**KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**



**PRE-QUALIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRE ("PQQ")**

**EXPLORATION LICENSES – 2025 LICENSING ROUNDS**

**Issued on 14th January 2025**

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| **The PQQ may be completed in English or Arabic and must be converted to PDF then submitted electronically via email to** **miningbidding@mim.gov.sa****The PQQ must be submitted in accordance with the instructions and the timelines set out in this PQQ.** |

**Overview**

The Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources ("**Ministry**") announced on 14th January 2025 that it will be conducting multiple licensing rounds for mineral exploration throughout 2025 (“**2025 Licensing Rounds**”) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ("**KSA**" or the "**Kingdom**"). The total planned coverage for these licensing rounds in 2025 is approximately 50,000 square kilometers and will feature a new grid-based online bidding format. This PQQ is designed to identify qualified bidders eligible to participate in all 2025 Licensing Rounds as outlined below:

**Planned Licensing Rounds:**

1. **Round 9:** Covering parts of the Sukhaybrah-As Safra Belt, Al Nuqrah Belt, and Nabitah-Duwayhi Belt.
2. **Round 10:** Featuring approximately 15 discrete sites.
3. **Round 11**: Covering the other parts of the Sukhaybrah-As Safra Belt, Al Nuqrah Belt, and Nabitah-Duwayhi Belt, as well as parts of As Siham North, Ad-Duwayhi, and Mansourah West.

Further details relating to the 2025 Licensing Rounds, including technical data and geological maps, are available on the Tadeen Platform <https://taadeen.sa/en>.

Prospective bidders who previously qualified as bidders in respect of the Jabal Sayid and Al Hajjar Belts Licensing Rounds launched in 2024 will be deemed to automatically have qualified for the 2025 Licensing Rounds if they submit an expression of interest via the Ministry’s website. All other prospective bidders must complete and submit this PQQ to participate in any of the 2025 Licensing Rounds.

Qualified bidders will gain access to a new online auction platform featuring a grid-based bidding system for upcoming licensing rounds. Comprehensive guidelines detailing the auction design and procedures will be published in advance.

# **Timelines**

Below tables give the indicative timelines for the 2025 Licensing Rounds:

 **2025 Belts Licensing Round 9 Indicative Timetable**

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| Target Date | Process Stage |
| 14th Jan | PQQ opens (*for all rounds*) |
| 30th May | Guidelines published Platform launch |
| 16th June 17:00 (KSA time) | PQQ submission cutoff (*15-days before online bidding*) |
| 1st Jul | Grids open for online bids |
| 15th Aug 17:00 (KSA time) | Bidding deadline |
| 30th Aug | Winners announced |

**2025 Belts Licensing Round 10 Indicative Timetable**

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| Target Date | Process Stage |
| 1st Jul | Announcement |
| 24th Jul 17:00 (KSA time) | PQQ submission cutoff (*15-days before online bidding*) |
| 3rd Aug | Sites open for online bids |
| 1st Sep 17:00 (KSA time) | Bidding deadline |
| 30th Sep | Winners announced |

**2025 Belts Licensing Round 11 Indicative Timetable**

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| Target Date | Process Stage |
| 1st Sep | Announcement |
| 18th Sep 17:00 (KSA time) | PQQ submission cutoff (*15-days before online bidding*) |
| 1st Oct | Grids open for online bids |
| 15th Dec 17:00 (KSA time) | Bidding deadline |
| 30th Dec | Winners announced |

**Note: As shown in above tables, to be considered for a specific licensing round within the 2025 Licensing Rounds, completed PQQ must be submitted at least 15 days prior to the commencement of online bidding for that round, even though the PQQ itself remains open year-round.**

**PART A – MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS**

The following mandatory requirements must be met by each prospective bidder and, where the prospective bidder is a consortium, each consortium member. The Ministry will not accept exceptions, conditions or reservations to the mandatory requirements, other than in exceptional circumstances and at its sole discretion.

