



SANCTION LIFT TRIGGERS INVESTMENT IN IRAN

Source: [RCS](#)

A clutch of chemical companies have made, or are considering, investments in Iran. This follows the partial lifting of sanctions after the 'nuclear deal' – the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action signed on 14 July 2015 between Iran and six other

countries. But whether this excitement will translate into real industrial growth remains to be

seen, experts warn. That will depend on issues like the state of existing plants; the price of oil and gas; whether international banks will lend money to Iranian projects; and the global demand of chemicals.

Several projects have been confirmed, and many others are in negotiations. Danish catalyst and process technology firm Haldor Topsoe is opening an office in Tehran and is planning a new methanol plant in Chabahar in southern Iran. Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk has

committed to building a manufacturing plant in Iran. Talks are reportedly underway with German chemical companies BASF and Linde, as well as Japan's Mitsui Chemicals, about investing in petrochemical facilities in Assaluyeh (southern

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Iran). This site is part of the Pars Special Economic Energy Zone, where a huge

petrochemical complex is being built, close to one of the biggest gas fields in the world.

Iran's National Petroleum Company (NPC) is also reportedly in negotiations with France's Air Liquide to build a methanol-to-propylene plant, and the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade Insurance Services (SACE) has signed several agreements with Iranian banks and government bodies, which may have implications in petrochemical investment.

ORANGE COUNTY ENGINEERING COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S AWARD



Dr. Behrooz Fattahi, 2010 SPE President, 2014 AIME President, and one of the founders of APPIH was honored with the Orange County Engineering Council President's Award. He is the president of EnerTrain Institute, which provides heavy oil recovery training and consulting. He has more than 37 years of experience in the industry and mostly recently worked for Aera Energy as heavy oil development coordinator and retired as learning adviser in 2014. Before joining the petroleum industry, he conducted research for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Science Foundation. Before becoming SPE president, he had served on the SPE Board in other roles and was a member of several committees, including chairman of the SPE Continuing Education Committee, member of the President's Learning Initiative Task Force, and executive editor of the SPE Reservoir Evaluation & Engineering journal. He holds PhD degrees in aerospace engineering and mechanical engineering from Iowa State University.

'Dozens of semi-finished petrochemical projects need to be completed – the result will be a huge boom in the industry,' says Sasan Krenkler, director of a German consultancy specializing in the Iranian market. Krenkler joined a conference organized by the NPC in December in Tehran, whose first topic was post-sanctions opportunities for the petrochemical industry. 95 foreign companies from 25 countries joined the meeting,

according to Krenkler. 'This shows the enormous interest,' he says.

Remi Corso, sales export manager of French compound producer Polytechs, agrees. 'The country is far more advanced than the rest of the Middle East,' he says. 'When money goes back, it will boom and overtake Turkey in a few years.' Polytechs restarted exports to Iran in 2015, shipping two containers with 30 tons of polymers, and expects to double this quantity in 2016.

IRAN HAS CAPACITY TO PRODUCE 172BCM OF SWEET GAS ANNUALLY

Source: naturalgaseurope.com

Iran has the capacity to produce 172 billion cubic meters (bcm) of sweet gas annually and plans to increase that capacity, Azizollah Ramezani, the director for international affairs of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) has said.

He put the country's annual gas consumption at 170bcm, saying that gas accounts for 61% of energy consumption in Iran, Shana news agency reported on December 23.

Some 36,000 kilometers of high-pressure gas transfer pipeline has so far been constructed across the country, he added.

Sweet gas is mainly consumed by the household sector, he said, adding that the use of this clean fuel should be increased in power plants and industries.

NIGC (National Iranian Gas Company) is seeking to expand gas export infrastructures and sign contracts with neighboring countries, he noted.

Iran's gas production capacity is around 700 million cubic meters per day which will be boosted to 1200 million cubic meters a day by 2020, he said. The Iranian gas industry need \$ 100 billion (USD) investment over the next five years, he added.

SAM D. HAKES OUTSTANDING GRADUATE RESEARCH AND TEACHING AWARD



Dr. Mohamamd Piri has been selected for the 2016 Sam D. Hakes Outstanding Graduate Research and Teaching Award.

Dr. Mohammad Piri is a Distinguished Associate Professor of Petroleum Engineering at the School of Energy Resources (SER) and Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering of the University of Wyoming (UW). He received his PhD in Petroleum Engineering at Imperial College London in 2004. Before joining the faculty at UW, he worked as a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Princeton University. His research interests include pore-level physics of multiphase flow and transport in disordered porous media with applications in energy and the environment as well as measurement and prediction of macroscopic properties in multiphase flow systems. In particular, He currently leads a research group with twelve graduate students and three research associates and is the Director of the Center for Fundamentals of Subsurface Flow of SER at UW.

APPIH NEWS

APPIH'S ANNUAL MEETING

APPIH's 2016 annual meeting will be held during the URTeC 2016 in San Antonio Texas. The Annual meeting will be on Sunday, July 31, 2016, at Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, in San Antonio, Texas.

