



UAE BOND SALES

UAE Finance Minister Obaid Humaid al Tayer said the government would only sell bonds 'if needed' and that such a sale wouldn't come until at least early next year

BUSINESS

SUNDAY, MAY 08, 2011 | MUSCAT DAILY | 2

Golden Dunes deal for solar energy solutions



Muscat - Golden Dunes International (GDI), founders of Gulf International Pipe Industry, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with renowned Korean energy solutions provider Kwan Won to establish solar energy solutions in Oman.

Pursuant to the MoU, the

solar project will be scaled up. Phase 1 will be a 5MW demonstration project that will be commenced as soon as necessary formalities are completed with various authorities.

"This major commitment to solar power is a direct result of the progressive energy policies

being adopted in Oman to create a sustainable, long-term diversification from traditional energy sources and assuring a low carbon future for the sultanate," Hamdan al Shaqsy, chairman of GDI, said at the signing ceremony.

The project is expected to operate under a feed-in-tariff which will guarantee the pricing of electricity produced at the Solar plant over a long-term period.

"The PAEW feed-in tariff will be critical to this project," Hamdan said. "We are proud to have in Oman a forward-looking government policy which is necessary to create a strong renewable energy market."

Gulf states' customs union likely by 2015

Abu Dhabi, UAE - Gulf states aim to bring a long-awaited customs unification into effect in 2015 as they vie to remove hurdles that delayed the union launched eight

years ago, said the State Minister of Financial Affairs Obaid Humaid al Tayer.

"We hope to complete that by the end of 2014 and that it be-

comes a reality," said al Tayer. "The issues of revenues, dumping and protectionism repeatedly delayed its full implementation."

In September, the energy-rich bloc decided to postpone imple-

JPMorgan raises oil-price forecasts

London, UK - JPMorgan Chase & Co raised its oil-price forecasts because OPEC and other producers aren't matching rising demand and consumers will take time to react to higher prices.

The bank boosted its 2011 Brent crude forecast to US\$120 a barrel from US\$110, and changed its estimate for West Texas Intermediate crude to US\$109.50 from US\$99. Forecasts for 2012 prices were raised to US\$120 and US\$114, respectively.

"While financial bushfires or perhaps a rapid resolution to the Libyan civil war could radically alter market dynamics, the balance of both risks and fundamentals still points to a supply-constrained world," JPMorgan analysts said.

Oil futures posted their biggest weekly decline since December 2008 last week amid concern about the pace of the economic recovery, with London-traded Brent plunging 13 per cent to US\$109.13.

JPMorgan forecasts supply to

Saraya committed to projects

Amman, Jordan - Saraya Holdings, which owns a 50 per cent stake in Oman's Saraya Bandar Jissah, said it is committed to completing its projects on time. A spokesperson said that it has taken remedial measures over the past two years aimed at coping with the effects of the global financial crisis, a release said.

These measures included the freezing of the 'Saraya Ras al Khaimah' project in the UAE in 2009, and a successful exit from the 'Saraya Sochi' project in Rus-

sia in 2010. On the other hand, the company resolved to move forward with the execution of its projects in Jordan and in Oman.

Moreover, and in light of the persistent effects of the financial crisis, as well as the delays witnessed in securing the credit facilities, the company has undertaken additional measures aimed at ensuring its continuity under prevailing conditions, including the reorganisation of its operations and reduction of its operating expenses.

Spot Exchange Rates	Forward Exchange Rates		
	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months
GBP	1.6485	1.6478	1.6464
EUR	1.4895	1.4883	1.4854
JPY	80.24	80.23	80.21
AUD	1.0716	1.0674	1.0590
CHF	0.8569	0.8568	0.8566
CAD	0.9599	0.9606	0.9621
INR	44.35		

Interest Rates	USD		OMR	
	1 Month	3 Months	1 Year	3 Years
1 Month	0.25%	0.25%	1.25%	0.90%
3 Months	0.50%	0.45%	3.00%	1.40%
6 Months	1.00%	0.70%	5 Years	4.00%

Interest Rate Swaps USD (Floating to Fixed) Anl Mny/3M Libor	7 Years	10 Years
3 Years	1.2550	2.7340
4 Years	1.7140	2.9560
5 Years	2.1220	3.1380
6 Years	2.4580	3.2920