



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

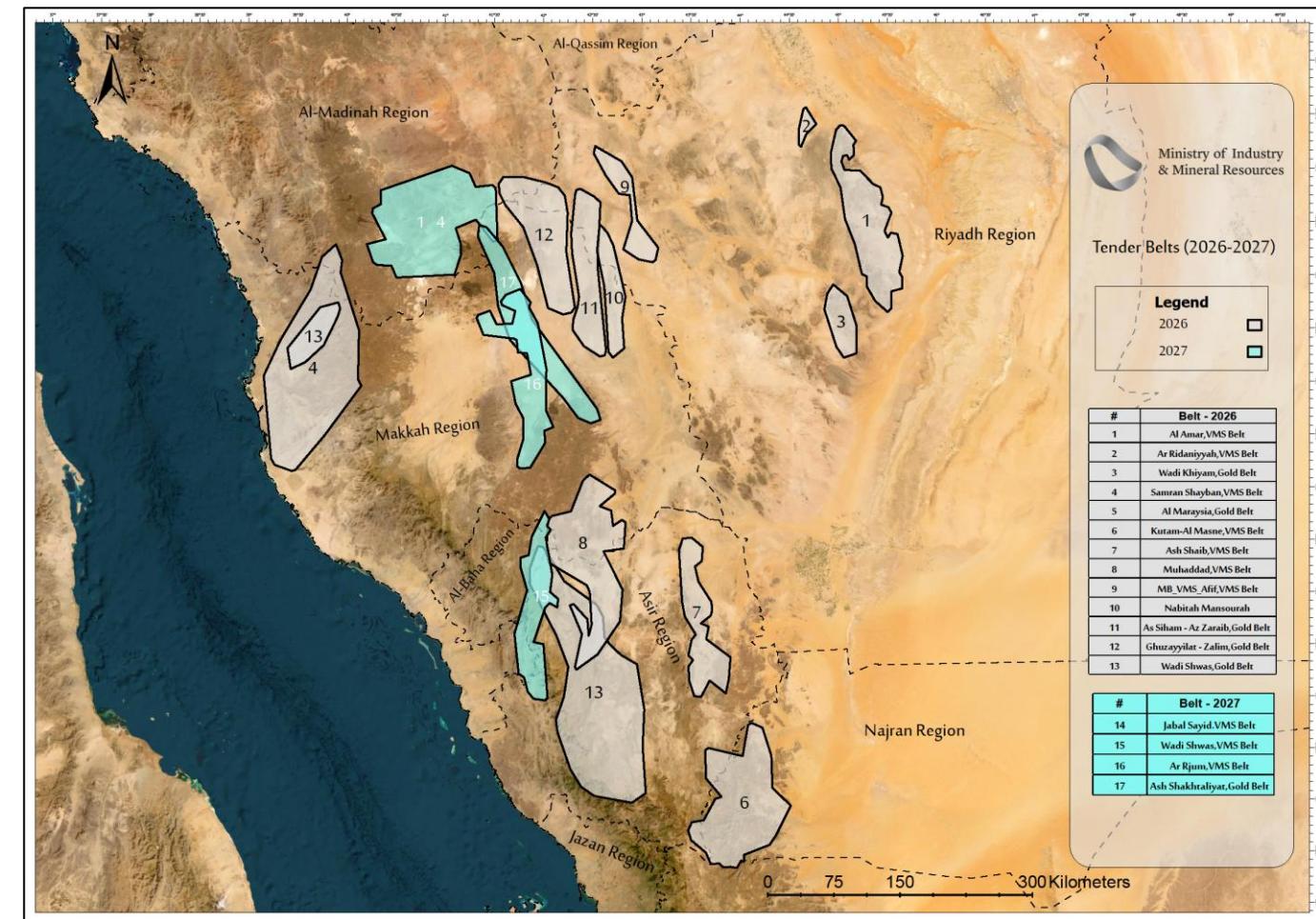
- Demonstrate the availability of technical experts with a successful track record in greenfield exploration
- Showcase experience in end-to-end exploration projects within or outside KSA

