



Ministry of Industry
& Mineral Resources

JABAL BAUDAN LICENSING ROUND

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As announced on 10th January 2024, the Ministry is conducting a competitive licensing round for the exploration of the Jabal Baudan site ("**Licensing Round**" or the "**Project**") pursuant to which the Ministry will award the successful bidder ("**Successful Bidder**") an exploration license for the Jabal Baudan site ("**Exploration License**"). The Licensing Round is designed as a transparent, standards-based, competitive process, which will result in the selection of the most appropriate licensee for the Jabal Baudan site ("**Jabal Baudan**" or the "**Site**").

Bidders are hereby invited to submit their best offer for the Exploration License as part of a valid and binding proposal to become a licensee for the Site ("Proposal"). Proposals must be submitted to the Ministry on or before 24th November 2024 ("Proposal Submission Deadline") by completing the application form set out in the Ministry's data room ("Application Form") which can be accessed via the data room created on the Taadeen platform <https://taadeen.sa/en/mining-bids> ("Data Room").

The Site

Jabal Baudan site is part of a wider area that consists of three blocks with total area of 699.69 km² and is located along the western red sea coastal plain, 160 km south of Jeddah. The area consists of rugged mountainous terrain, and is dissected by several wadis which flow southward to the red sea. The area underlain by the late Proterozoic volcanics, volcanoclastic and sedimentary layered rocks as narrow northeast trending belts later intruded by the younger plutonic rocks ranging in composition from gabbro to diorite to granite.

This Information Memorandum is in relation to Jabal Baudan site which covers a total area of 244.92 km².

Further details are set out in Section 2 of this Information Memorandum

Minimum Qualification Criteria

Bidders must demonstrate that they meet the Minimum Qualification Criteria in order for the Ministry to continue evaluating their respective Proposals, as summarized in the below table and further described in Section 4 of this Information Memorandum.

Whilst the Minimum Qualification Criteria is scored on a 'Pass/ Fail' basis and does not have a weighting score attributed to it, bidders must demonstrate that they satisfy all the Minimum Qualification Criteria in order for their respective Proposals to be evaluated further in this Licensing Round.

Section	Criteria	Description
Technical Ability	<i>Internal Capability</i>	Bidders must demonstrate internal capabilities in mineral exploration.

	<i>Track Record / Examples</i>	Bidders must demonstrate track record experience in relevant or similar style mineralization including capability in projects through the development cycle and developing exploration projects beyond the discovery stage through pre-feasibility and feasibility studies.
Financial Details	<i>Exploration Expenditure</i>	Bidders must have undertaken a minimum expenditure of USD five hundred thousand (\$500,000) in exploration activities in the last twelve (12) months.
	<i>Exploration Funding</i>	Bidders must demonstrate access to at least USD five hundred thousand (\$500,000) to fund the first three months of any exploration work program to be undertaken in the Kingdom in connection with the Project.

Scoring Methodology

Proposals submitted by bidders who satisfy all the Minimum Qualification Criteria will be further evaluated by the Ministry and scored in accordance with the following scoring methodology, and as further detailed in Section 5.8 of this Information Memorandum.

The bidder whose Proposal receives the highest score will be announced as the Successful Bidder for the Site and will be awarded the Exploration License by the Ministry once the legal and regulatory requirements are satisfied.

Section	Criteria	Weighting
Proposed Work Program and Exploration Spend	Proposals will be evaluated on the thoroughness and soundness of the bidder's proposed Work Program for the entire licensed area.	50%
Resource Exploration and Discovery Activities	Proposals will be evaluated on the bidder's experience in relation to focused exploration activities.	20%
Innovation	Proposals will be evaluated based on the innovative solutions and technologies used by the bidder in mineral exploration activities.	10%
Social Impact Management Plan	Proposals will be evaluated on the demonstrated ability to successfully implement social development in and around the Site, and local community expenditure.	20%
Financial Capability	Proposals will be evaluated on the bidder's financial resources, and its capability to fund its Work Program.	Pass/ Fail
Environmental Impact Management Plan	Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of whether the bidder has the demonstrated ability to ensure the protection of the environment.	Pass/ Fail
Corporate and Legal Requirements	Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the bidder's corporate and legal information.	Pass/ Fail

Section	Criteria	Weighting
Performance Financial Guarantee	Proposal will be evaluated on the bidder's commitment to provide a Performance Financial Guarantee if selected as a Successful Bidder.	Pass/ Fail
Model Exploration License	Proposals will be evaluated on the bidder's commitment to accept the terms of the Model Exploration License.	Pass/ Fail

PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Introduction

The Ministry has launched the Licensing Round with the objective of identifying a Successful Bidder to whom it will award the Exploration License in accordance with the Mining Investment Law (issued by Royal Decree No. M/140 dated 10/19/1441H) ("**Mining Investment Law**") and its Implementing Regulations issued by Ministerial Resolution (3293/1/1444) dated 05/06/1444H ("**Implementing Regulations**"). The Licensing Round is designed as a transparent, standards-based, competitive process, which will result in the selection of the most appropriate licensee for the Site.

Bidders are hereby invited to submit their best offer for the Exploration License as part of a valid and binding Proposal to become a licensee for the Site. Proposals must be submitted to the Ministry on or before the Proposal Submission Deadline.

The Licensing Round requires that the Successful Bidder possesses, demonstrates and dedicates to the Project qualified management personnel and resources, adherence to principles of sustainability and conformity with the laws of the Kingdom. The Successful Bidder will have demonstrated that it is committed to working with the Government to explore the Project in a timely manner to define future options for local and regional economic growth.

To that end, the Ministry suggests that the following points be considered seriously by the bidders in preparing their Proposals:

- 1) A clear commitment to conduct an accelerated exploration program for the Site along a suitable timeline, coupled with the technical and financial capability to do so; and
- 2) To the extent possible during the exploration period, the provision of employment for the local population with a particular focus on the education and training of those hired locally.

Responses should be unambiguous and include detailed information.

This Information Memorandum is intended to be used by bidders to provide further information on the Site and the Licensing Round. It also sets out the rules for submission of a valid Proposal and participation in subsequent stages of the Licensing Round, as set out in Part B of this Information Memorandum ("**Proposal Submission Rules**").

1.1 Structure of this Information Memorandum

This Information Memorandum is structured in two main parts as follows:

PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION

- Section 2 provides information about the Site;
- Section 3 introduces the Data Room, an online resource with further information about the license opportunity, including geological survey data as well as the Application Form to be submitted by bidders as part of their Proposal;

PART B: PROPOSAL SUBMISSION RULES

- Section 4 sets out the Minimum Qualification Criteria that bidders must meet in order for their Proposals to be further evaluated for the Project;
- Section 5 sets out the Licensing Round process and Proposal requirements including the criteria and scoring methodology; and
- Section 6 provides additional information regarding participation in the Licensing Round and submission of a Proposal.

1.2 Key Dates

The table below (Table 1) sets out the key dates relating to the Licensing Round. All dates set out in this Information Memorandum are subject to change at the Ministry's absolute and sole discretion. Any revised dates will be notified to bidders through email to the confirmed address(es) submitted by the bidders to the Ministry in their expression of interest submission.

Table 1: Key Dates

Date	Process stage
17:00 (Riyadh time) 24 th November 2024	Proposal Submission Deadline
On or around 9 th December 2024	Announcement of outcome of the Proposal Stage and Successful Bidder

The Ministry will be available continuously to support bidders through each stage of the Licensing Round.

2. The Site

2.1 Location

Jabal Baudan site is part of a wider area that consists of three blocks with total area of 699.69 km², located along the western red sea coastal plain, 160 km south of Jeddah. The area consists of rugged mountainous terrain. The area is dissected by several wadi which flow southward to the red sea. The area underlain by the late Proterozoic volcanics, volcanoclastic and sedimentary layered rocks as narrow northeast trending belts later intruded by the younger plutonic rocks ranging in composition from gabbro to diorite to granite.

This Licensing Round relates to Jabal Baudan block covering a total area of 244.92 km².

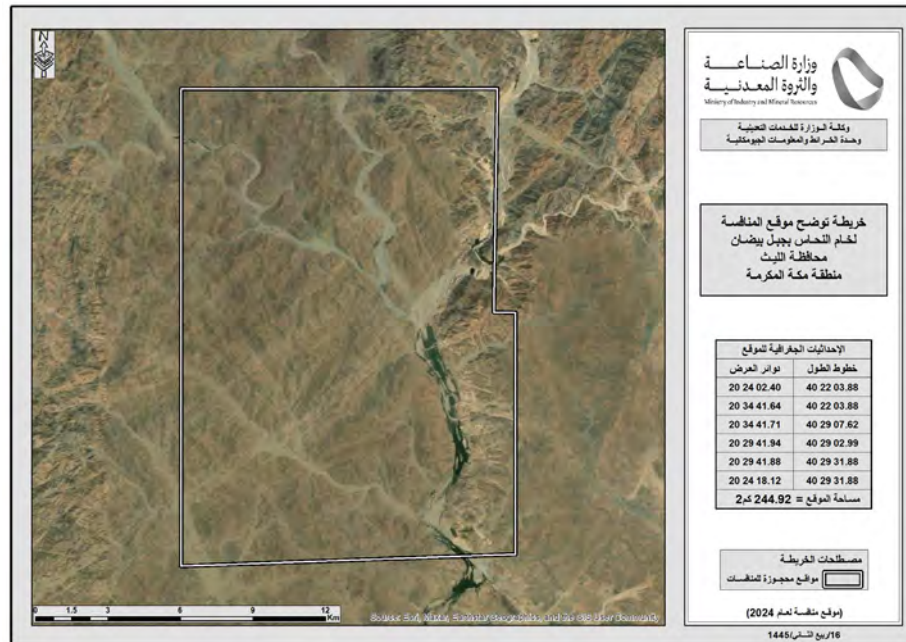


Figure 1 Jabal Baudan Site Location and Coordinates

2.2 Exploration History

1980-1981

Regional Assessment - Wadi Al Lith - Wadi Salibah - Desk studies comprised a review of all published data pertaining to the geology and mineralization of the investigation area. Interpretation of Landsat imagery and aerial photography.

