



## EXPLORATION ENABLEMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

The Government of Saudi Arabia has developed an Exploration Enablement Program (EEP) focussing on mineral exploration activities with a budget of SAR 685 million (2024–2030).

The enablement is designed to encourage and increase investment in exploration for Class A, critical, and strategic minerals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The goal is to address gaps in geoscientific knowledge, unlocking long-term strategic benefits. An essential part of the EEP involves supporting and enhancing local skills, capabilities, and capacity in the mineral sector.

The EEP is aimed at supporting exploration efforts over exploration licenses that are within their first 5 years of tenure or reconnaissance licenses.

The EEP will prioritize support for exploration in underexplored geological terranes.

The EEP aims to promote innovative methods and technologies for mineral exploration to accelerate exploration activities and generate new geoscience knowledge. Exploration companies in the EEP are expected to produce shareable geoscientific data and knowledge as a key deliverable. An important outcome of the EEP is the generation of knowledge that also benefits third parties, including explorers and academics.

The EEP will support mineral exploration programs that:

- present sound technical rationale,
- apply innovative thinking and methods,
- address important geoscience knowledge gaps,
- contribute to the discovery of critical and strategic minerals in KSA,
- transfer skills and knowledge to Saudi employees, and
- target under or unexplored regions of the KSA.

Applications that propose exploration programs with accelerated completion timelines and prompt release of data are preferred.



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**Before you begin, please ensure you have read the *Exploration Enablement Program Guidelines* in full.**

- Complete your exploration proposal using the following template.
- Adequately address questions / assessment criteria.
- Where questions are not relevant to your proposal, mark N/A.
- Upload the proposal with compulsory supporting documents and any additional supporting documents in the online application <https://taadeen.sa/exploration-enablement-program>.

### 1. Application Details

Applicant (company name)	
Name of project (if applicable)	
Proposal exploration or reconnaissance license number	
Total number of applications by applicant in EEP round	
Ranking of this application out of total applications in EEP round	e.g. 1 of 15
License grant date	DD/MM/YYYY
Primary contact name	
Primary contact position	
Primary contact email address	
Primary contact phone number - include IDD code	
Postal address	
<b>Applicant Summary:</b> Overview information about the Applicant, its main activities, and focus commodity. (~300 words)	
How did your company find out about the Exploration Enablement Program?	



## 2. Project Summary

An outline of the proposal is required in both Arabic and English. When outlining the project, the following points are provided to assist in effectively addressing this section (1 page):

- Clearly outline license location, surface area, target commodities, and deposit style.
- Outline exploration objectives and target outcomes.
- Describe how the project will support Saudi Arabia's growth targets (Vision 2030). How it will accelerate exploration efforts in critical and strategic minerals in underexplored areas.
- Describe the range of exploration methodologies to be used.
- Highlight the application of any innovative exploration technologies or techniques used to enhance exploration efficiency.
- Summarise the intended data flow into the National Geological Database (NGD) and how the project will collaboratively share new geoscience data among industry participants.
- Describe how sharing the results of the exploration program may help fast track mineral discoveries and diversify mineral deposit discoveries in the KSA.
- Explain how the employment and upskilling of Saudi nationals will occur.
- Describe how the proposed exploration activities will support local service providers.
- Emphasise how local communities and stakeholders will be engaged.
- Describe how the exploration program addresses important geoscientific knowledge gaps and contributes to furthering the quality of mineral estate knowledge in unexplored or underexplored remote or frontier areas of Saudi Arabia.
- Describe how the proposed exploration program represents additional work that would not reasonably be funded as part of normal exploration activities.

ملخص:

Summary:



### 3. Target Minerals

Mineral Classes held under the exploration or reconnaissance license	
Primary target minerals*	
Any secondary target minerals (if applicable)	
Any potential for co and by-products (if applicable)	

\* Indicate the primary and secondary commodities being targeted, as well as the potential for co and by-products. Reference the style of mineralisation being targeted e.g. LCT Pegmatites; VMS Cu-Au etc.

Minerals listed must be designated Class A as defined in Mining Investment Law.

### 4. Exploration Program Target Area

(5 points)

Provide a map of the geographical area of where the exploration program is located, both in a regional and license-scale context.

