



Ministry of Industry
& Mineral Resources

Overview of Exploration Licensing Tender Rounds Preliminary Plan 2026 to 2027

January 2026

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Exploration Licensing Paths

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

Building on proven momentum and a clear legal framework, targeted, merit-based incentives share early-stage risk across the value chain

From early-stage exploration to downstream processing

Upstream	Mid- Down Stream		
\$2mn	SIDF	5 yrs	30%
Grants for Green field Exploration projects	Access to significant co-funding for CAPEX	Royalty fees exemption	Discounts for each local downstream processing up to 90%

SIDF: Saudi Industrial Development Fund

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

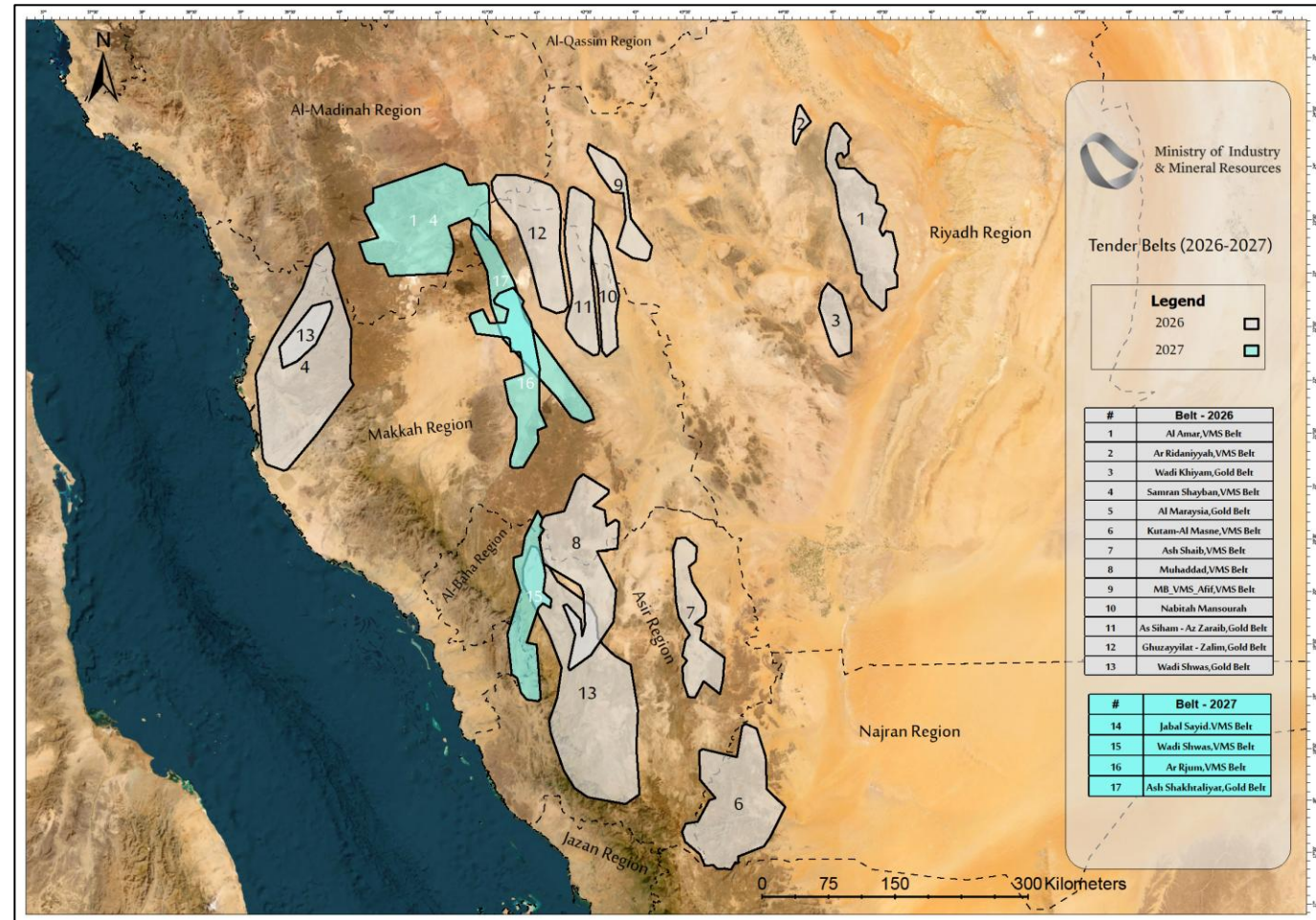
- Demonstrate the availability of technical experts with a successful track record in greenfield exploration
- Showcase experience in end-to-end exploration projects within or outside KSA