**Mandatory Requirements Checklist**

*Please tick the boxes next to the Mandatory Requirements below to indicate the prospective bidder's and, where the prospective bidder is a consortium, each consortium member's compliance with each respective statement.*

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| **Mandatory Requirements** | **المتطلبات الإلزامية** |
| **1. Bankruptcy**The prospective bidder has not been declared bankrupt/ insolvent |  |  | **1. عدم الإفلاس**لم يتم الإعلان عن إفلاس أو تعسير المتنافس المحتمل. |
| **2. Professional Conduct**The prospective bidder and/or any of its shareholders (including ultimate beneficial owners owning at least 10% of the prospective bidder’s share capital), officers and directors of the prospective bidder have not been convicted by a valid conclusive judgment of an authorised court of any financial, economic or management offence including not being subject of a conviction by final judgment for bribery, corruption, fraud, money laundering or breach of sanctions. |  |  | **2. السلوك المهني**لم يصدر أي حكم نهائي من محكمة أو جهة قضائية بإدانة المتنافس المحتمل و/أو أي من شركاؤه (ويشمل ذلك المستفيدين النهائيين الحقيقيين الذين يملكون نسبة 10% أو أكثر من رأس مال المتنافس المحتمل) أو أي من مسؤولي ومديري المتنافس المحتمل فيما يخص ارتكاب أي مخالفات مالية أو اقتصادية أو إدارية ويشمل ذلك عدم صدور أحكام نهائية تتعلق بقضايا الرشاوي أو الفساد أو الاحتيال أو غسيل الأموال أو خرق العقوبات. |
| **3. Politically exposed persons (PEP) / officials**No direct or indirect member (including directors and officers of such member) or director/officer of the prospective bidder (or any member of the prospective bidder’s group) is:* an individual who is or has been entrusted with prominent public functions inside KSA or in another country, for example Heads of State or of government, senior politicians, senior government, judicial or military officials, senior executives of state owned corporations, important political party officials;
* any natural person entrusted with a prominent function by an international organisation, including directors and deputy-directors, board members or equivalent.

(a "**PEP**"). This includes family members (up to second degree relatives) and close associates who are any natural persons known to have a joint beneficial ownership of legal entities and legal arrangements or any other close business relationship with the PEP or who has an interest with or works for the PEP. |  |  | **3. الشخص السياسي المعرض للمخاطر**لا يوجد أي عضو مباشر أو غير مباشر (ويشمل ذلك المدراء أو المسؤولين) لدى المتنافس المحتمل (ويشمل ذلك أي شركة في مجموعة المتنافس المحتمل) يعد شخص مكلف بمهمات عامة عليا في المملكة أو دولة أجنبية أو مناصب إدارة عليا أو وظيفة في أحد المنظمات الدولية، ويشمل ذلك المناصب أو الوظائف التالية:* رؤساء الدول أو الحكومات، وكبار السياسيين أو المسؤولين الحكوميين أو القضائيين أو العسكريين، وكبار المسؤولين التنفيذيين في الشركات التي تملكها الدول، والمسؤولون البارزون في الأحزاب السياسية؛
* رؤساء ومديرو المنظمات الدولية ونوابهم وأعضاء مجلس الإدارة، أو أي وظيفة مماثلة.

ويشمل ذلك أفراد عائلة الشخص السياسي المعرض للمخاطر (وصولاً إلى الدرجة الثانية من القرابة) والأشخاص المقربين من الشخص السياسي المعرض للمخاطر ويشمل ذلك أي شخص طبيعي يشترك بالاستفادة مع شخص سياسي معرض للمخاطر من خلال شراكة حقيقة في كيان اعتباري أو ترتيب قانوني أو تربطه به علاقة عمل وثيقة، أو هو مستفيد حقيقي من كيان اعتباري قانوني أو ترتيب قانوني يملكه أو يسيطر عليه فعلياً شخص سياسي معرض للمخاطر. |
| **4. Withdrawal of Mineral Rights**The prospective bidder has not, in the past ten (10) years, been subject to the premature termination, cancellation or withdrawal of mineral rights prior to the expiry of the associated contract period (save in exceptional circumstances where the Prospective Bidder was not at fault and which shall be described in the proposal). |  |  | **4.** **إنهاء حقوق ترخيص التعدين**لم يتم إنهاء أو إلغاء أو سحب أي من تراخيص التعدين المقدمة للمتنافس المحتمل قبل انتهاء مدة الترخيص المحددة خلال العشرة سنوات الماضية (إلا في الظروف الاستثنائية التي لم يكن فيها المتنافس المحتمل على خطأ كما سيتم توضيحه وشرحه في العرض). |
| **5. Statement of Compliance**The completed PQQ Statement(s) of Compliance (Part C) has/have been returned with the PQQ. |  |  | **5. بيان الالتزام**تم تسليم بيان الالتزام المكتمل (الجزء ج ) مع طلب التأهيل المسبق. |
| **6. Non-Disclosure Undertaking**The completed Non-Disclosure Undertaking has been signed and returned either with the completed PQQ or beforehand. |  |  | **6. تعهدات عدم الإفصاح**تم تسليم تعهدات عدم الإفصاح الموقعة من المتنافس المحتمل مع أو قبل تسليم طلب التأهيل المسبق. |
| **7. Constitutional Documents**A copy (certified to be a true copy of the original, by an officer of the bidder) of the constitutional documents of the prospective bidder or each consortium member, as applicable, has been provided with the completed PQQ or beforehand. |  |  | **7. الوثائق التأسيسية**تم تزويد نسخة (مصدقة على أنها نسخة طبق الأصل من قبل مسؤول من المتنافس المحتمل) من الوثائق التأسيسية للمتنافس المحتمل، وفي حالة المتنافسين المحتملين بالائتلاف كل عضو ائتلاف، مع أو قبل تسليم طلب التأهيل المسبق. |