1981-1982

Regional geological reconnaissance in the Wadi Al Lith - Wadi Salibah area over a two-month period (March to May 1982). Work involved geological mapping, prospecting, rock-chip and drainage geochemistry along selected foot traverses.

1982-1983

Shield Layered Formations, Prospecting Wadi Al Lith - Wadi Salibah - Prospect-scale investigations over several of the mineral occurrences found during 1981-1982. Work involved detailed geological mapping and systematic sampling. Drainage geochemistry surveys were carried out over five selected areas. A regional gravity profile was measured. Regional Assessment - Jabal 'Afaf - During 1981-1982, samples of ferruginous quartzites in Jabal 'Afaf area had been found to carry low gold values. A geological reconnaissance program aimed at evaluating the mineral potential of the Wadi 'Afaf area in general, and the gold potential of the quartzites in particular, was carried out during 1982-1983.

2.3 Geological Setting

2.3.1 Regional Geology

The Arabian-Nubian Shield (ANS) was formed during the Neoproterozoic period, between approximately 900 and 550 million years ago, resulting in the formation of a continental crust that was approximately 40 kilometres thick. The shield's current shape and morphology are primarily the consequence of geologic events that occurred relatively recently, specifically the entrance of the Red Sea. This rifting event, which began in the lower/middle Eocene (Girdler and Styles, 1974), led to the division of an originally continuous craton into the Arabian and Nubian Shields, which are separated by the Red Sea. The Nubian Shield succession is visible in the Sudan, northern Somalia, western Ethiopia, Eritrea, and eastern Egypt (Figure 2). From the figure, it is clear that the rocks of the Asir area are comparable to the easternmost rocks of the Tokar terrane in Eritrea and Ethiopia. A dense succession of Phanerozoic sedimentary rocks overlies the Arabian Shield to the east, north, and south.

The basement sequence is comprised of eight tectonostratigraphic terranes, the primary Pan-African structural features, and sedimentary basins, as indicated by a simplified geological map (Figure 3) of the Arabian portion of the Arabian-Nubian Shield (ANS). The terranes are known as the Asir, Afif, Jiddah, Ar Rayn, Ad Dawadimi, Hail, Hijaz, and Midyan terranes. Lithologically, the terranes are composed of juvenile sequences of tholeiitic and calc-alkaline volcanic rocks, a significant quantity of volcanoclastic sedimentary rocks, and voluminous epizonal TTG-type intrusions (Johnson et al., 2013). The assemblages of these sequences have been interpreted as oceanic island arcs. The Arabian Shield of Saudi Arabia is only minimally metamorphosed, with the exception of certain regions containing gneissic rocks. It is important to observe that the terranes are not of the same age. The Asir terrane in the south is older than the Midyan terrane in the north and the Ar Rayn terrane in the east (Nehlig et al., 2002).

The terranes are either separated by major suture zones that primarily trend north and northeast and are characterized by serpentinitized ultramafic rocks (ophiolites and tectonic segments) or by major northwest-trending fault zones that are characterized by ophiolites (Nehlig et al., 2002). The north-south trending Nabitha Fault zone is located east of the Bisha area, and the Ruwah, Ar Rikah, Halaban, and Qazaz faults are part of the Najd fault system (Nehlig et al., 2002). The Nabitha Mobile belt (NMB) is a complex structural zone that spans from the Asir terrane in the south to Ha'il in the north, across a craton that is up to 150 km wide (Robinson et al., 2017).

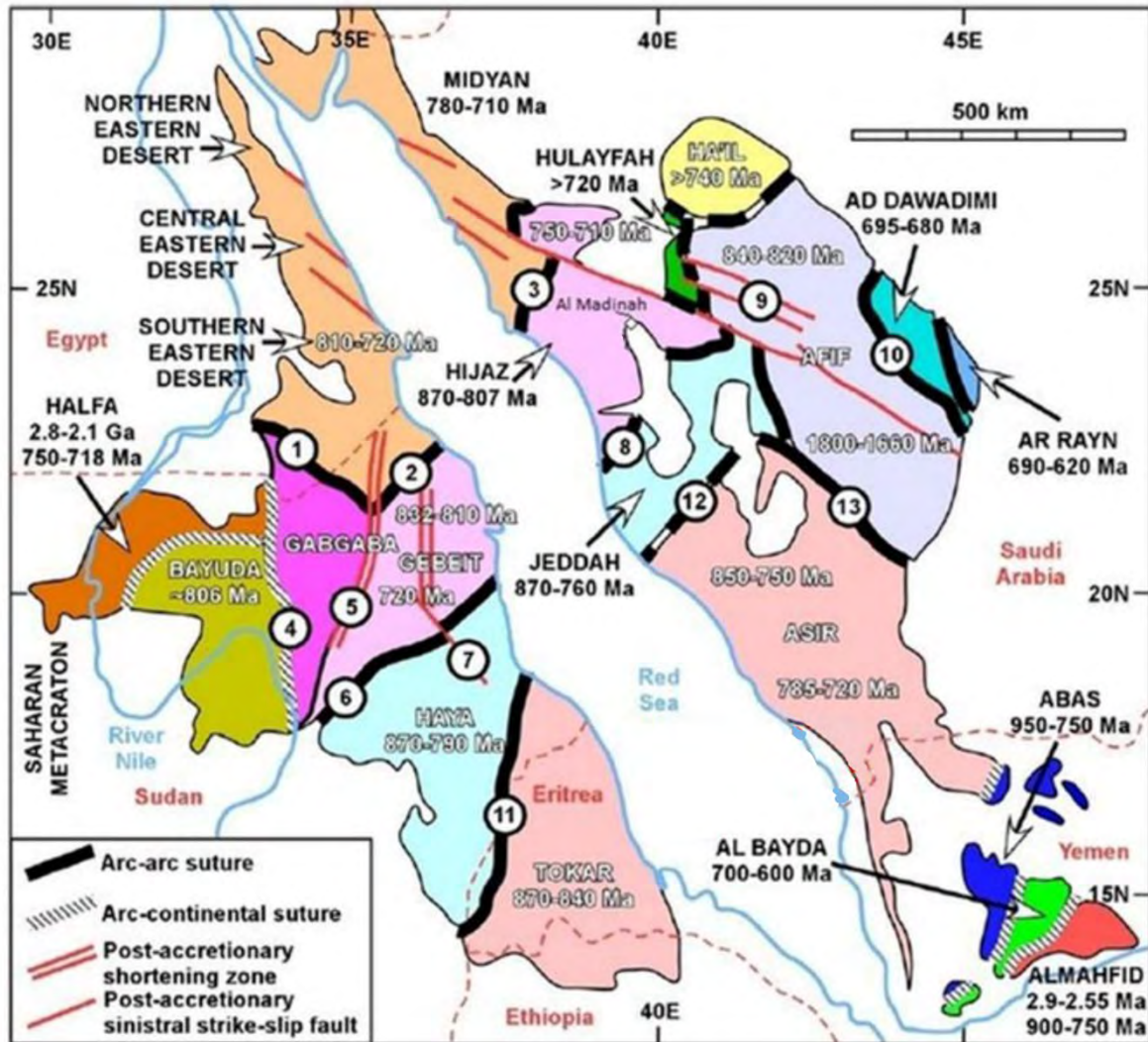


Figure 2 Tectono-geological map of the Arabian-Nubian Shield terranes

2.3.2 The Geology of Asir Terrane

The Neoproterozoic plate tectonic evolution of the Arabian Shield is reflected in a series of terranes with varying structural and geologic characteristics. In general, the majority of terranes are composed of earlier intra-oceanic magmatic arcs that are unconformably overlain by late to post-tectonic marine to terrestrial basins that are filled with molassic volcano-sedimentary sequences

and intruded by voluminous granitoid batholiths. The Asir terrane encompasses the Wadi Al Lith area.