Tender Rounds Preliminary Plan 2026 to 2027

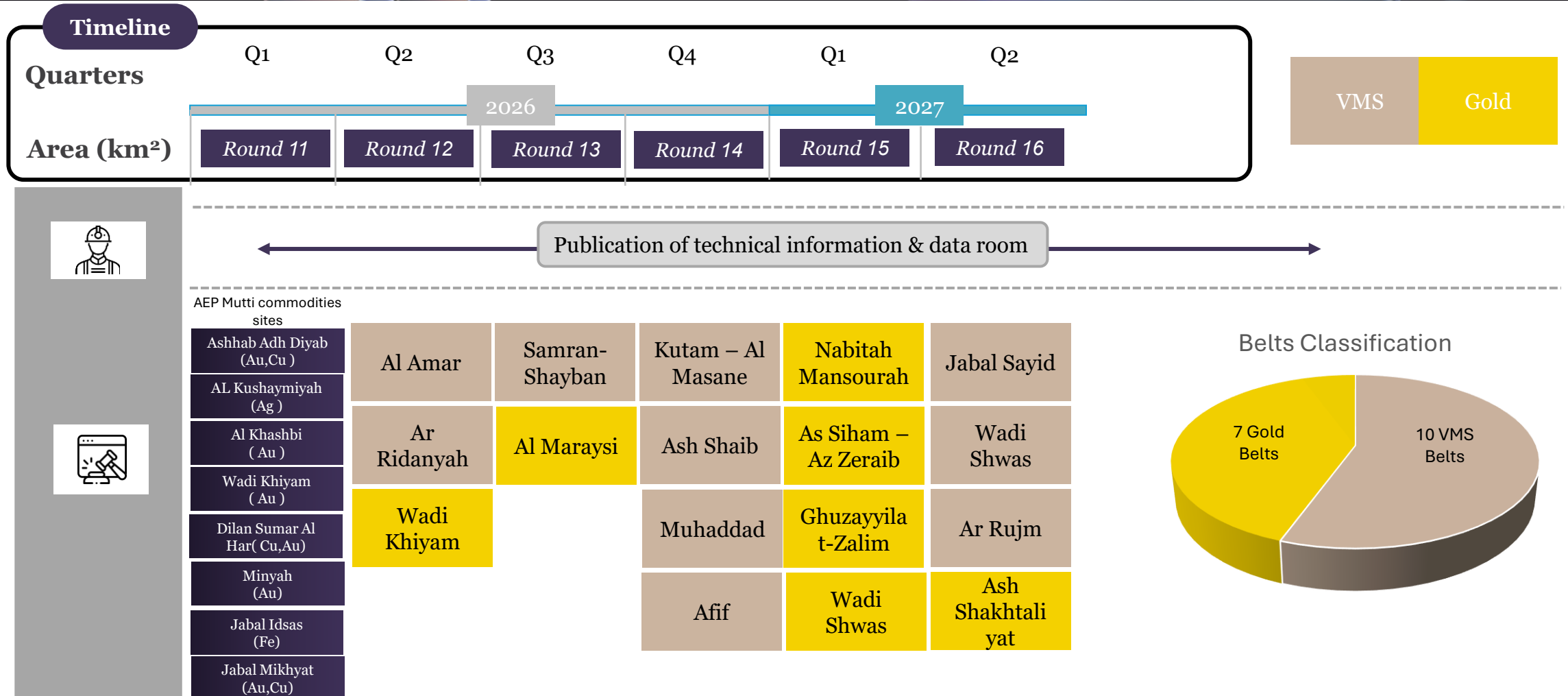
Tenders: 17 Highly prospective belts will be part of the upcoming tender rounds