Tender Rounds Preliminary Plan 2026 to 2027

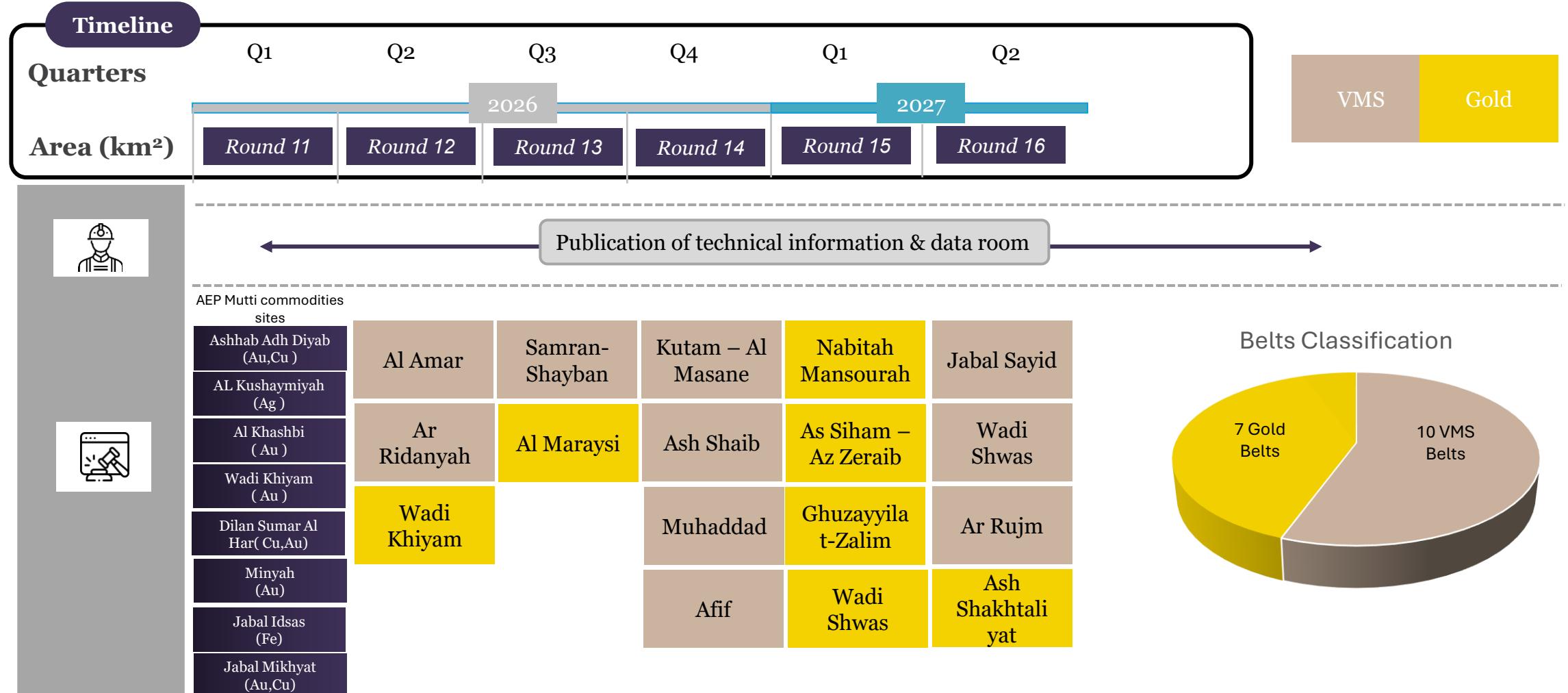
Tenders: 17 Highly prospective belts will be part of the upcoming tender rounds