**PART B - PROSPECTIVE BIDDER INFORMATION**

Prospective bidders must answer all questions accurately and as concisely as possible and, where a question is not relevant to the prospective bidder's organization, this should be indicated, with a suitable explanation.

Please answer each of the questions below in the form requested and enclose or attach supporting documentation where relevant or necessary, cross-referencing the information back to the relevant question number. It is the prospective bidder's responsibility to ensure that the information referenced contains the required answer to the question.

If the prospective bidder is a consortium, the following guidelines must be followed:

* The lead consortium member must be clearly identified and will be responsible for submitting the information required in this section.
* Technical and financial requirements may be satisfied collectively by the consortium members, not necessarily by the lead consortium member alone.
* Each consortium member contributing to satisfying the requirements should be clearly indicated, along with their specific roles and responsibilities in the project.
* A copy of the consortium agreement must be submitted with the PQQ to outline the roles and responsibilities of each member.

# **COMPANY INFORMATION**

1. Company name and address
2. Country of incorporation
3. Website
4. Primary contact name
5. Primary contact email

# ***Consortium Details***

1. Please confirm, by completing the table below, whether the prospective bidder is a consortium. If so, please provide details and the percentage shareholdings of its consortium members and any supporting documentation. Please note that any changes to the consortium members including their percentage shareholding following the date of the submission of this PQQ is subject to the prior written approval of the Ministry.

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| **Is the Prospective Bidder a Consortium?** | **Yes / No** |

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| **Details of the agreement that established the Consortium (500 words or fewer)** |       |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Percentage shareholding of Consortium Members** | **Names of Consortium Members** | **Which element(s) of the Projects will the Consortium Member be responsible for?** |
|       |       |  |
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# **TECHNICAL CAPABILITY**

1. Please provide the number of geological staff currently employed by the prospective bidder in each of the following categories:
2. Junior Geologist
3. Geologist
4. Senior Geologist
5. Exploration Operations Manager

For the purposes of this question, please use the below classification

**Junior Geologist** - A person with an academic degree in geology, such as geophysics, geochemistry, etc.

* **Geologist** - A person with an academic degree in geology, with at least 5 years of practical experience in exploration
* **Senior Geologist** - A person with an academic degree in geology, etc., with at least 8 years of practical experience in exploration
* **Exploration Operations Manager** - A person with an academic degree in geology, with at least 10 years of practical experience in exploration

*Note*: *The number of maximum licenses a company could be eligible for will depend on the number and experience of its geological staff, as detailed in the Mining Investment Law and its Implementing Regulations.*

1. Please specify the number of professionals within the prospective bidder’s organization who are qualified as “Competent Persons” under internationally recognized reporting codes such as JORC, NI 43-101, or SAMREC.
2. Number of projects advanced to pre-feasibility study and/or feasibility study in the past ten years collectively for the prospective bidder and / or key management.
3. Number of active greenfield licences in prospective bidder’s portfolio.
4. Number of active brownfield licences in prospective bidder’s portfolio.
5. Types of mineral deposits which was targeted by the prospective bidder in the past five years.
6. Describe the prospective bidder’s approach to exploration targeting for the types of mineral deposits mentioned in the above question. Include key methodologies and technologies typically employed. (maximum 1,000 words)