A Major Opportunity Over 2026–2027

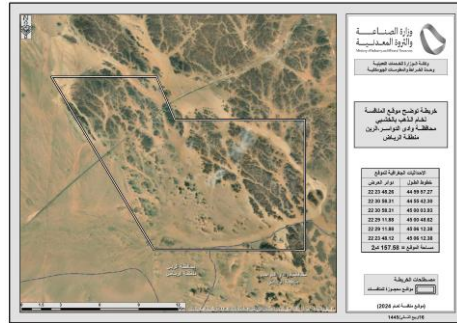
With 17 highly prospective belts spanning a cross ~35,000 km² offering compelling potential for gold, base metals, and additional prospective commodities. The entire portfolio will be tendered via a fully automated online platform, enhancing transparency, improving bidder visibility, and ensuring a consistent and streamlined tender journey.



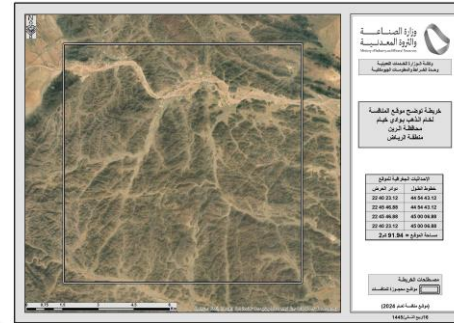
Tender Rounds Roadmap



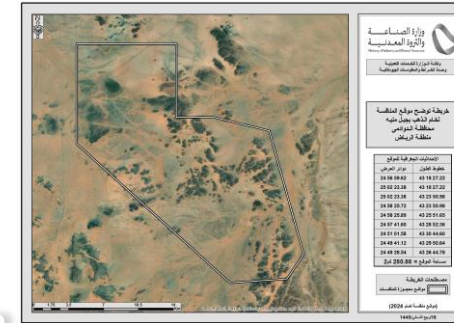
Round 11 offers 8 AEP sites totaling 1,878 km² will be offered in Round 11 as a special round of more matured sites, and the opportunity is open now for PQQ



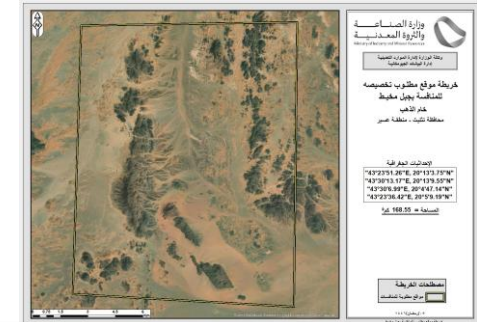
Gold



Gold



Gold



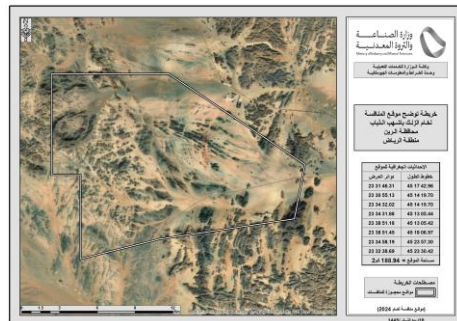
Gold

Site Name	Region	Area (km ²)
Al Khashbi	Riyadh	157.58

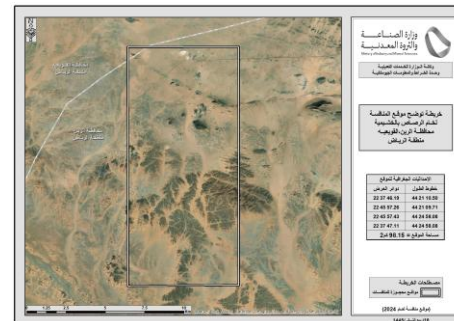
Site Name	Region	Area (km ²)
Wadi Khiyam	Riyadh	91.98

Site Name	Region	Area (km ²)
Jabal Minyah	Riyadh	280.88

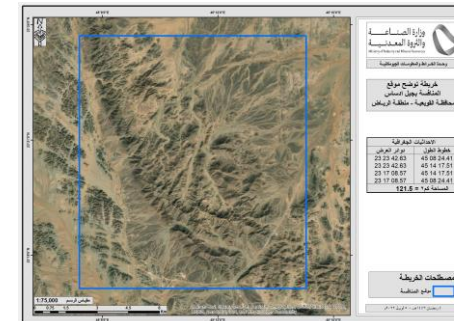
Site Name	Region	Area (km ²)
Jabal Mikhyat	Assir	168.55