A Major Opportunity Over 2026–2027

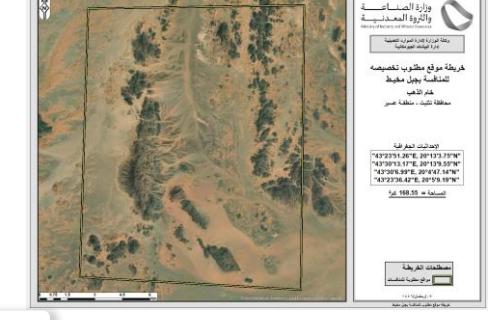
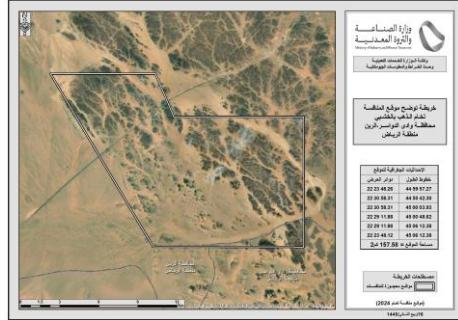
With 17 highly prospective belts spanning a cross ~35,000 km² offering compelling potential for gold, base metals, and additional prospective commodities. The entire portfolio will be tendered via a fully automated online platform, enhancing transparency, improving bidder visibility, and ensuring a consistent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

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

Gold

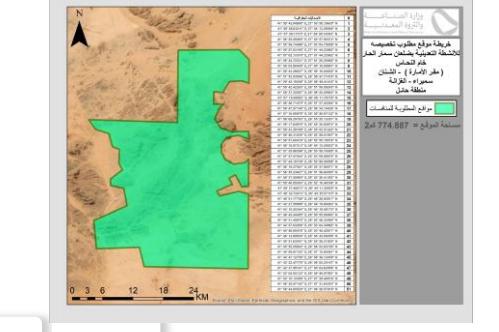
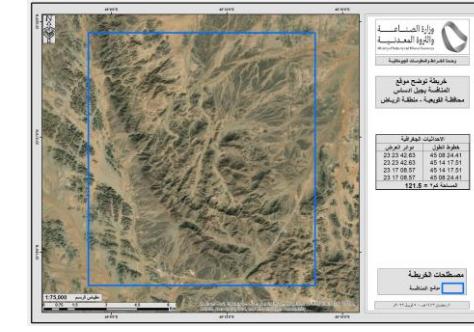
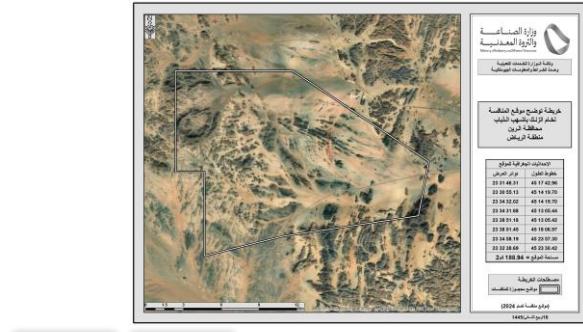
Site Name	Region	Area (km ²)
Wadi Khiyam	Riyadh	91.98

