The company's CEO, Hemant Murkoth, said the single window registration system becomes the prescribed norm for all oil and gas companies effective from February 15, 2015.

"This is the cut-off date set by the Ministry of Oil and Gas for all operators to be part of the JSRS. By then, all of the operators will have to abandon their internal supplier list and use the JSRS as the only channel for supplier sourcing," Murkoth said in comments to the Observer.

To date, more than 2,700 local and international vendor and contracting firms are registered via the JSRS, according to the CEO. The online system provides a host of features for the suppliers with tight integration to the Oman National Business Framework of Business Gateways, such as company profile, industry tender feeds, external company profile, mail, chat and so on.

"Any one who wants to deal with the oil and gas industry must be having the e-certificate, which we can provide after validating the registrant's credentials. Without this digital document, a supplier will not be allowed to participate in any tender."

BGI sees the potential to grow its pool of registered suppliers to between 4,000-5,000 companies. The longer term objective is to open this burgeoning supplier pool to business opportunities in the Gulf, Middle East and wider world, says Murkoth.

“The goal is to take Omani companies internationally – something we’re looking to pursue through the Ministry of Oil and Gas. Initially, Omani contractors will be able to tap into opportunities in the Qatar oil and gas industry via this platform.”

PDO, the country’s largest oil and gas operator, says it is working to encourage its vast pool of vendors to register under the JSRS. “We have currently around 3,200 vendors registered with PDO. Of this number, around 800 have registered via the JSRS. Our target is to get all of our vendors to shift to the JSRS by mid-year,” said Salim al Harthy of PDO’s In-Country Value Department.