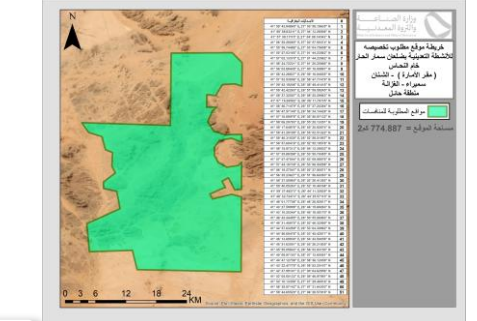
Gold-Copper



Silver



Iron



Gold-Copper

Site Name	Region	Area (km ²)
Ashab adh Dhaib	Riyadh	188.94

Site Name	Region	Area (km ²)
Al Kushaymiyah	Riyadh	98.15

Site Name	Region	Area (km ²)
Jabal Idsas	Riyadh	121.5

Site Name	Region	Area (km ²)
Dilan Sumar Al Har (Jabal aqab)	Riyadh	774

Tender Round 12

2026 - Q2

Area (km²) 2,776.58

Al Amar

Ar Ridanyah

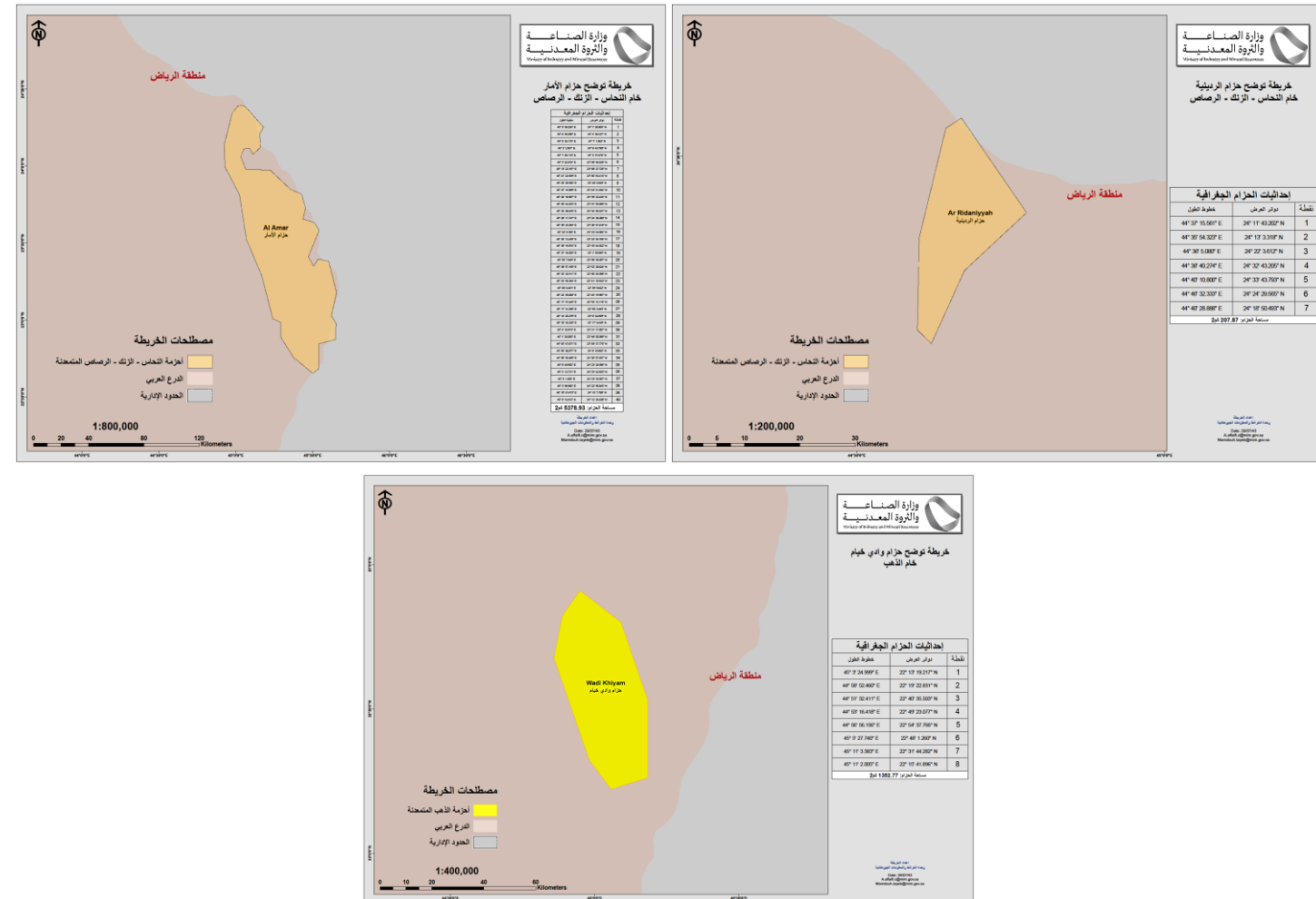
Wadi Khiyam

VMS

Gold

Nickel

Zinc



Tender Round 13

2026 – Q3

Area (km²) 6,485

Samran-Shayban

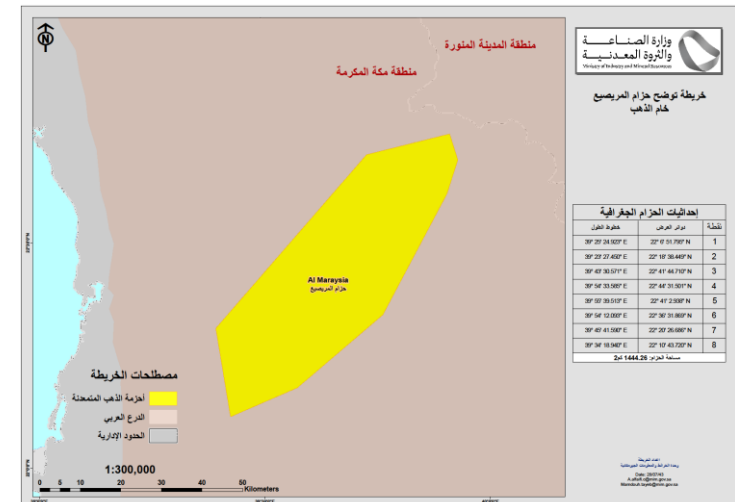
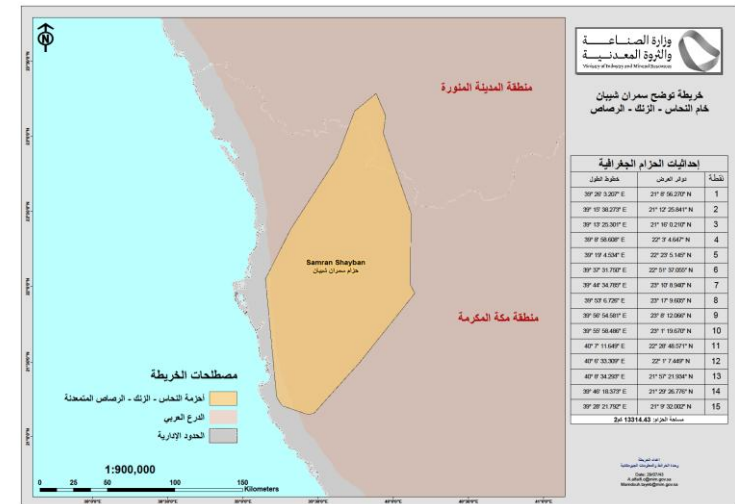
Al Maraysi