APPIH LOCAL MEETINGS & SOCIAL GATHERING

As a move toward eventual formation of APPIH local chapters throughout the United States, several social meetings and local gatherings are being organized by APPIH members.

The first of such meetings will be held in **Houston, Texas**. This social gathering will be held on Wednesday May 18, 2016 between the hours of 4:00 – 7:00 PM. The location of the gathering has been designated to be "NextDoor Bar & Lounge" located at 14714 Memorial Dr. Houston TX 77079.

Similar gatherings will soon be held in **Morgantown, West Virginia** and **Los Angeles, California**. Friends and members of APPIH throughout the United States are encouraged to organize and engage in similar activities. Please send us the announcements for such events for publicity at APPIH's website and also do not forget to take pictures and send them to us to be posted in APPIH's website.

APPIH SCHOLARSHIPS

The purposes of APPIH scholarship program is to promote excellence in the education of students of Iranian heritage and to honor distinguished Iranian scientists and professional leaders in the oil and gas academia and industry in the U.S.

Scholarships will be awarded this year to the selected qualified applicants who are pursuing M.S. or Ph.D. level studies in petroleum engineering or related disciplines in the USA. The recipients of the 2016 scholarship program will be awarded during the fourth annual meeting of APPIH, to be held on Sunday, July 31, 2016, at Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, in San Antonio, Texas.

Applicant's Qualifications:

- Must be of Iranian descent (one parent must be of Iranian descent).
- Must be enrolled in graduate studies pursuing M.S. or Ph.D. in the field of petroleum engineering (or related disciplines) at an accredited university within the USA.
- Must be a member of APPIH
- Recipient is expected to be present at the awards ceremony to be held at the APPIH annual meeting.

For more information and application please visit APPIH's website at <http://www.appih.org/scholarships/>

APPIH WEBINARS

APPIH webinars attempts to provide a window of communication within Iranian Petroleum Professional Community. The webinar includes technical and leadership related presentations and interviews arranged with some of the most interesting Iranian professionals and students.

So far two such webinars have been conducted. These webinars can be accessed at APPIH's website: <http://www.appih.org/category/webinars/>

If you have interesting webinar ideas, please communicate your ideas using following Email address: fredxarasteh@icloud.com

URTeC 2016 – 1-3 AUGUST- SAN ANTONIO, TX

Unconventional Resources Technology Conference (URTeC 2016) will be held in San Antonio, Texas at the beginning of the August. APPIH's 2016 annual meeting will also be held during this gathering (more information regarding APPIH's Annual meeting will appear in the next issue of this newsletter). This year, Iranian technical community is strongly represented in this conference that is sponsored by three of the most prominent professional societies related to the oil and gas industry. These professional societies are; SPE (Society of Petroleum Engineers), AAPG (American Association of Petroleum Geologists), & SEG (Society of Exploration Geophysicists). Following is a list of presentations by Iranian professionals in this year's URTeC.

- Integrated Interpretation of Microseismic and Petroleum Engineering Data for Comparison of Gas Production in Two Interfering Adjacent Wellpads in the Horn River Basin, Canada. **Yousefzadeh (Ucalgary)**
- Rock Strength Characteristics Determination Based on a New Strength Criterion: the Bakken Shale. **S. Khatibi (UofND)**
- Field Stress Determination for Completion Design in Unconventional Plays – An Inverse Method Based on Microseismic Focal Mechanisms. **A. Agharazi (MSI)**
- How to Model and Improve our Understanding of Liquid-Rich Shale Reservoirs with Complex Organic/Inorganic Pore Network. **M. Khoshghadam (UofH)**
- Stress Inversion via Borehole Image Log and Fracturing Data: Integrated Approach. **M. Pordel Shahri (Weatherford)**
- Langmuir Slip-Langmuir Sorption Stochastic Permeability Model of Shale. **M. Elahi Naraghi (UT)**
- Fact-Based Re-Frac Candidate Selection and Design in Shale – A Case Study in Application of Data Analytics. **S.D. Mohaghegh (WVU-ISI)**
- Understanding and Quantifying Variable Drainage Volume for Unconventional Wells. **A. Rahimi Zeynal (MSI)**
- Horizontal Well Spacing & Hydraulic Frac. Design Optimization - A Case Study on Utica-Point Pleasant Shale. **A. Shahkarami (SFU)**
- Leading Safety Performance Indicator Framework for Unconventional Hydraulic Fracturing Operation. **H. Hamedifar (DNV GL)**
- Multiscale Modeling of Gas Transport in Organic-Rich Shale: From Molecular Scale to Reservoir Grid Scale. **M. Kazemi (WVU)**
- Extension of the Multiple Interacting Continua Method to Discrete Fracture Models for Unconventional Low Permeability Reservoir Simulations. **N. Farah (IFP)**
- Proppant Embedment and Propped Fracture Permeability Evaluation: A Rigorous Core-Analysis/Imaging Methodology. **A. Ghanizadeh (Ucalgary)**