<b>Geographic location</b>	
<p>Attach at least three maps of the proposed activity area with appropriate referenced coordinates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Map A showing the license location in a regional context.</li> <li>- Map B showing location of historical exploration data. Existing drilling of all types, historical surface sample locations, geophysical survey boundaries by survey type, and any other historical exploration data points.</li> <li>- Map C showing location of any proposed activities. Including proposed drillhole locations, surface geochemistry sample locations or grids, geophysical survey boundaries, with outcrop and/or interpreted geology, license boundaries and access infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maps to be .JPEG, .PNG or .TIFF formats.</li> <li>- Attach all map features as GIS layers in a file format that can be opened in MapInfo, ArcGIS, QGIS or similar GIS software such as .TAB or .SHP files.</li> <li>- If limited data are available for the target area, show what is known, for example regional geology and license boundaries.</li> </ul>
<b>Essential map features:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All proposed targets in a regional context.</li> <li>- Location of project and proposed activity at an appropriate scale with license boundaries.</li> <li>- Grid references, scale bar, legend and context for exploration data (e.g. lithology legend for geology maps or color bar for geophysical products).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attach maps as both images, and GIS files in a file format that can be opened in MapInfo, ArcGIS, QGIS or similar GIS software such as .TAB or .SHP</li> </ul>



## 5. Geology

(10 points)

Provide an overview of the regional and local geology that is directly relevant to the proposal. A complete review of existing literature of the entire region is not necessary, however, this section should demonstrate a good understanding of stratigraphy, structure, and target styles reflective of the regional geological setting.

Highlight geoscientific data gaps targeted under the proposed program.

As the EEP is designed to accelerate exploration in greenfield areas, applicants will not be disadvantaged if only minimal information is known about the geology of the target area. Ensure that what is known has been reviewed and summarised.

## 6. Previous Work (if applicable)

10 points

Summarise any past exploration that informs the project area. This might include activities conducted outside the target area but relevant to the exploration rationale. Include which commodities and/or styles of mineralisation were targeted in historical activities.

This section is provided to demonstrate that the applicant has researched past exploration activities (to avoid duplicating exiting geoscientific data). Where the proposed program covers previously explored areas, briefly explain why this program is justified.

Where the target is more general in nature, such as assessing a regional stratigraphic unit or using a new technique over a large area, provide enough information to explain why this program is justified.

As the EEP is designed to accelerate exploration in greenfield areas, applicants will not be disadvantaged if only minimal previous work has been completed. Ensure that what is known has been reviewed and summarised.



## 7. Exploration Concept

### 15 points

The EEP is intended to support exploration programs:

- in underexplored geological terranes
- for critical and strategic minerals
- that are sufficiently conceptual in nature to not form part of a day-to-day exploration campaign (e.g. deep stratigraphic drilling or drilling under cover),
- where novel/new exploration activities are utilised to target mineralisation
- that have an impact objective of accelerating exploration activity, creating new geoscience knowledge and increase local technical capacity for the KSA.

In this context:

- a) Describe the exploration mineralisation model(s) the program will test and how it relates to the regional geological context. In effect, what are you looking for and why (~300-500 words).
- b) Describe how the program will address regional knowledge gaps or uncertainties, and what the potential is to advance exploration in underexplored areas for critical and strategic mineral (~300-500 words).

## 8. Target Description and Style

### 10 points

- a) Provide a summary of the exploration program targets. Targets can range from specific locations assessing specific mineralisation styles to broad regional approaches assessing stratigraphic units or an overview study to better understand a whole region (~100-200 words).
- b) If the targets are discrete, what commodity mineralisation model or style is being assessed and what size and grade resource is sought to satisfy ongoing investment (what are the minimum target hurdle rates in terms of tonnage and grade). Include the expected depth range of the target, and where relevant, include what is understood about depth to basement (~100-200 words).
- c) Provide a description of how the proposed exploration program would recognise the target style in terms of expected response to various exploration techniques. This description will be used to assess the appropriateness of the exploration techniques proposed (~100-200 words).

\* This section should be supported by relevant figures such as cross-sections or maps.



## 9. Proposed Exploration Work Program

### 20 points

The points below are provided as prompts to assist in explaining the proposed work program. Not all topics need to be addressed if they are not relevant to the proposed work program. If relevant and available, attach appropriate Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of proposed work programme activities to demonstrate how activities will be conducted.

- a) Details of the proposed program (e.g. drilling, ground gravity survey, VTEM electromagnetic survey, MT, IP, passive seismic, reflection seismic, geochemical analysis, mineral characterisation studies, automated mineralogy, machine-learning driven prospectivity studies).

Include survey / program specifications e.g. number of drill holes and planned depths, number of drill samples, number of ground geophysical survey stations/line kilometres, spacing, coordinates of survey boundaries, geophysical survey flight orientation and height, geochemical analysis/mineralisation characterisation specifications, prospectivity analysis approach and workflows (~200-300 words).