VMS

Gold

Nickel

Zinc



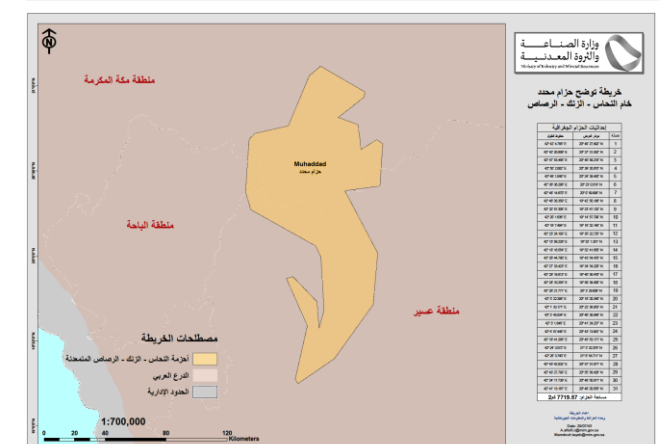
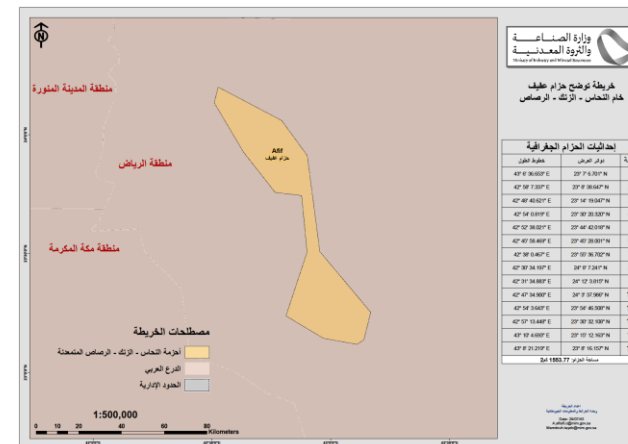
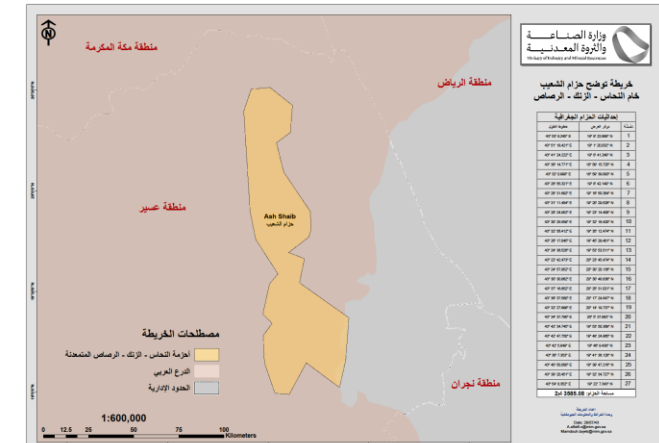
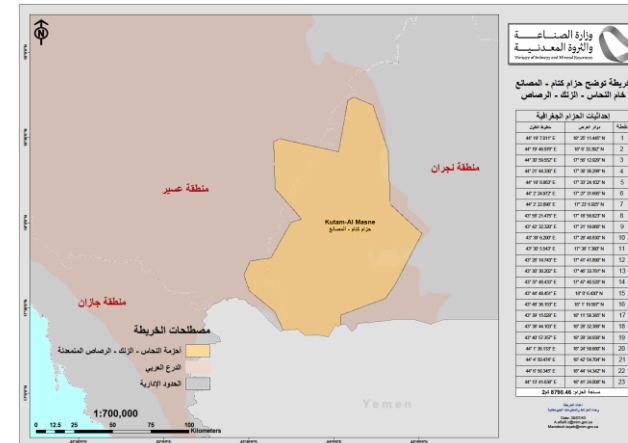
2026 – Q4