The Asir terrane is a composite terrane that is formed by three structural regions that trend north-south from west to east:

- The Al Lith-Bidah Belt is comprised of basaltic and andesitic flows, flow breccia, and coarse, fragmental rocks that were metamorphosed (gneisses and schists) during the early Cryogenian period, spanning 855 to 815 Ma. The rocks are accompanied by thin marble beds and subordinate lithic and crystal dacitic tuff.
- The Shwas-Tayyah Belt is situated to the east of the Al Lith-Bidah Belt and is comprised of metamorphosed basaltic, andesitic, and dacitic volcanic and pyroclastic rocks, as well as associated volcanoclastic and epiclastic metasedimentary rocks. Johnson et al. (2013) suggest that the belt may be fresher than the Al Lith-Bidah belt, despite its age being greater than 795 Ma. The pre-tectonic, mafic- to intermediate plutonic rocks of the An Nimas batholith (815 to 795 Ma) intrude the structural belt. It encompasses the Muwayh Formation, which formed prior to 815 Ma, in the northern region. This formation is composed of a sequence of primarily interbedded basaltic and andesitic lavas, agglomerate, breccia, and tuffs (lithic-lapilli, crystal, and ash tuffs), as well as subordinate dacitic and rhyolitic volcanics, conglomerate, sandstone, quartzite, calc-silicates, and ironstone. The greenschist facies is the result of the metamorphism of the lithic succession. It is intruded by plutons, sills, and dykes of the Jaf Complex and Ar Rahah granite, which are composed of diorite, tonalite, granodiorite, and monzogranite. A long, narrow band along the boundary between the Al Lith-Bidah and Shwas-Tayyah belts is occupied by the unconformably overlying Hali Group, which spans from 795 to 780 Ma. It unconformably overlies the rocks of the Shwas volcanic arc and is composed of metamorphosed schists and amphibolites, which are the result of a sequence that primarily consists of basalt, epiclastic sandstone, and polymict conglomerate, as well as minor andesite, dacite, and rhyolite.
- The Khadra Belt, which occupies the eastern third of the Asir terrane, is primarily contiguous with the Nabitah Mobile Belt and is bounded to the west and east by the Junaynah and Nabitah fault zones. It is primarily composed of gneisses and schists that are derived from protoliths of andesitic to dacitic flows and pyroclastic rocks. It is also accompanied by volcanoclastic and epiclastic rocks, including volcanoclastic greywackes, conglomerates, and shales. In the southern region, basalt is locally prevalent, while rhyolite is found in the northern region. The 746 ± 16 Ma Tarib batholith intrudes these rocks. According to Johnson (2006), the sequence was emplaced between approximately 745 and 730 Ma and appears to be substantially younger than the Shwas-Tayyah Belt to the west.
- The Malahah "Group" occupies the Khadra Belt section located to the east of the Nabitah fault zone and south of the Tathlith terrane. To the northeast, this group is interspersed with volcanoclastic greywacke, sandstone, and shale, and is composed of basaltic and andesitic flows, breccias, agglomerates, and tuffs. Dacitic flows, pyroclastic rocks, and dolerite sills and

dykes are prevalent in the sequence to the southwest. The informal status of the unit's name is indicated by the use of quotation marks on either side of the group term above.

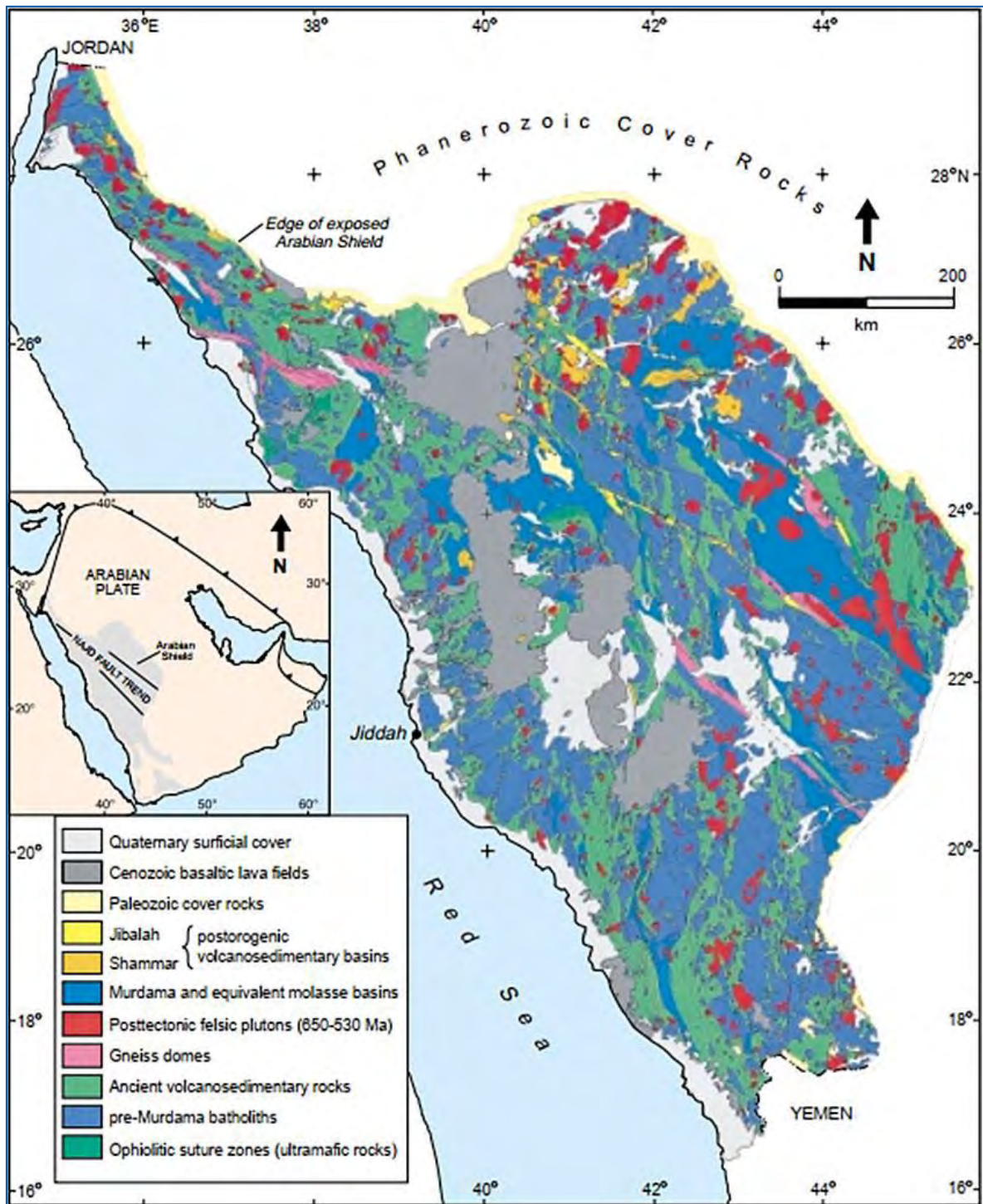


Figure 3 Generalized geological map of the Arabian shield

2.3.3 Local Geology

The Wadi Al Lith - Wadi Salibah area is underlain by Late Proterozoic volcanic, volcanoclastic and sedimentary "layered" rocks which typically occur in long, narrow, northeast-trending belts separated by a variety of younger plutonic rocks (Figure 5). The latter range in composition from gabbro or diorite to granite. The layered rocks have been folded into broad northeast-trending synforms and faulted antiforms. Major strike faults trend in the same direction. Regional metamorphism increases from greenschist facies in the southwest to amphibolite facies in the northeast. A few small outcrops of undeformed Tertiary sedimentary rocks occur in the south of the area.

Radiometric age dating has disclosed a wide range of ages within the layered rocks, from 1,165 + 110 Ma in metabasalt of the Baish group, to 595 + 11 Ma, in kyanite schist of the Ablah group. The reliability of these ages is very doubtful (C. Hedge, pers. comm.)