- b) If drilling is proposed, state the drilling method, the sampling methodology, and steps that will be taken to ensure acceptable recoveries and sample quality. Attach Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) if applicable. Discuss the distance of the proposed drilling to any previous drilling, the depths of the nearest drilling, drilling type and what mineralisation or targeted stratigraphy was intersected, if any? (~200-300 words).
- c) Describe sampling techniques, including any compositing intervals, method of assay, elements to be analysed, and detection limits. Note that applicants may be directed to undertake certain elemental analyses at the discretion of the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources as a condition of approved works programs. Detail if downhole survey, downhole geophysics, or other analytical techniques will be used (~200-300 words).
- d) List the proposed analytical methodologies to be used. For example, multi element geochemical analysis, downhole logging suite, downhole geophysics, petrography, isotopic analysis. (~100-200 words).
- e) What geological information will be delivered as a result of the proposed work programme. For example, lithology ages, stratigraphic relationships, structural settings, generation of new geophysical anomalies for future testing, resolve geophysical targets selected for testing, define depth to basement, mineralisation setting if found in project area (~200-300 words).
- f) If appropriate, demonstrate how any proposed exploration method is innovative and / or has not been tested in the area of interest (~200-300 words).





- g) Summarise the proposed Data Quality Management System (DQMS) that outlines Data Quality Objectives (DQO), Data Quality Assurance (QA) and Data Quality Control (QC) relevant to any geochemical sampling, drilling, or geophysical programs (~200-300 words). Attach SOPs if applicable.
- h) Describe how the program will increase knowledge and applicability of targeting techniques for the commodity target style in the project area, and any broader regional implications.
- i) Describe how the program will deliver enhanced knowledge of the commodity potential of the region. Describe any potential to diversify the understanding of the regional commodity endowment (~200-300 words).
- j) Discuss what enhanced understanding of camp or prospect-scale geology will be delivered. For example, structural settings, major structures, identifying geophysical anomalies, identifying depth to bedrock, resolve depth to basement, and/or improve understanding of the nature of the basement, wider suite of multi element geochemical data (~200-300 words).

\*This section should be supported by figures, maps, cross sections etc.

- a) Proposed program details
- b) Drilling method
- c) Sampling techniques
- d) Analytical methods
- e) Geological information delivered.
- f) Innovative
- g) DQMS
- h) Increase targeting knowledge.
- i) Enhance commodity knowledge.
- j) Enhance regional scale geology understanding.

## 10. Proposed Timeline

### 5 points

Proposed timeframes for commencement, completion and reporting of the program. Discuss land access issues, contractor availability and weather considerations. Identify risks for any potential delays in the timeframes and ways to mitigate those risks.

Proposed commencement date	
Proposed completion date	
Proposed reporting date	



### 11. Talent / Labor

#### 10 points

Detail how skills transfer to local talent and labour will be achieved, including methodologies, and expected outcomes.

The EEP has the provision to incentivise the use of highly skilled talent (including both non-resident and local talent) working in the KSA, on the condition the applicant provides mentoring of local Saudi employees. Furthermore, additional enablement is available to cover local salary costs beyond Human Resource Development Fund (HRDF) coverage.

Further information on Talent / Labor support is available at <https://www.hrdf.org.sa/Home>.

### 12. Local Content Support

Provide details of the local and national organisations intended to participate in undertaking work program activities.

#### 5 Points

### 13. Proposed Work Program Budget

#### 10 Points

Applicants are required to submit an indicative budget and Gantt chart of activities for the proposed exploration program. A budget template is available here: <https://taadeen.sa/exploration-enablement-program>. Applicants are to complete the Gantt Chart and Budget Template and submit them as attachments to this form. Note that the budget will include both Eligible and Non-Eligible costs.

The list of eligible costs is provided as below in Table 1. This table shows costs which are eligible for reimbursement through the EEP, and those which are not.