Area (km²) 7,740

Ash Shaib

Muhaddad

Zinc



Tender Round 15

2027 – Q1

Area (km²) 8,847

Nabitah Mansourah

As Siham – Az Zeraib

Ghuzayyat-Zalim

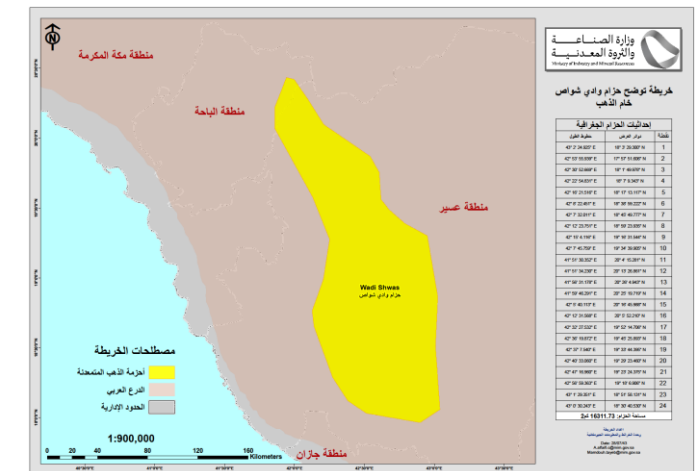
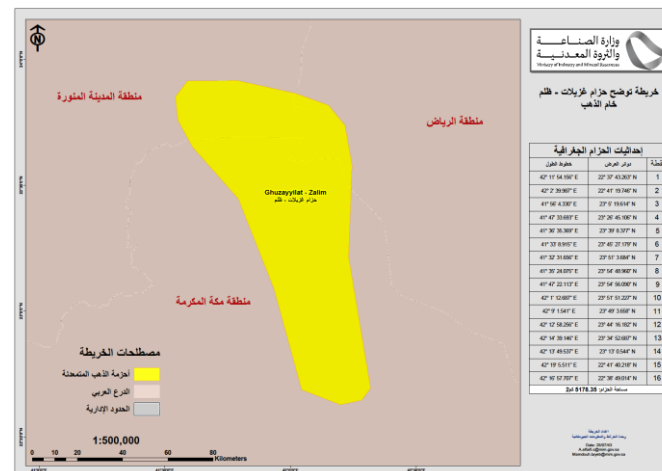
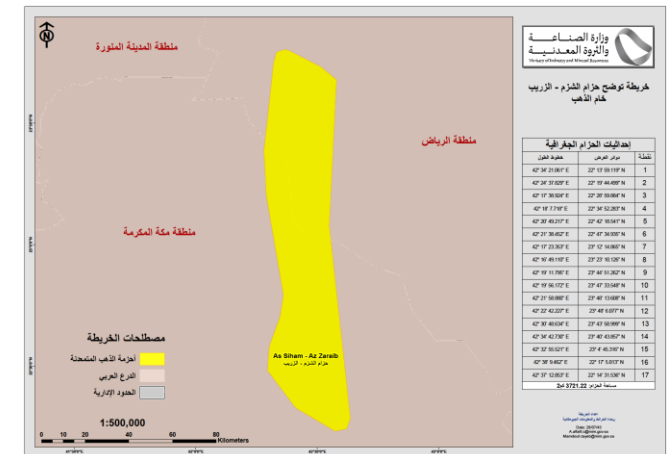
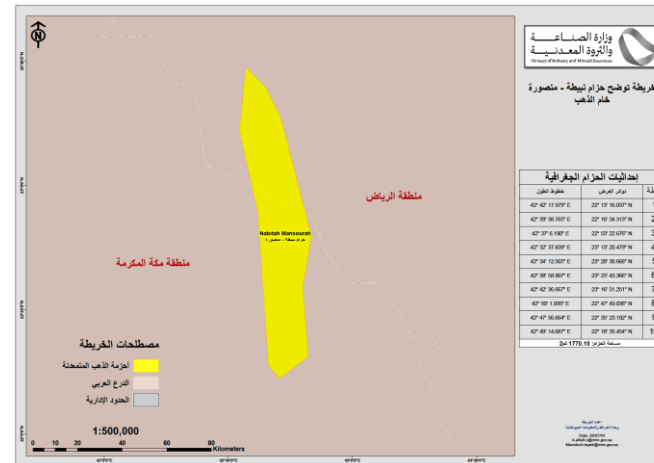
Wadi Shwas