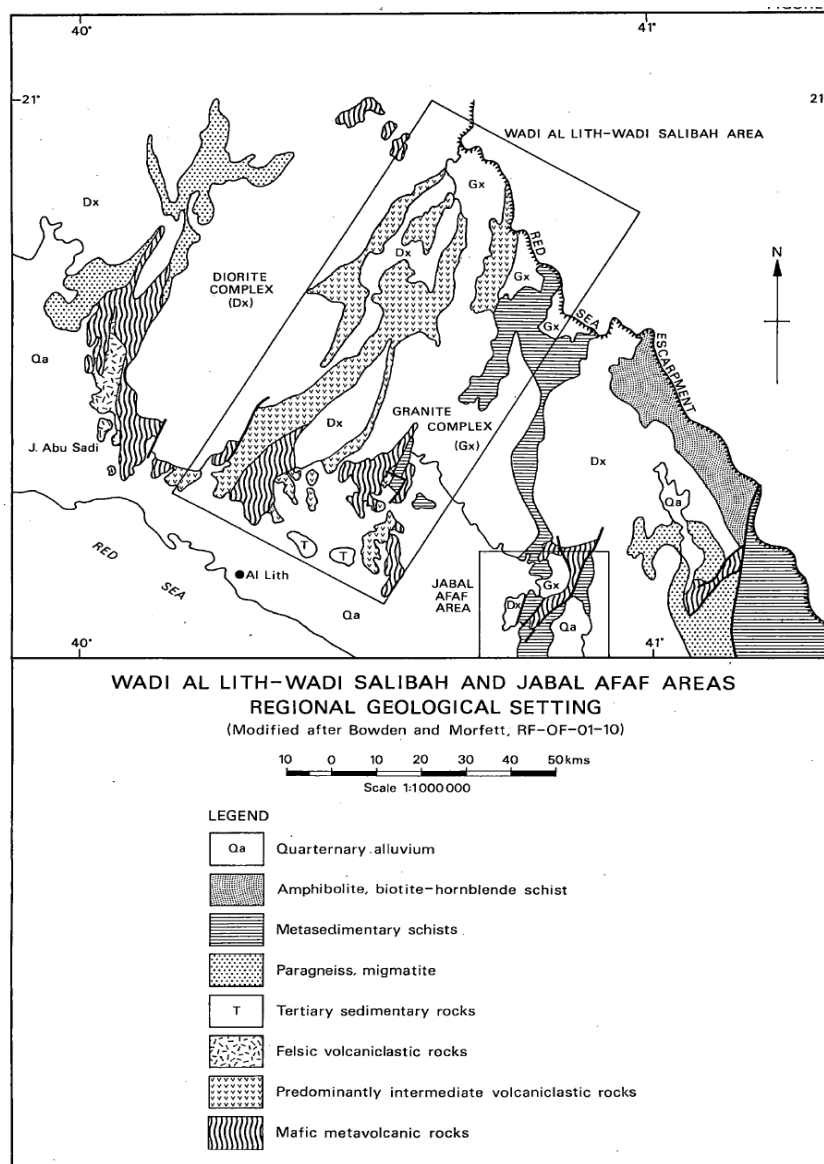


Figure 4 Regional Geological map of Wadi Al Lith area

2.4 Mineralization

Pyrite is abundant throughout the layered rocks of the area. This is particularly true of the more siliceous schists (their pink colour derives from the oxidation of pyrite) and certain types of black shale. Pyrite contents of 10 % are common in these rocks and may occasionally reach 40%. Locally, lenses of stratiform submassive to massive Ironstone are developed, the largest of which may be up to 20 metres thick and a hundred or more metres in length. These ironstones are almost invariably devoid of base- or precious-metal values. In areas of rugged topography, secondary transported ironstones, which have been leached from pyrite-rich siliceous schists, are relatively common.

Several ironstones carry anomalous base-metal values. These are invariably small and occur in a variety of host rocks. The western ironstones which occur in siliceous pyroclastic rocks generally contain only anomalous copper values, but the sediment-hosted ironstones in the east frequently carry copper and zinc values. The more siliceous schists often host miniature stratiform Cu and Cu/Zn-bearing ironstones, generally only a few tens of centimetres in thickness. Elsewhere, small cupriferous ironstones occur along faults and shear zones.

The mafic schists include horizons of thinly bedded metasedimentary rocks and black shales. These are commonly pyritic and have an elevated zinc content but host no mineral occurrences.

Amphibolitic rocks contain numerous small stratiform ironstones with anomalous Cu and Zn contents.

The andesitic flow rocks are characterized by several small occurrences of high-grade copper mineralization, mostly shear-controlled. In the diorite complex, a few small copper-bearing ironstones (with scattered gold values) occur associated with rhyolitic dykes.

Quartz veins occur sparsely distributed throughout all rocks units. They carry no tin or tungsten values. It is extremely rare for these veins to contain any gold. Such values as do occur appear to be erratic and can not be repeated on resampling. Small pods of massive Ironstone occur adjacent to some of the quartz veins and blows and occasionally carry elevated base metal values. Swarms of thin stratabound quartz-carbonate veins occur within some of the siliceous schists and in rare instances carry elevated Cu and highly erratic Au values.

2.5 Mineral Occurrences within Wadi Al Lith Area

2.5.1 Occurrence 32/10 (Ghumayqah northwest, MODS 2088)

This occurrence was first described by Bowden and Morfett (1979) who reported anomalous Cu, Pb, Ag, and Zn values. A small stratiform ironstone (<1 x 50 m) occurs at the contact of a rhyolite sill (flow?) and overlying siliceous tuffs. Grab samples show up to 6,300 ppm Cu, 200 ppm Pb, 875 ppm Zn, 68 ppm Ag.

One hundred metres to the west, a second smaller ironstone occurs within lithic tuffs of intermediate composition. Grab samples again show high Cu values (up to 1%).

2.5.2 Occurrences H3/15, 15/5, H9/22, 7/8, Wadi Arraq

All the layered rocks of the areas investigated are ferruginous, the siliceous volcanoclastic rocks frequently contain up to 10% or more Iron-oxides (after pyrite). At the above localities (Figure 2, Plate 1) the rocks are sufficiently pyrite-rich for bodies of semi-massive to massive stratiform ironstone to have formed. The ironstones frequently occur in clusters, are a few metres wide and up to 100 metres or more in length. The most common host rock is a siliceous crystal tuff, but some of the ironstones occur in microgranite, or in close association with massive rhyolite flows. Individual samples often contain up to 300 or 500 ppm Cu but the regular content is much lower and no other significant base- or precious-metal values are present. Though stratabound, the more prominent ironstones all occur in close proximity to small bodies of younger intrusive granite. These ironstones are inferred to represent the oxidized outcrops of barren, massive pyritic iron formations.

2.5.3 Pyritic quartzite 26/9, H11/2, 28/12,13, 32/3,4

Highly characteristic rusty weathering, iron-oxide-rich "quartzite" outcrops at all the above localities and appears to represent a single stratigraphic horizon which can be traced over a strike length of tens of kilometres. While a layered, quartz-limonite rock occurs at all localities, it occurs in association with a wide variety of siliceous metavolcanic rocks.

These include rhyolitic agglomerates, rhyolite flow rocks and siliceous and lithic tuffs. Apart from limonite, other characteristic minerals include muscovite and kyanite. The unit is from 3 to 15 metres in thickness and probably averages 10-20% pyrite. Locally, small, massive ironstones are present. Extensive sampling shows the quartzite to have low base- and precious-metal values, except for copper which is slightly elevated and generally of the order of 20-200 ppm. A few rare high-copper values (max. 860 ppm) are also present.

2.5.4 Rhyolite complexes 7/1, 21/3, 17/26

Disseminated stockwork and massive Iron-oxide (after pyrite) mineralization occurs associated with complex associations of rhyolitic rocks at several localities. The Wadi Joma complex (station 7/1, Plate 1) measures some 2,000 x 500 m and consists of rhyolitic tuffs, coarse breccias (clasts >1 m) and flows. All rock types are rich in disseminated iron-oxides, but locally, irregular, zones of stockwork mineralization and massive ironstone are developed. Extensive sampling of these ironstones showed extremely low base- and precious-metal values.

A massive pyritic rhyolite sill with minor flow rocks and rhyolite breccia occurs within andesitic flow rocks, siliceous tuffs and rare black shales at Station 21/3. Both the rhyolite and the siliceous schists show varying degrees of iron-oxide enrichment and several ironstone lenses, up to 30 metres long and 1.5 m wide, are present. These again contain low base- and precious-metal values. The ironstones occur adjacent to massive quartz veins and to have been emplaced along fracture zones (Bavin and Grootenboer, 1984).

At Station 17/26 a complex assemblage of rhyolite flows and intrusive rocks show locally intense iron staining and the occasional presence of small ironstone lenses.

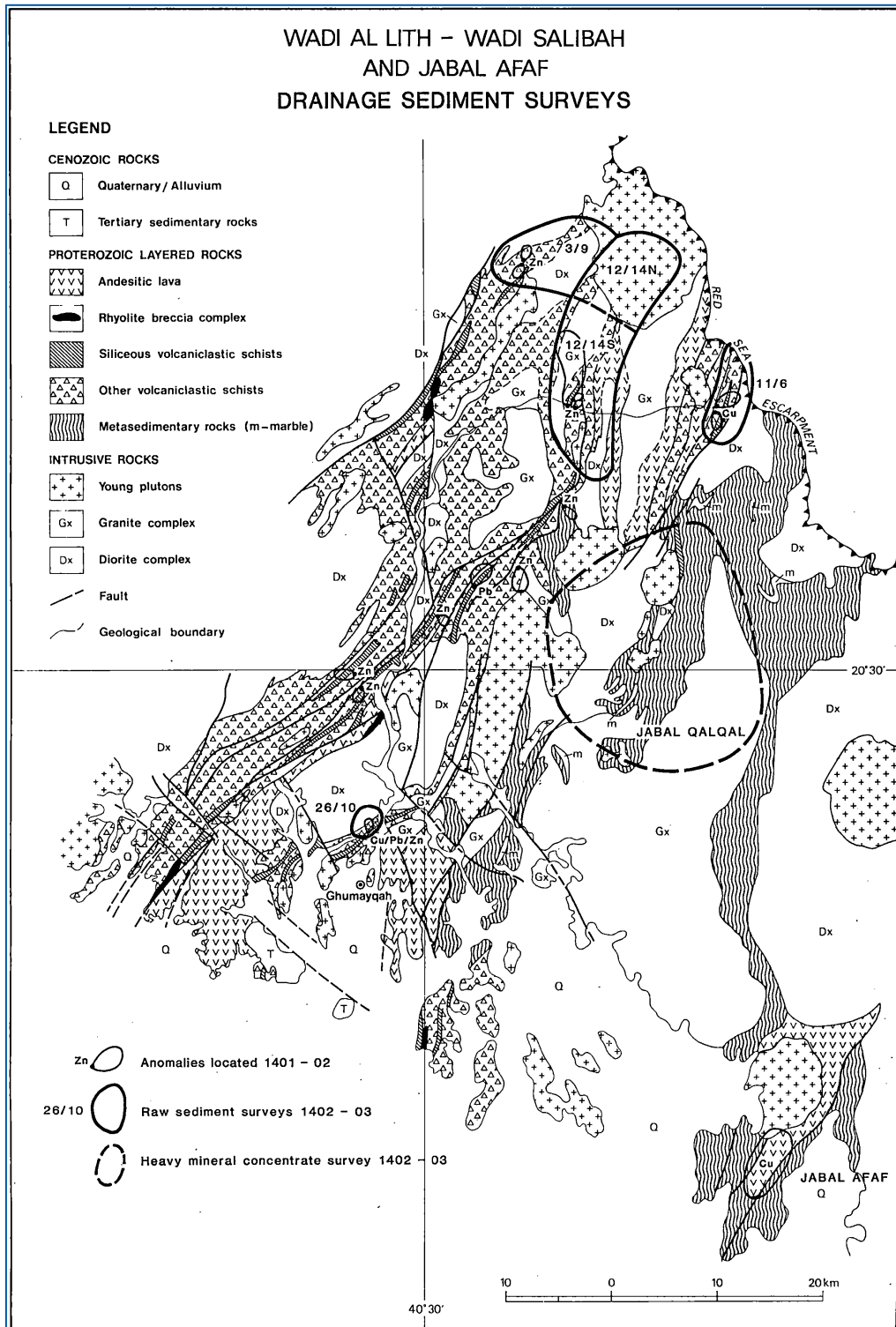


Figure 5 Regional geological map of Wadi Al Lith area with surface samples location