**Table 1. Eligible / Ineligible Reimbursable Project Costs**

Eligible Costs – What can be claimed. Costs that directly relate to the acquisition of new knowledge.	Ineligible Costs – What cannot be claimed. Costs that do not directly relate to the acquisition of new knowledge is borne by the company
Drilling costs per metre incurred during active drilling to produce diamond core, percussion-drilled rock chips or auger samples.	Drilling rig mobilisation / demobilisation costs
Drilling consumables including fluids, muds, normal bit wear, casing, and hole plugs	Site access and drill pad preparation costs
Rig work and active standby time	Drillhole collar survey
Rig move time	Inactive rig standby time
Water used for drilling	Water used for exploration work, camp
Core orientation costs	Any material lost or abandoned in hole, intentionally or otherwise
Core trays, markers, blocks	Insurance
Downhole camera costs	Core cutting costs
Downhole / directional survey costs	Core or sample freight costs
Wireline logging	Rig breakdown, spare part purchases or repairs
Accredited laboratory geochemical analysis cost for drill, rock chip and soil samples	Purchase of analytical equipment (including hand-held analytical devices)
Soil sample collection	Project management overheads
Thin section preparation	Fuel
Mineralogy sample preparation costs	Rehabilitation
Mineral geochronology	Vehicle expenses (including purchase costs, rental costs, repairs, and consumables)
Mineral characterisation (incl. thin section petrography, microscopic studies, XRF, XRD and similar)	Travel costs
Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	PPE and other WHS costs
Automated Mineralogy	Camp set up cost, including core shed and storage sites
Per line km / per station cost of geophysical acquisition and survey reporting.	Aircraft / seismic / ground geophysical equipment mobilisation, demobilisation / standby costs
	Workforce competency training
	Food and accommodation
	Telecommunications costs
	Legal advice
	Community engagement costs
	Environmental assessments or survey
	Landowner liaison or site access permission costs



It is expected that all companies undertaking exploration activities within the KSA are suitably staffed, equipped, and resourced to undertake planned tasks. The EEP is not intended to provide financial support for the basic competencies of an exploration team and any claims for costs relating to core “fit for business” costs will be rejected.

**Please ensure the following documents are attached to the Application Form:**

- Exploration Program Gantt Chart
- Exploration Program Budget using the prescribed template

The assessment will consider the accuracy of the costed budget, realistic timeframe, and evidence of proactive engagement with local contractors (where relevant). This section can be used to demonstrate that arrangements are in place or in progress (e.g. cost estimates from contractors), and that the program will be delivered on time and within a realistic budget.

Please provide a summary of major exploration program costs below:

Cost Centre	SAR Budgeted Total Expenditure	Eligible Expenditure
Drilling	SAR:	SAR:
Surface Sampling	SAR:	SAR:
Airborne Geophysics	SAR:	SAR:
Ground Geophysics	SAR:	SAR:
Specialist Services	SAR:	SAR:
Remote Sensing	SAR:	SAR:
Field Costs	SAR:	SAR:
Travel	SAR:	SAR:
Community	SAR:	SAR:
Personnel	SAR:	SAR:
Overheads	SAR:	SAR:
<b>Total</b>	<b>SAR:</b>	<b>SAR:</b>

#### 14. Technical Capability

Outline the technical abilities, including qualifications and experience of staff involved in the program. Attach key personnel biographies as applicable to the proposed program.

List all key personnel, whether they are KSA residents and their respective roles and functions.

Name	KSA Residential Status	Title and function



The assessment of this application will consider technical capability in the context of:

- a) demonstrable application of good industry practice and;
- b) the ability to give proper effect to the work program.

When providing information of the technical capability, the following general principles are important:

- a) The capability of the operator to undertake the day-to-day management of the proposed work program in accordance with good industry practice. All relevant personnel, including staff, contractors, and consultants, may be considered in this assessment.
- b) The applicant's record in undertaking work programs that are similar to that proposed is important. Evidence of a successful track record in conducting similar or relevant work program activities in accordance with good industry practice will generally be compelling evidence that the applicant has adequate technical capability.
- c) The relevance of an applicant's technical capability to the proposed operation. This is expected to be appropriate for the scale and nature of the proposed exploration program and the target mineral or style of mineralisation. Evidence of technical capability should adequately reflect any unique challenges likely to be encountered.

There are no specific requirements of what an applicant should submit as evidence of technical capability, and the appropriate detail may vary from case to case. However, considerations of technical capability may relate to the proposed scale and type of work program, the target mineral or commodity, the deposit type and style of mineralisation, geological and structural complexity, geographical location and any associated challenges, the quality of the technical material provided and rationale in support of the application.

## 15. Financial Capability

Applicants are required to show evidence of sufficient capital, or access to capital, to fund the planned exploration program (regardless of successfully receiving funds through the EEP).

When preparing this section, applicants should consider providing information on financial performance, financial position, cash flow and funding streams.