VMS

Gold

Nickel

Zinc



Tender Round 16

2027 – Q2

Area (km²) 7,775

Jabal Sayid

Wadi Shwas

Ar Rujm

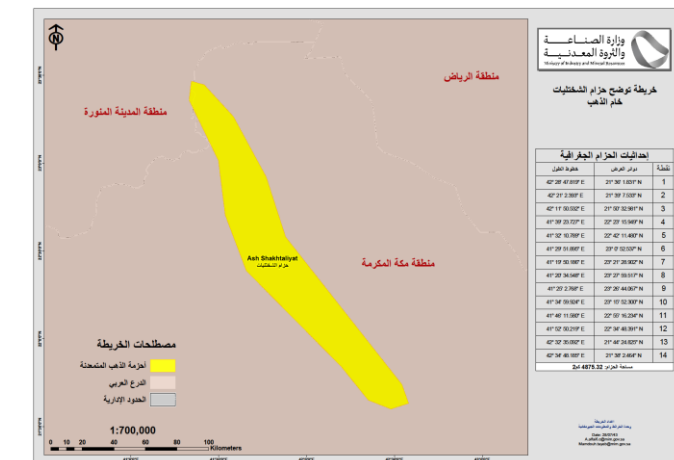
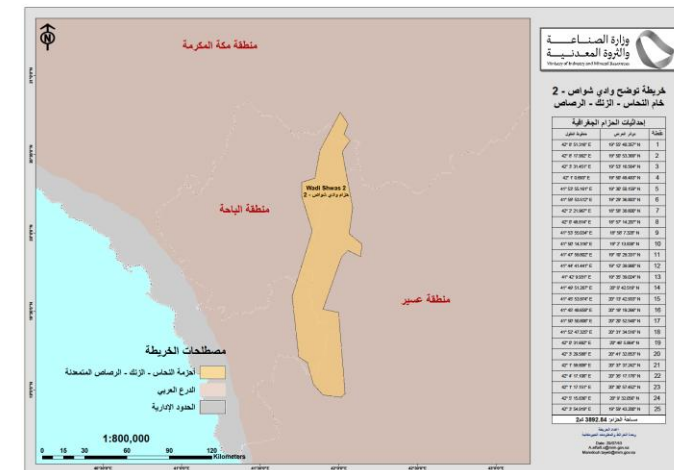
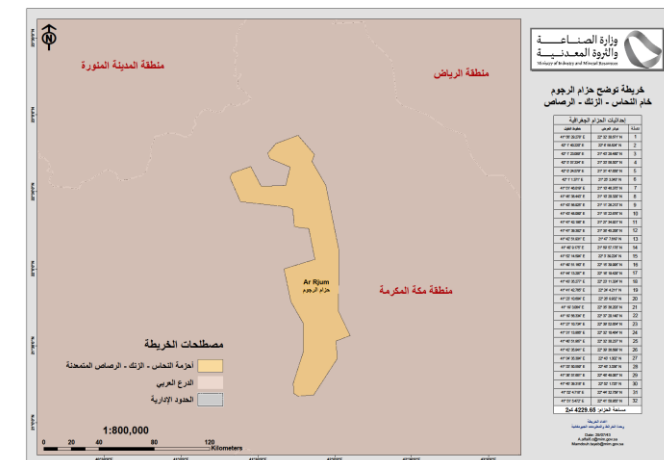
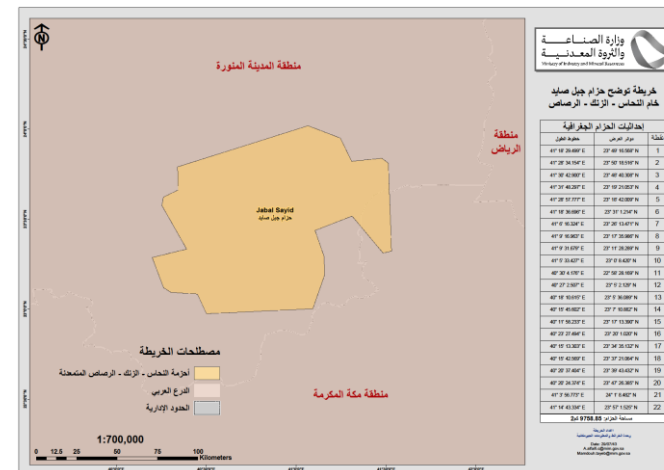
Ash Shakhtali
yat

VMS

Gold

Nickel

Zinc



Where Your Next Discovery Begins: Saudi Arabia



Mineralized Belts KML files

Join us as we venture into the Kingdom's \$2.5 trillion mineral exploration frontier.



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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



Daleel (Investor
Journey)

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



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Thank You

Towards A New Era of Saudi Arabia Mining Industry