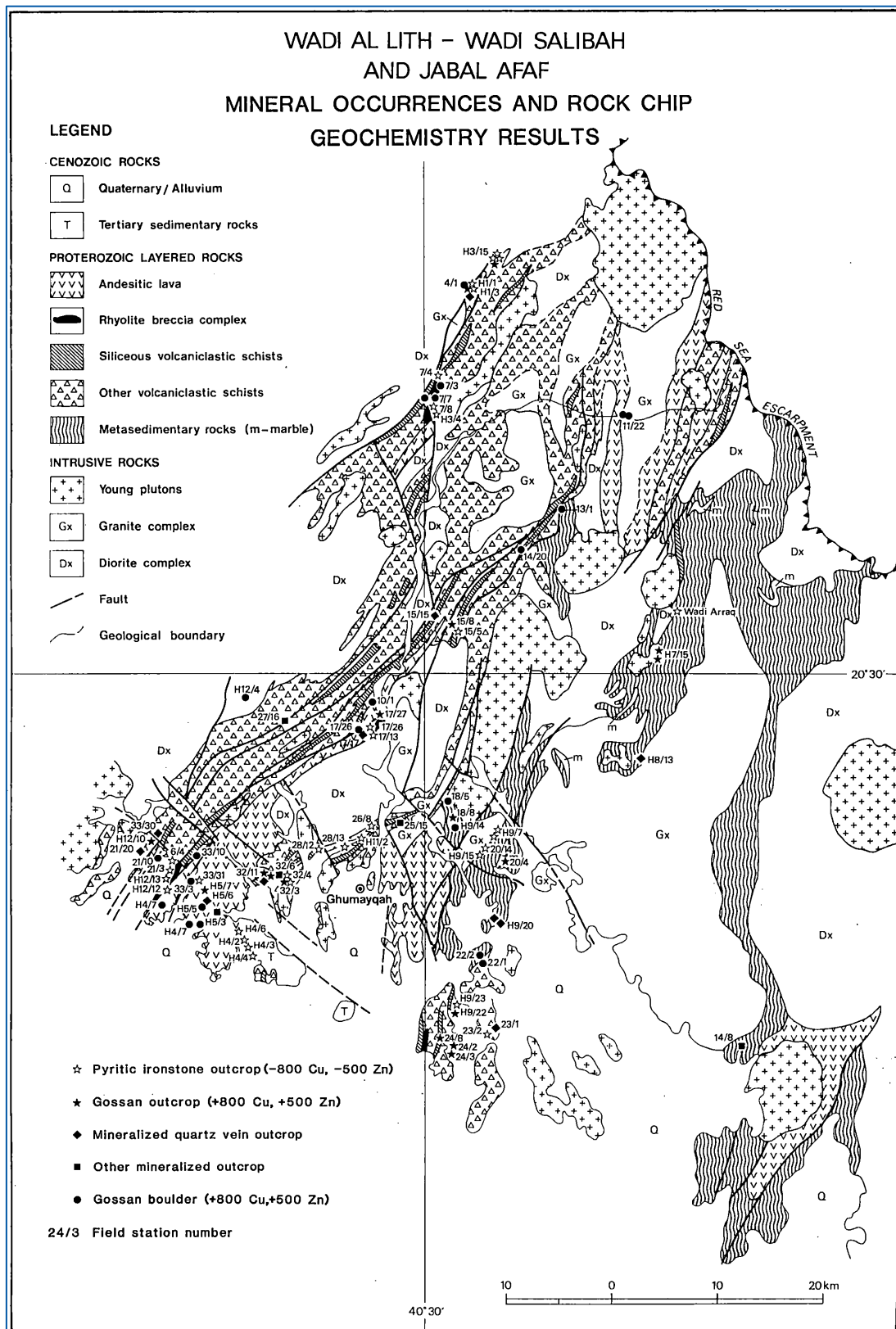


Figure 6 Regional geological map of Wadi Al Lith area with surface samples location and geochemistry results

2.6 Prospectivity

2.6.1 VMS Type Deposit

Volcanogenic Massive Sulphide (VMS) deposit types are regarded as highly prospective in the Wadi Al Lith area's geology (Figure 7). VMS ore deposits are a form of metal sulphide ore deposit that are both created by and associated with volcanic-associated hydrothermal events in submarine environments. The circulation of metal-laden hydrothermal brine systems is driven by associated, deeper magmatism. Submarine vents release the brines at the sediment/water interface, where they interact with cold oceanic water and precipitate zonally arranged base metal sulphide deposits. The deposits may exhibit a wide range of geometries, but they are typically lens-shaped and occur in clusters with trends that are in alignment with the associated extensional fault zones.

The Arabian Shield is home to numerous substantial VMS deposits, such as Jabal Sayid, Al Masane, Kutam, Al Hajar, and the Hawiah deposit, which was recently discovered by Kefi Minerals. These deposits were formed in extensional back-arc environments surrounding island arc settings and were subsequently accreted to form crustal blocks before being amalgamated into the Arabian and Nubian Shield. Mineralization is frequently observed in structurally complex rocks that have been subjected to significant deformation, as it predates continental collision and accretion.

The known deposits in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are all visible and manifest as gossanous outcrops. The outcropping mineralization is frequently linked to slag mounds and excavations from the ancient pharaonic era. Undoubtedly, there are numerous additional deposits that are likely to be discovered, either exposed at the surface, under shallow cover (such as lava flows or sediment), or as blind deposits.

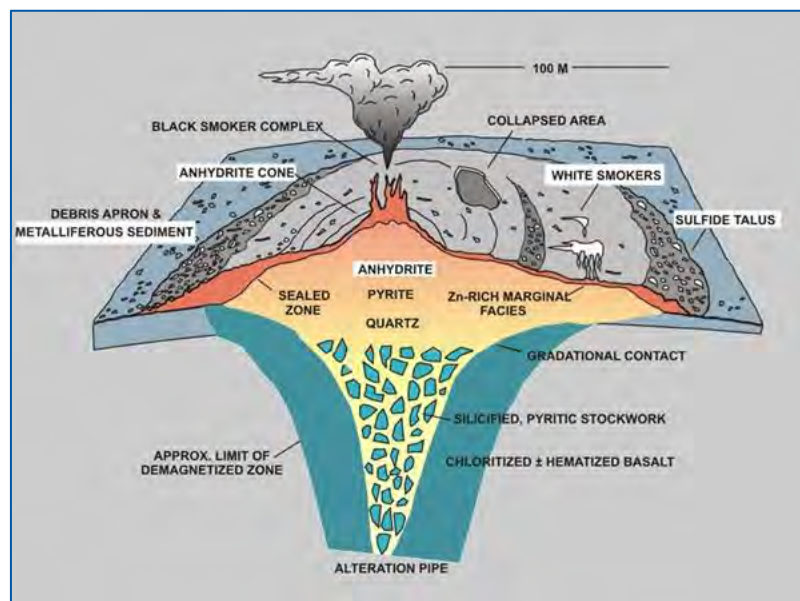


Figure 7 Volcanogenic Massive Sulphide formation (VMS) model

3. Data Room Overview

Technical and other data are hosted in the Data Room <https://taadeen.sa/en/mining-bids>.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The technical information folder in the Data Room includes the files described in Table 2 and will remain open to bidders until the award of the Exploration License.

Table 2: Data Room file overview

Key Reports	Entity	Location	Activities
BRGM-TR-05-28	BRGM	Arabian Shield	TOTAL-INTENSITY AEROMAGNETIC OF THE ARABIAN SHIELD, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
GM-27	USGS	WADI SALIBAH QUADRANGLE	RECONNAISSANCE GEOLOGY OF THE WADI SALIBAH QUADRANGLE, SHEET 20/40 B, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
RF-OF-05-10	RIOFINEX	WADI AL LITH-WADI SALIBAH AND JABAL AFAF AREAS	GEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE WADI AL LITH-WADI SALIBAH AND JABAL AFAF AREAS
USGS-OF-02-5	USGS	AT TAIF-AL BAHAH REGION	RECONNAISSANCE GEOCHEMICAL SURVEY OF THE AT TAIF-AL BAHAH REGION, SOUTHERN HIJAZ, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
DS_RGP_MAGNETIC_GM_096C_4120-2	SGS	Arabian Shield GM_096C	REGIONAL AEROMAGNETIC SURVEY

APPLICATION FORM

The Data Room includes the Application Form that must be completed by bidders as part of their Proposal. The Application Form includes the below sections as referenced in this Information Memorandum.