Gold

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

Gold

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



Gold-Copper

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

Silver

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

Iron

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

Gold-Copper

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

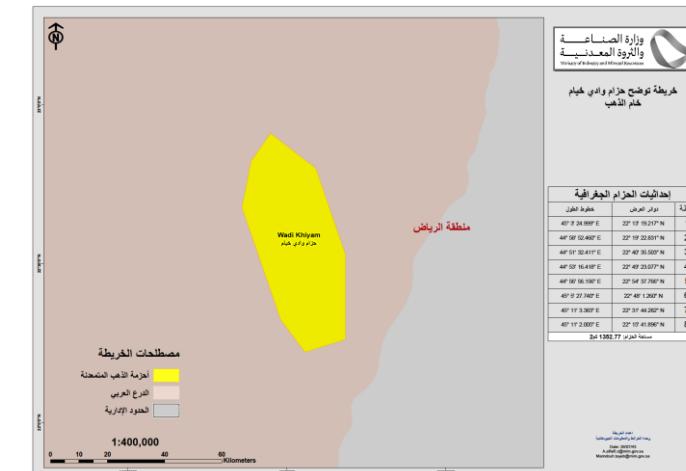
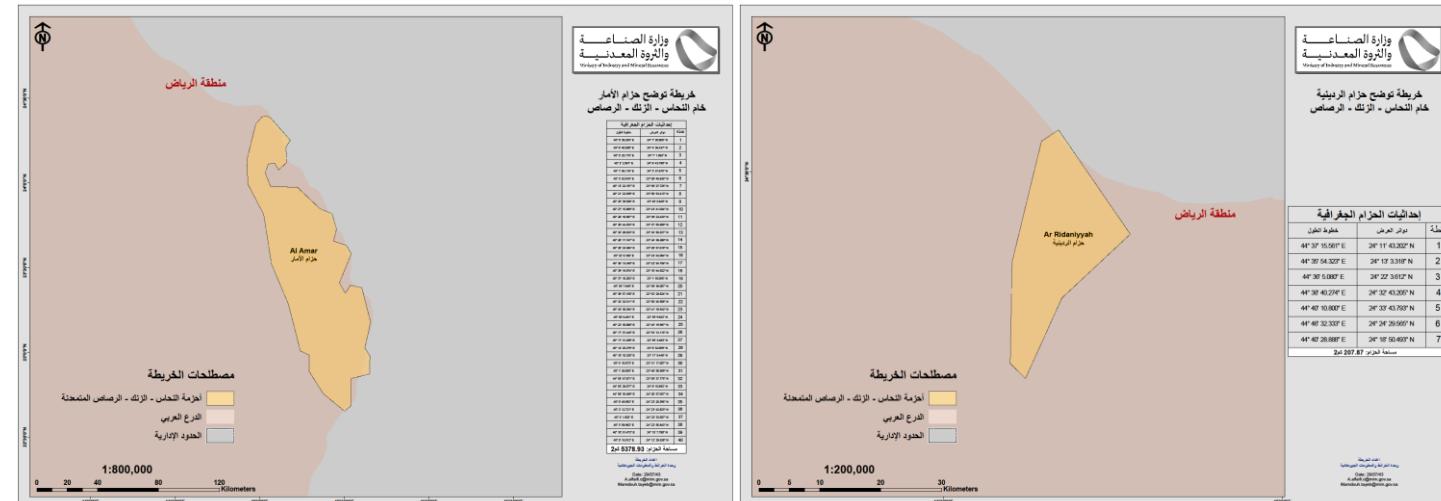
Wadi Khiyam