# **FINANCIAL CAPACITY**

1. Approximate area size (square kilometre) for which the prospective bidder intends to participate in the 2025 Belts Licensing Rounds.
2. According to the Implementing Regulations of the Mining Investment Law, a minimum financial requirement of SAR 225,000 is required for every 100 sq km area, covering the first two years of exploration activities. Taking into consideration this requirement, does the prospective bidder have the financial capacity required to meet this threshold based on approximate area for which bidder intends to participate as indicated in the response to question ‎14? (Yes/No)
3. Does the prospective bidder have any outstanding payments owed to the Ministry related to any licenses, fines, or other due payments? (Yes/ No)
4. Prospective bidder’s average market capitalization (based on the last 12 months):
	* If the prospective bidder is a private company, provide the latest company valuation or equivalent financial metrics to demonstrate financial capacity.
5. Total assets (based on latest audited financial statements).
6. Exploration expenditure in the past 12 months.
7. Exploration budget for 2025.

# **PREVIOUS LICENSES**

1. Has the prospective bidder previously held exploration licenses (that are now relinquished) within any of the areas part of the three regional belts mentioned in this PQQ? (Yes/No)
2. If yes, please provide details:
3. License number(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Site location(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Date(s) of issue: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY HELD AN EXPLORATION LICENSE WITHIN ANY OF THE AREAS COVERED IN THE 2025 LICENSING ROUNDS WILL NOT QUALIFY TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT PARTICULAR ROUND.**

# **COMPLIANCE WITH MINING LAW AND LICENSE OBLIGATIONS**

***The following questions must be answered by the prospective bidder and, where the prospective bidder is a consortium, each consortium member.***

1. Has the prospective bidder ever been found to be non-compliant with any provisions of the Mining Investment Law (including its Implementing Regulations) in Saudi Arabia? (Yes/ No).
2. If yes, what specific measures has the prospective bidder taken to correct the non-compliance and prevent future occurrences? (300 words)
3. What is the current compliance status of the prospective with respect to the previously identified non-compliance issues? (Select any one of the below options)
* Fully resolved
* In process of resolution (Please provide expected completion date)
* Unresolved
1. Has your company previously held any mineral exploration or mining licenses in Saudi Arabia? (Yes/ No)
2. If yes, has your company satisfactorily completed all obligations associated with these previous licenses? (Yes/ No)
3. If no, what was/ were the obligations your company failed to meet? (100 words)

# **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ATTACHMENTS**

Each prospective bidder must provide the below supporting documents alongside its completed PQQ:

1. Audited financial statements for the last three years to support the details provided in the Financial Capacity Section.
2. A document (organizational chart, policy statement, etc.) outlining the prospective bidder’s governance process in relation to exploration activities, such as:
	1. Decision-making hierarchy for exploration projects
	2. Allocation of resources and personnel for exploration
	3. Processes for technical review and quality assurance
3. Summaries, reports, or presentations related to the prospective bidder’s exploration projects including documents demonstrating success in previous exploration projects.
4. Financing plan covering at least 100% of the minimum total exploration expenses for the duration of the requested license.
5. CVs of key technical personnel (including Competent Persons) and biographies of relevant management (CEO, VPs, etc.), highlighting relevant experience.
6. Consortium Agreement (if applicable)
7. Non-disclosure Undertaking - Part A, Requirement 6 in the form provided on the Tadeen Platform
8. Certified copy constitutional documents - Part A, Requirement 7
9. Completed PQQ Statement of Compliance (and where the Prospective Bidder is a Consortium, a completed PQQ Statement of Compliance from each Consortium Member) – Part C

**PART C – PQQ STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge, information and belief:

* 1. the completed PQQ complies fully with the requirements set out in the PQQ, including but not limited to the Mandatory Requirements set out in Part A of this PQQ;
	2. all information provided in response to the PQQ is true and correct and we are not guilty of misrepresentation in providing any information required of us under this PQQ; and
	3. there are no material omissions in the information being provided in response to this PQQ.

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| **Organisation's name** |       |
| **Signed** |  |
| **Name of signatory** |       |
| **Position** |       |
| **Date** |       |