Section	Description
Section A	Proposal Cover Letter
Section B	Minimum Qualification Criteria
Section C	Technical Requirements
Section D	Resource Exploration and Discovery Activities
Section E	Innovation
Section F	Social Impact Management Plan
Section G	Environmental Impact Management Plan
Section H	Financial Information Requirements
Section I	Corporate and Legal Requirements
Appendix 1	Model Exploration License
Appendix 2	Form of Statement of Confirmation (to be used for Consortium submissions only)
Appendix 3	Form of Financial Pledge Letter – Parent Company
Appendix 4	Form of Financial Pledge Letter – New Company
Appendix 5	Undertaking to Incorporate Licensee in the Kingdom

PART B: PROPOSAL SUBMISSION RULES

4. Minimum Qualification Criteria

Bidders must demonstrate that they meet the below minimum technical and financial criteria ("**Minimum Qualification Criteria**") in order for the Ministry to continue evaluating their respective Proposals. Bidders must provide responses relating to the Minimum Qualification Criteria in accordance with the form set out in Section B of the Application Form.

The below Minimum Qualification Criteria will be evaluated on a "Pass/Fail" basis. Bidders who do not pass **all** the Minimum Qualification Criteria or do not provide the supporting documents required by the Ministry in relation to any or all of such criteria will be disqualified from the Licensing Round and their Proposal will not be evaluated any further.

As such, bidders are encouraged to consider the Minimum Qualification Criteria and exercise their own judgment in ensuring that they meet such criteria and are able to provide the supporting documents before they proceed with preparing their Proposal for the Project. The Ministry is not liable to any bidder who submits a Proposal and following evaluation by the Ministry, such bidder is deemed unqualified for the Project for any reason including not satisfying the Minimum Qualification Criteria and is therefore disqualified from the Licensing Round.

For the avoidance of doubt, where the bidder is a Consortium (as defined in Section 5.13), the technical and financial criteria may be satisfied by separate (and not all) Consortium members. The identity of the relevant Consortium member satisfying the relevant requirement must be indicated clearly in the relevant section and response.

PART A: TECHNICAL CAPABILITY

1. Internal Capability

Bidders must demonstrate internal capabilities in mineral exploration, and are encouraged to demonstrate the following experience in relation to their personnel:

- access to and ability to appoint, as required, sufficient qualified and experienced geoscientists to carry out the exploration work program as agreed with the Ministry to be undertaken by the bidder, if successful, following the award of the Exploration License, the requirements for which are set out in Section C of the Application Form ("**Work Program**").
- relevant or similar commodity experience; and
- ability to develop (or manage the development of) assets through pre-feasibility and feasibility studies.

Bidders must provide CVs of proposed staff for the Projects (including the exploration manager) and are encouraged to demonstrate the following experience in relation to its personnel:

- *access to and ability to appoint, as required, sufficient qualified and experienced geoscientists to carry out the Work Program;*
- *relevant or similar commodity experience; and*

- *ability to develop (or manage the development of) assets through pre-feasibility and feasibility studies to construction and operation.*

2. Track Record / Examples

Bidders must demonstrate the following in relation to their past relevant experience:

- a track record of at least one greenfield site and/or two brownfield sites;
- experience in relevant mineralization model or similar mineralization style;
- capability in projects involving similar or relevant commodities through the development cycle, from discovery to preliminary economic assessment, via feasibility studies; and
- capability in developing exploration projects beyond the discovery stage.

Bidders must include the following in relation to each project:

- *details of prospect being explored;*
- *any significant reliance upon third-party sub-contractors;*
- *details of any geophysical surveying conducted;*
- *details of any relevant technologies used; and*
- *details of any geological activity including mapping and drilling (diamond drilling and reverse drilling).*

PART B: FINANCIAL CAPACITY

3. Exploration Expenditure

Bidders must have undertaken a minimum expenditure of USD five hundred thousand (\$500,000) in exploration activities in the last twelve (12) months, and be able to provide suitable evidence of this.

4. Exploration Funding

Bidders must demonstrate access to at least USD five hundred thousand (\$500,000) to fund the first three months of the Work Program to be undertaken in the Kingdom in connection with the Project.

5. Licensing Round Process and Proposal Requirements

5.1 Overview of Licensing Round

After the announcement of made by the Ministry in January 2024 in relation to the launch of the next series of the exploration licensing rounds, prospective bidders were invited to submit a nonbinding expressions of interest confirming their interest in participating in licensing rounds launched by the Ministry in the year 2024. Prospective bidders are now invited to participate in the subsequent stage of the Jabal Baudan Licensing Round by submitting a Proposal in response to this Information Memorandum.

Bidders are hereby invited to submit their best offer for the Exploration License as part of a valid and binding Proposal.

It should be noted that all bidders must satisfy the Minimum Qualification Criteria set out in Section 4 of this Information Memorandum in order for the remainder of their Proposal to be considered and evaluated by the Ministry.

Bidders who do not satisfy all the Minimum Qualification Criteria or do not provide the supporting documents required by the Ministry will be disqualified from the Licensing Round and their Proposal will not be evaluated any further.

As such, bidders are encouraged to consider the Minimum Qualification Criteria and exercise their own judgment in ensuring that they meet such criteria and are able to provide the supporting documents before they proceed with preparing their Proposal for the Project. The Ministry is not liable to any bidder who submits a proposal and following evaluation by the Ministry, such bidder is deemed unqualified for the Project and will therefore disqualify from the Licensing Round.

The Proposal stage will identify a single Successful Bidder. The Ministry may then proceed to final discussions with the Successful Bidder, with an expectation that an Exploration License will be awarded to that bidder as quickly as possible.

5.2 Proposals

Bidders participating in the Licensing Round should submit a complete Proposal by the Proposal Submission Deadline. **The Proposal must be prepared using the Application Form included in the Data Room and in accordance with the guidelines set out below.**

Proposals will be assessed and scored based on a number of criteria, including technical and commercial terms and environmental and social impact management plans, including commitment to local communities development.

The bidder whose Proposal receives the highest score following evaluation will be declared as the Successful Bidder for the Site and will be awarded the Exploration License by the Ministry once the legal and regulatory requirements are satisfied.

If the Ministry selects a single Successful Bidder, they will proceed directly to the final stage of the Licensing Round. In this case, the relevant Successful Bidder will be invited by the Ministry to proceed straight to conclusion of the final terms of its Proposal. The second highest scoring bidder in such circumstances shall be the "**Reserve Bidder**".

5.3 Model Exploration License

Bidders will be required to confirm in as part of the Proposal Cover Letter (Section 1 of the Application Form) that they accept the terms and conditions of the model exploration license in the form set out as Appendix 1 of the Application Form ("**Model Exploration License**").

In order to comply with the Mining Law, the Exploration License will take the form of three (3) inter-conditional licenses for contiguous areas covering the entire Site, but for simplicity will be referred to in this Information Memorandum, and treated in the Licensing Round, as a single exploration license.

Bidders are advised that the terms of the Model Exploration License are non-negotiable, and this should be taken into account in the course of preparing their submissions.

5.4 Performance Financial Guarantee

Bidders will be required to confirm in the Application Form and particularly in the Proposal Cover Letter (Section 1 of the Application Form) that, if they are announced as the Successful Bidder, they will provide a performance financial guarantee in favor of the Ministry to guarantee the Successful Bidder's due and punctual performance of the Work Program submitted as part of its Proposal ("**Performance Financial Guarantee**").

The Successful Bidder must submit a Performance Financial Guarantee within the timeline specified by the Ministry (not to be less than 30 days) from when it is announced as the Successful Bidder. The Performance Financial Guarantee must be for an amount equal to at least fifteen per cent. (15%) of the Successful Bidder's projected expenditure throughout the Work Program.

The Performance Financial Guarantee should take the form of an irrevocable on demand bank guarantee, in accordance with the forms approved by the Saudi Central Bank.

The Performance Financial Guarantee shall be provided by a bank licensed to operate in the Kingdom and made in favor of the Ministry and with a validity period of not less than thirty (30) months from the Exploration License issuance date, renewable automatically on a rolling basis for one (1) year periods throughout the term of the Exploration License.

The Performance Financial Guarantee may be called upon by the Ministry at any time during the term of the Exploration License in the event that the relevant Licensee fails to meet the agreed performance requirements and targets as set out in the Work Program.

5.5 Social Impact Management Plan

Bidders must submit a social impact management plan ("**Social Impact Management Plan**"), identifying proposed contributions to the local community, and how the applicant will address the communities' needs

and mitigate any negative impacts. The form of the Social Impact Management Plan to be submitted by bidders is set out in Section G of the Application Form.

5.6 Environmental Impact Management Plan

Bidders must submit an environmental impact management plan ("**Environmental Impact Management Plan**") in accordance with the form set out in Section H of the Application Form.

5.7 Proposals Evaluation

The Proposal stage evaluates both the technical and financial aspects of each submission. This analysis will look at the bidder's capabilities, as well as its plans and proposed investments with regards to the exploration and possible development of the Site including community engagement and employment and training opportunities for the Local Communities.

It should be noted that pursuant to the Implementation Regulations, Local Communities for the purposes of preparing Proposals means natural persons who permanently reside in communities within one hundred (100) kilometers from the Site. Please refer to the Mining Investment Law and its Implementing Regulations for the further clarify on the definition of Local Communities.