In cases where a proposed applicant's enterprise value is significantly greater than the estimated costs of the proposed work program, evidence of that worth will normally provide sufficient evidence that adequate funding will be available to meet anticipated work program costs.

Where an applicant itself does not have sufficient capital resources or cash flow to fund the work program, evidence will be required to demonstrate alternate funding sources. Examples of this include borrowing, stock



offerings and capital injections from owners or shareholders. The parent company or other investor of the applicant may execute a deed of guarantee or execute a letter of financial support.

Additional evidence will inform the assessment of whether the applicant has financial capability to comply with and give proper effect to the proposed work program. Examples of financial information that can be provided to show financial capability are set out below:

- Financial Statements of the applicant – this includes paid-up capital, current debt/equity ratio, earnings before tax and amortisation in the last financial year, profit after tax and amortisation in the last financial year.
  - Publicly Listed Companies & State-Owned Enterprises: Latest audited financial statements of the company (not more than eighteen months old), and any associated group financial statements. Where more than six months has lapsed since the balance date, interim accounts should be provided. Annual corporate reports and supporting material for the past two years.
  - Private Companies: Latest audited financial statements of the company (not more than eighteen months old) demonstrating the company's capability to meet obligations related to exploration activities in the KSA.
  - Individuals: Personal accounts prepared by an independent accountant, a certified list of assets and liabilities, bank statements.
- A list of any current or known future financial commitments (KSA and international) including applications currently under consideration in all jurisdictions, together with the estimated costs of those commitments and a statement on whether these are likely to affect its ability to meet the costs. Where an applicant or a related company holds other licenses (whether in KSA or elsewhere) it must demonstrate it has sufficient financial capability to meet its obligations in relation to those other permits or licenses as well as in relation to the permit applied for.

\*Please do not attach a full copy of the Company's Annual Report.

## 16. Other Projects

What current exploration and development commitments does the applicant have across all licenses in the KSA?

Is the applicant currently compliant with license requirements (minimum exploration spend, associated reporting and data submission) in the last 2 years.

Please make comments on compliance status of other licenses (if applicable).



Number of granted exploration licenses in the KSA	
Total area of granted exploration licenses (km <sup>2</sup> ) in the KSA	
Number of exploration license applications (awaiting grant) in the KSA	
Total exploration license application area (km <sup>2</sup> ) in the KSA	
Number of granted mining licenses in the KSA	
Total mining license area (km <sup>2</sup> ) in the KSA	
Total expenditure commitment on granted exploration licenses (KSA)	
Total future expenditure commitment on exploration license applications (KSA)	
Expenditure commitments on licenses outside the KSA	
KSA expenditure commitment excess / shortfall for last financial year	

## 17. Conclusion

Use this section to provide any further detail and concluding remarks in relation to the application. (~ 100 - 200 words)

## 18. Supporting Documents

### Note on supporting figures:

The following are the minimum requirements for accompanying figures. These can be included as figures embedded within this application or as separate files.

### Maps must show:

- The whole target area in a regional context.
- Location of the project and the proposed exploration activity at an appropriate scale with relevant exploration license boundaries or reconnaissance license boundary.
- Grid references, north-arrow, scale bar, legend, and context for geology/geophysical/geochemistry products (i.e. lithology legend, color bar for geophysical products, geochemistry results).

### If the target is sub-surface, a cross section showing:

- Depth and orientation of the target(s).
- Depth of previous exploration (i.e. drilling).
- Depth of approximate technique penetration based on the terrain/topography/known geology (e.g. the depth of the proposed drill hole or penetration of the intended geophysical techniques).
- Grid references, scale bar, legend, and context for geophysical products (i.e. color bar).



Please list all supporting document files attached to this Application Form.

### PLEASE NOTE

All document names must include the **applicant license number**, e.g. EL991199  
Exploration Gantt Chart.pdf

List of attached documents:

- 

### 19. Checklist

Fill in the online application and upload the following compulsory supporting documents:

- Completed Application Form
- Relevant maps as images
- Relevant GIS files (MapInfo Tab / ESRI Shape/QGIS) of planned geochemical sampling locations, drillhole collar locations, geophysical program survey locations/traverse lines (zip multiple files)
- Corporate position documents (zip multiple files)
- Certificate of Currency of Public Liability Insurance
- Certificate of Currency for Workers Compensation Policy
- Summary work program Gantt chart
- Exploration program budget in the prescribed template format
- Any other relevant documents to support your application, for example SOPs (zip multiple files).



وزارة الصناعة  
والثروة المعدنية

Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources



**Attachments**