



Ministry of Industry  
& Mineral Resources

# Overview of Exploration Licensing Tender Rounds Preliminary Plan 2025 to 2027

Aug 2025

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# KSA's Exploration Licensing Process

## Direct Application



First-Come  
First-Served process



A registered company in Saudi  
Arabia is required before  
application



Identify and select areas of your  
choice through the National  
Geological Database



All data are available in the  
National Geological Database



Open throughout  
the year

## Tender Applications



Merit-based  
competition process



Participation in the tender  
rounds are open without having  
a registered company in Saudi



Exploration Spend Tender



Due Diligence and Data Room  
provided along with National  
Geological Database



Brownfield sites with Advanced  
Data

# KSA Offers Competitive Incentives

From early-stage exploration to downstream processing

Upstream	Mid- Down Stream		
<b>\$2mn</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>5 yrs</b>	<b>30%</b>
Grants for Green field Exploration projects	Co-funding CAPEX	Royalty fees exemption	Discounts for each local downstream processing up to 90%

## Additional incentives



**30-50%** salary coverage for Saudi employees



**Customs duties exemptions** on industrial machinery, MRO, and raw materials



**100%** foreign direct business ownership



**20%** Corporate Tax



**40+** locations across KSA with competitive land & utility prices



# Exploration Enablement Program (EEP)

# Exploration Enablement Program (EEP) was launched to de-risk mining investments and accelerate exploration in the Kingdom

## Exploration Enablement Program

**685 Mn SAR (USD 182 Mn)**

to unlock KSA's geological knowledge, de-risk mining investments, and accelerate greenfield exploration across the Kingdom.

## Objectives



Accelerate exploration for Class A minerals



Enhance geological knowledge



Identify new frontiers in green field areas



Expand the capability and local talent

## Incentives Under the Program

### Eligible Categories

Drilling, Lab Testing and Geoscientific Studies

### Talent/ Labor

Additional cash incentive to cover local salary costs beyond HRDF coverage

### Threshold (%)

**Up to 25%** of total drilling, lab testing and geoscientific studies costs

**Up to 15%** of salary costs for expertise employees' residing in KSA)

### Capping 7 million (SAR)

**4 million**  
(max of 15 applications per company)

**3 million**  
(max of 5 applications per company)

# Exploration Enablement Program – Eligibility Criteria

## Access 685m SAR (US\$182m) – Launched April 2024



### Active Mineral Exploration License

- Valid Exploration license with less than 5 years



### Comprehensive Greenfield Exploration Program

- Specific minerals selected and activities to be undertaken
- Identify outsourced activities and talent requirements
- Provide a detailed budget



### Priority Class-A Minerals Focus

- Select minerals for exploration from the prioritized Class-A list (e.g., Copper, Lithium, Nickel)



### Local Capability Building

- Commit to nurturing local talent and expertise in the mining sector



### Commitment to Local Service Providers

- Prioritize engagement with local service providers for exploration activities



### Proven Expertise and Track Record

- Demonstrate the availability of technical experts with a successful track record in greenfield exploration
- Showcase experience in end-to-end exploration projects within or outside KSA

												VMS	Gold	Nickel	Zinc
Quarters	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2				
	2024	2025			2026			2027							
Auctions (22)	Area (km²)	38,112			3,887	5,346	6,997	17,329	22,708	14,996					
		Sukhaybrah – As Safra			Nabitah– Duwayhi	Ar Ryan	Samran- Shayban	Kutam – Al Masane	Nabitah Mansourah	Jabal Sayid					
		Nuqrah			Al Bjyadi	Ar Ridanyah	Al Maraysi	Ash Shaib	As Siham – Az Zeraib	Wadi Shwas					
						Wadi Khiyam		Muhaddad	Ghuzayyilat -Zalim	Ar Rujm					
						Wuhayti Umm Ash Shalahib		Afif	Wadi Shwas	Ash Shakhtali yat					



# Tender Round Roadmap

## 2025

Area (km<sup>2</sup>)

38,112

3,887

Sukhaybrah – As Safra

Nabitah-  
Duwayhi

Nuqrah

Al Bjyadi

VMS

Gold

Nickel

Zinc



# Tender Round Roadmap

## 2026

Area (km<sup>2</sup>)

5,346	6,997	17,329	22,708
Ar Ryan	Samran-Shayban	Kutam - Al Masane	Nabitah Mansourah
Ar Ridanyah	Al Maraysi	Ash Shaib	As Siham - Az Zeraib
Wadi Khiyam		Muhaddad	Ghuzayyilat -Zalim
Wuhayti Umm Ash Shalahib		Afif	Wadi Shwas

VMS

Gold

Nickel

Zinc



# Tender Round Roadmap

## 2027

Area (km<sup>2</sup>)

**14,996**

**Jabal Sayid**

**Wadi Shwas**

**Ar Rujm**

**Ash Shakhtaliyat**

VMS

Gold

Nickel

Zinc





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<https://investsaudi.sa/en/>



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<https://mim.gov.sa/>



Exploration  
Enablement Program

<https://taadeen.sa/en/exploration-enablement-program>



Saudi Geological  
Survey

<https://sgs.org.sa/en>



National Geological  
Database

<http://ngp.sgs.org.sa>



Ta'adeen platform  
Bidding Platform

<https://bidding.taadeen.sa/>  
<https://taadeen.sa/en/mining-bids>



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Email Ministry for  
licensing rounds

[Miningbidding@mim.gov.sa](mailto:Miningbidding@mim.gov.sa)



Daleel (Investor  
Journey)

<https://daleel.gov.sa/>





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# Thank You

*Towards A New Era of Saudi Arabia Mining Industry*