When submitting any Proposal, bidders are to always adhere to the Proposal Submission Rules and this Information Memorandum. Proposals that are not compliant with the requirements to this Information Memorandum, or are incomplete, may be rejected by the Ministry. All Proposals must be received by the Ministry by the Proposal Submission Deadline.

The bidder whose Proposal receives the highest score will be announced as the Successful Bidder for the Site and will be awarded the Exploration License by the Ministry once the legal and regulatory requirements are satisfied.

5.8 Scoring Methodology

Each Proposal shall be assessed by the Evaluation Committee¹ in accordance with the scoring method set out in the following table.

Table 3: Scoring Criteria Weighting

Section	Criteria	Weighting
Proposed Work Program and Exploration Spend	Proposals will be evaluated on the thoroughness and soundness of the bidder's proposed Work Program for the entire area and the knowledge and understanding of the regional and license area geology, including stage planning, contingency planning and whether the bidder has the ability to attain the objectives in a	50%

¹ The evaluation committee appointed by the Ministry to assess the Proposals, comprising of experts in mining, environmental, legal, and commercial matters

Section	Criteria	Weighting
	timely manner. Bidders must address the requirements set out in Part 1.1 of Section C of the Application Form.	
Resource Exploration and Discovery Activities	Proposals will be evaluated on the bidder's experience in relation to focused exploration activities, based on its responses to the information required in Section D of the Application Form.	20%
Innovation	Proposals will be evaluated based on the innovative solutions and technologies used by the bidder in mineral exploration activities and discovery of mineral potential in base metals, based on the responses provided by bidders to the information required in Section E of the Application Form.	10%
Financial Capability	Proposals will be evaluated on the bidder's financial resources, and its capability to fund its Work Program and other proposed expenditure, in accordance with the form and requirements set out in Section F of the Application Form. Each bidder should provide an outline of its potential financing plan for the first two license years to support such funding requirements.	Pass/ Fail
Social Impact Management Plan	Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of whether the bidder has the demonstrated ability to successfully implement social development in and around the Site, as well as their proposed local community expenditure based on its responses to the information required in Section G of the Application Form.	20%
Environmental Impact Management Plan	Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of whether the bidder has the demonstrated ability to ensure the protection of the environment based on its responses to the information received in the form set out in Section H of the Application Form.	Pass/ Fail
Corporate and Legal Requirements	Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the bidder's corporate and legal information regarding the structure, activities and litigation history of the bidder and its group, as set out in Section I of the Application Form.	Pass/ Fail
Performance Financial Guarantee	Proposal will be evaluated on the bidder's commitment to provide a Performance Financial Guarantee if selected as a Successful Bidder.	Pass/ Fail
Model Exploration License	Proposals will be evaluated on the bidder's commitment to accept the terms of the Model Exploration License.	Pass/ Fail

5.9 Final Satisfaction of Legal and Regulatory Requirements Stage

The announcement of the Successful Bidder will be made promptly after the Evaluation Committee has concluded its evaluation of the Proposals. Following the announcement, the Ministry will invite the Successful Bidder into final discussions and conclusions on the details of any proposed Work Program, Environmental Impact Management Plan or Social Impact Management Plan, to the extent that the Ministry believes any such discussions are required.

5.10 Award of Exploration License

Once a Successful Bidder is selected, the Ministry may seek to clarify with the Successful Bidder certain final points on the Successful Bidder's Work Program, the Environmental Impact Management Plan and the Social Impact Management Plan.

If discussions are concluded successfully, and subject to the satisfaction of all legal and regulatory requirements (including issuance and delivery of the Performance Financial Guarantee) the Ministry shall award the Exploration License to that Successful Bidder.

In the event that the final discussions referred to above are not successfully concluded with the Successful Bidder, the Ministry shall have the right to approach the Reserve Bidder to enter into such discussions.

If, subject to the satisfaction of all legal and regulatory requirements (including issuance and delivery of the Performance Financial Guarantee) the Reserve Bidder becomes the Successful Bidder, the Ministry shall award the Exploration License to that Successful Bidder.

If no agreement is reached with either the Successful Bidder or the Reserve Bidder, the Ministry reserves the right to approach such other bidders who have submitted a valid and binding Proposal as it sees fit.

5.11 Bidders' Information Requests and Clarifications

Bidders may wish to raise clarifications or request further information concerning this Information Memorandum.

All clarification and information requests concerning this Information Memorandum must be written in Arabic or English and submitted via email to miningbidding@mim.gov.sa no later than 17th November 2024 ("**Information Request Deadline**").

Bidders should not contact any person within, or associated with, the Ministry or the Government, or persons associated with their Project advisors, in connection with any requests for additional information or clarifications relating to this Information Memorandum, except via email as set out above.

To the extent possible, such information requests shall receive written responses by email communication as soon as practicable and where the question is of relevance to all bidders, the question and response will be distributed to all bidders may not respond to information requests submitted after the Information Request Deadline. The Ministry may, in its sole and absolute discretion, delete or remove any of the clarifications or request for further information if in the Ministry's view the clarification or request will

result in any confusion in respect of the Information Memorandum or contains indications to certain items such as costs and prices.

5.12 Bidder Site Visits

In the event a bidder wishes to visit the Site in advance of submitting its Proposal, such bidder may liaise with the Ministry to arrange a site visit by sending a request via miningbidding@mim.gov.sa.

5.13 Consortium Proposals

Bidders may form a consortium (including as a joint venture, special purpose vehicle with multiple shareholders or other similar arrangements) ("**Consortium**") and the lead consortium member should be identified in the Proposal ("**Lead Consortium Member**"). Responses must enable the Ministry to assess the overall Consortium.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Consortium does not necessarily need to include a KSA national partner or KSA incorporated entities; however, Consortium members should note that, pursuant to Article 17 of the Implementation Regulations, the members of the Consortium that are part of a successful bid for the Project are required to incorporate a legal entity in KSA, with the shareholdings of each member in that legal entity being equal to the members' interests in the Consortium. The Exploration License is then required to be issued to the KSA-incorporated legal entity, within the period prescribed by the Ministry.

Proposals submitted by Consortiums must include the following:

1. Details of the arrangement to establish the consortium (maximum 500 words).
2. Proposed percentage shareholding and governance rights of each member in the Consortium.
3. The elements of the Proposal and the wider Project for which will each Consortium member be responsible.
4. Confirmation statement signed by all proposed members of the consortium (in the form set out as Appendix 2 of the Application Form).

In responding to the Minimum Qualification Criteria on behalf of the Consortium, technical and financial requirements may be satisfied by separate (and not all) Consortium members. The identity of the relevant Consortium member satisfying the relevant requirement must be indicated clearly in the relevant response.

6. Other Terms of the Proposal Submission Rules

6.1 Documents and Information

This Information Memorandum is and shall remain the property of the Ministry and is provided to the bidders solely for the purpose of preparing and submitting their Proposal.

The provisions of this section shall also apply to Proposals and all other documents submitted by the bidders in relation to their Proposals, and the Ministry will not be under any obligation to return to the bidders any bid, document or any information provided along therewith.

6.2 Proposal Submission Rules

Submissions must be received no later than the Proposal Submission Deadline and shall be deemed to be the bidder's binding offer with respect to the award of the Exploration License.

Bidders are required to prepare their Proposals in the English language and submit their Proposal electronically via email to miningbidding@mim.gov.sa.

The Ministry will provide written acknowledgement of receipt of each submission, indicating the time and date of such receipt, as soon as is reasonably practicable.

The Ministry may, in its sole discretion, extend the Proposal Submission Deadline, by issuing an amendment to the Proposal Submission Rules that is made available to all bidders.

6.3 Costs of Proposal

The bidders shall be responsible for all costs and expenses associated with the preparation of their Proposal and their participation in the Licensing Round. The Ministry will not be responsible or in any way liable for such costs and/or expenses, regardless of the outcome of the Licensing Round.

6.4 Verification of information by the Bidders

By submitting a Proposal, each bidder is deemed to have:

- (1) made a complete and careful examination of the Information Memorandum and unconditionally and irrevocably agreed and accepted the terms thereof;
- (2) reviewed all relevant information provided by the Ministry or SGS as may be relevant to the Proposal;
- (3) undertaken their own review of any information provided in the Data Room and which is publicly available, taken any professional advice they deem appropriate and accepted the risks of inadequacy, error or mistake of the information provided in this Information Memorandum or furnished by or on behalf of the Ministry relating to any of the matters related to the Licensing Round;

- (4) satisfied itself on all matters regarding the Licensing Round and the submission of the Proposal, in accordance with this Information Memorandum and the Mining Regime (including in relation to the performance of any obligations);
- (5) acknowledged and agreed that inadequacy, lack of completeness or incorrectness of information provided in this Information Memorandum shall not be a basis for any claim for compensation, damages, extension of time for performance of its obligations and loss of profits from the Ministry, or a ground for termination of the Exploration License by the Successful Bidder; and
- (6) agreed to be bound by and to comply with the terms of the undertakings provided by it.

The Ministry shall not be liable for any omission, mistake or error in respect of any of the information provided or on account of any matter or thing arising out of or concerning or relating to the Information Memorandum or the linked documents, including any error or mistake therein or in any information or data given by the Ministry.

6.5 Information Requests, Verification by the Ministry and Disqualification

The Ministry reserves the right to verify all statements, information and documents submitted by the bidder in response to the Information Memorandum, and to request any further information it requires in order to make an informed assessment of any Proposal. The bidder shall, when so required by the Ministry, make available all such information, evidence and documents as may be reasonably requested by the Ministry. A bidder is encouraged to provide a written response to such request or clarification promptly and in all cases, within five (5) business days. Any such verification or lack of such verification by the Ministry shall not relieve the bidder of its obligations or liabilities hereunder or under the Mining Investment Law and its Implementing Regulations nor will it affect any rights of the Ministry thereunder.

The Ministry reserves the right to reject any Proposal in the event that any of the following occurs:

- a. at any time a misrepresentation is made by the relevant bidder or the Ministry becomes aware of any such misrepresentation;
- b. the bidder does not provide, within the time specified by the Ministry, any supplemental information requested by the Ministry to complete its evaluation of the Proposal; or
- c. any act or omission of the bidder which results in violation of or non-compliance with this Information Memorandum, or any other document referred to therein or issued pursuant thereto or the Mining Regime and any other applicable laws relevant for the award process.

Any rejection of a Proposal under the above terms may lead to a disqualification of the bidder for bidding in any stage of the Licensing Round or any other Licensing Round(s) conducted by the Ministry for a period of five (5) years commencing from the submission date of the Proposal or any other earlier date specified by the Ministry.

6.6 Non-Compliant Proposals

Notwithstanding Section 6.5, bidders may submit non-compliant Proposals which depart from the terms set out in this Information Memorandum, including without limitation, the various requirements set out in Section 5. However bidders are advised that in evaluating Proposals, preference will be given to compliant Proposals and any non-compliant Proposals will only be considered when there is demonstrable and substantial commercial or technical benefit to the Kingdom, such assessment to be made solely at the Ministry's discretion.

6.7 Amendments to this Information Memorandum

At any time prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline, the Ministry may, for any reason, whether on its own initiative or in response to clarifications requested by a bidder, amend this Information Memorandum.

Any amendment to this Information Memorandum shall be made in writing and shall be made available to all bidders. Any such amendment shall be deemed as an integral part of this Information Memorandum.

In order to provide the bidders reasonable time to take into account any such amendment, or for any other reason, the Ministry may, in its sole discretion, extend the Proposal Submission Deadline.

6.8 Modifications/Substitutions/Withdrawal of Proposals

A bidder may modify, substitute or withdraw its Proposal after submission, but prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline.

No Proposal shall be modified, substituted or withdrawn by the bidder on or after the Proposal Submission Deadline, unless the modification, substitution or withdrawal has been expressly requested by the Ministry.

6.9 Rejection of Proposals

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Information Memorandum, the Ministry reserves the right to reject any Proposal and/ or to annul or elect not to proceed with the Licensing Round and reject all Proposals at any time without any liability or any obligation for such acceptance, rejection or annulment, and without assigning any reasons therefor.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Ministry reserves the right to reject any Proposal based on any conditions specified in this Information Memorandum, including without limitation, the following:

- a. the relevant Proposal has not been submitted with all the information and details listed as being required in this Information Memorandum; or
- b. the relevant Proposal is non-compliant with the terms of this Information Memorandum.

6.10 Validity of the Proposals

A Proposal must be and remain valid for a period of one hundred and eighty (180) days from the Proposal Submission Deadline.

If the Successful Bidder is not announced within of one hundred and eight (180) days from the Proposal Submission Deadline, the Licensing Round shall be annulled.

6.11 Changes affecting Bidders

Upon submission of the Proposal, any changes of information which have been submitted by the bidder must be immediately communicated to the Ministry.

6.12 Fraud and Corrupt Practices

Bidders and their respective officers, employees, agents and advisers shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the Licensing Round and subsequent to the grant of the Exploration License. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Ministry may elect to reject a Proposal and/or revoke the Exploration License, without being liable in any manner whatsoever to the bidder, Reserve Bidder, or the Successful Bidder, as the case may be (each a "**Relevant Bidder**"), if the Ministry determines that the Relevant Bidder has, directly or indirectly or through an agent, engaged in Corrupt Practices, Fraudulent Practice, Coercive Practice, Undesirable Practice or Restrictive Practice as part of the Licensing Round.

Without prejudice to the rights of the Ministry hereinabove and the rights and remedies which the Ministry may have under the Exploration License, or otherwise if a Relevant Bidder is found by the Ministry to have directly or indirectly or through an agent, engaged or indulged in any Corrupt Practices, Fraudulent Practices, Coercive Practices, Undesirable Practices or Restrictive Practices during the award process, or after the grant of the Exploration License, such Relevant Bidder shall not be eligible to participate in any Licensing Round undertaken by the Ministry for a period of five (5) years from the date the Ministry becomes aware of the same.

For the purposes of this Information Memorandum, the following terms shall have the meaning hereinafter respectively assigned to them:

Corrupt Practice

means the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting, directly or indirectly, of anything of value to influence the actions of any person connected with the Licensing Round (for avoidance of doubt, offering of employment to or employing or engaging in any manner whatsoever, directly or indirectly, any official of the Ministry who is or has been associated in any manner, directly or indirectly, with the Licensing Round, or at any time prior to the expiry of 1 (one) year from the date such official resigns or retires from or otherwise ceases to be in the service of the Ministry, shall be deemed to constitute influencing the actions of a person connected with the award process);

Fraudulent Practices	means a misrepresentation or omission of facts or suppression of facts or disclosure of incomplete facts, in order to influence the award process;
Coercive Practices	means impairing or harming, or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any person or property to influence any person's participation or action in the award process;
Undesirable Practice	means <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. establishing contact with any person connected with or employed or engaged by the Ministry with the objective of canvassing, lobbying or in any manner influencing or attempting to influence the award process; orii. violating of the Mining Regime or any other applicable laws; and
Restrictive Practice	means forming a cartel or arriving at any understanding or arrangement among other bidders with the objective of restricting or manipulating a full and fair competition in the award process.

6.13 Correspondence

Unless otherwise provided in this Information Memorandum, all communications and correspondence from bidders to the Ministry in connection with the Licensing Round prior to the award of the Exploration License must be in English and submitted via email to miningbidding@mim.gov.sa.

For the avoidance of doubt, clarifications relating to the Information Memorandum should be sent by bidders to the Ministry in accordance with Section 5.11.

6.14 Governing law

The Licensing Round shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the Kingdom.

6.15 Rights of the Ministry

The Ministry, in its sole discretion and without incurring any obligation or liability, reserves the right, at any time, to:

- a. suspend and/ or cancel the Licensing Round and/or amend and/or supplement the award process or modify the dates or other terms and conditions relating thereto;
- b. consult with any bidder as it may deem fit in connection with the Licensing Round;
- c. seek clarification of any Proposal, to interview, or to hold discussions with any bidder at any time after the Proposal Submission Deadline;

- d. retain any information and/ or evidence submitted to the Ministry by, on behalf of, and/ or in relation to any bidder; and/or
- e. independently verify, disqualify, reject and/ or accept any and all submissions or other information and/ or evidence submitted by or on behalf of any bidder.
- f. establish the rules and procedures governing the bid preparation, submission, evaluation, and selection processes;
- g. cancel or modify the terms and conditions of Proposal Submission Rules and/or cancel the evaluation process at any stage;
- h. select the Successful Bidder and Reserve Bidder;
- i. appoint an Evaluation Committee;
- j. use the Transaction Advisory Team and/or any third-party consultants to assist with any aspect of the Proposal submission, evaluation, selection, and/or negotiation processes; or
- k. waive any deficiency, irregularity, or omission in any Proposal provided that such waiver does not materially affect the substance or validity of the tender process as outlined in this Information Memorandum.

By submitting a Proposal, a bidder agrees to release the Ministry, its employees, agents and advisers, irrevocably, unconditionally, fully and finally from any and all liability for claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses or liabilities in any way related to or arising from the exercise of any rights and/ or performance of any obligations hereunder, pursuant hereto and/ or in connection with the Licensing Round and waive, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, any and all rights and/or claims it may have in this respect, whether actual or contingent, whether present or in future.

6.16 Bidder Acknowledgements

In addition to the acknowledgments set out in Section 6.4, by submitting a Proposal, each bidder acknowledges the following:

- a. neither the Ministry nor its representatives makes any express or implied representation or warranty as to the completeness, accuracy, currency, reliability or suitability of this Information Memorandum and none of such persons will have any liability to the bidder or its representatives relating to or arising from their use of any information or for any errors therein or omissions therefrom nor will they be obliged to update or correct any inaccuracy in the information or otherwise provide additional information;
- b. reliance upon or use of the information contained in this Information Memorandum is at the sole risk of the bidder and its representatives;
- c. the Ministry will not be under any legal obligation or have any liability to the bidder of any nature whatsoever by virtue of the instructions in this Information Memorandum;

- d. the Ministry will not be deemed to have accepted any offer, and no contract or agreement with respect to the Site would be deemed to be entered between the Ministry and any bidder, unless and until the Exploration License has been executed by the Ministry and awarded to the Successful Bidder; and
- e. the Ministry has the right at any time and in its absolute discretion to terminate, change or delay the award process and terms and the Ministry will not be obliged to accept any or the highest or best offer and may, at any time and in its absolute discretion, request that the bidder return or destroy any document or information provided to it in connection with this Information Memorandum.

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