VMS

Gold

Nickel

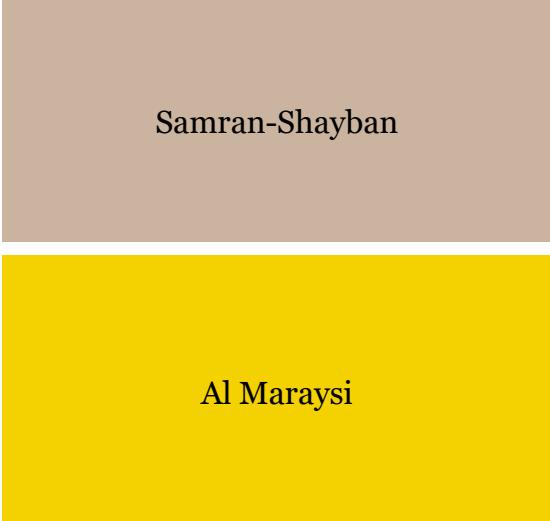
Zinc



Tender Round 13

2026 – Q3

Area (km²) 6,485

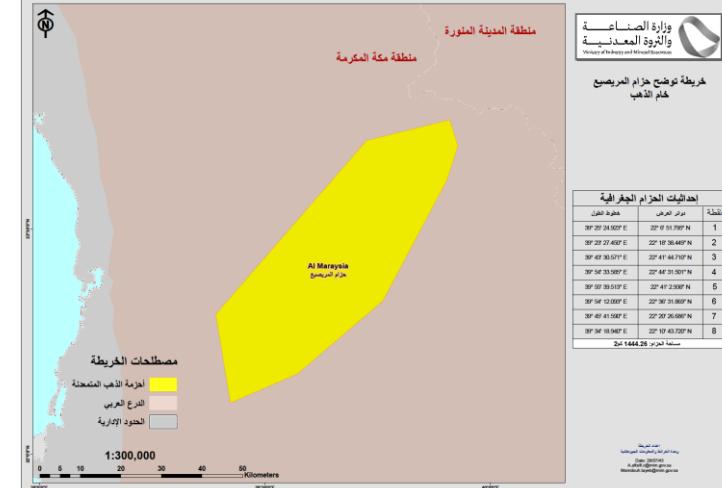
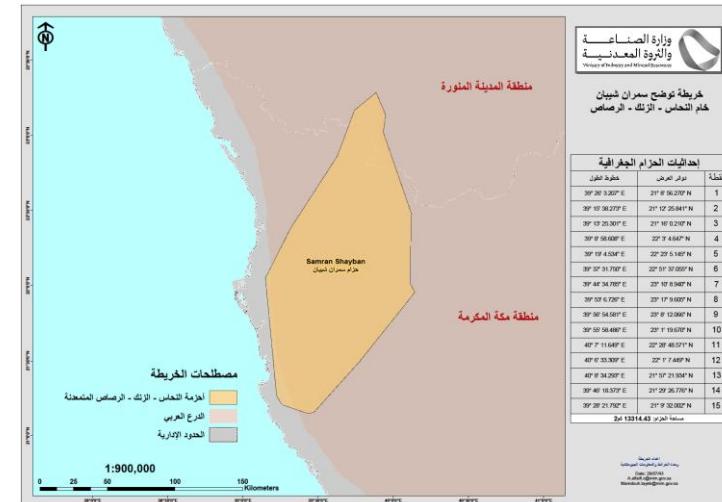


VMS

Gold

Nickel

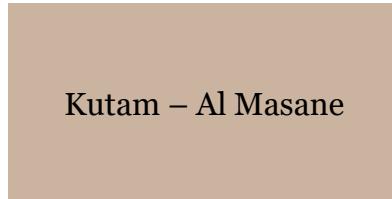
Zinc



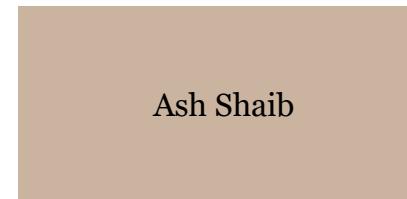
Tender Round 14

2026 – Q4

Area (km²) 7,740



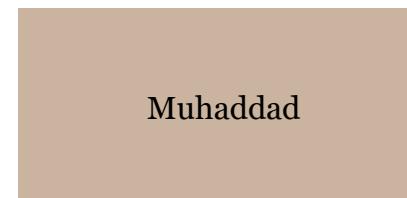
Kutam – Al Masane



Ash Shaib

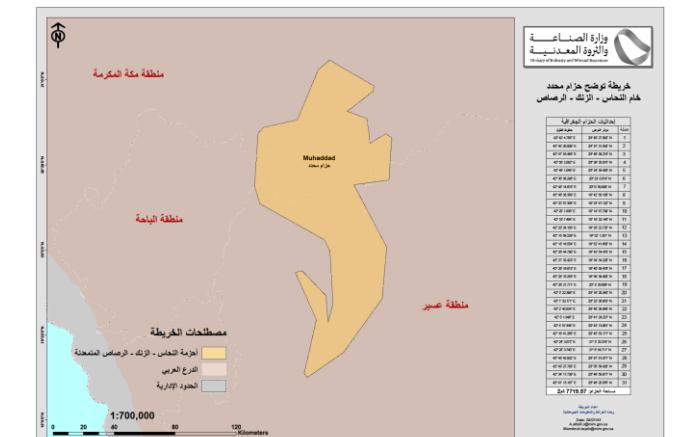
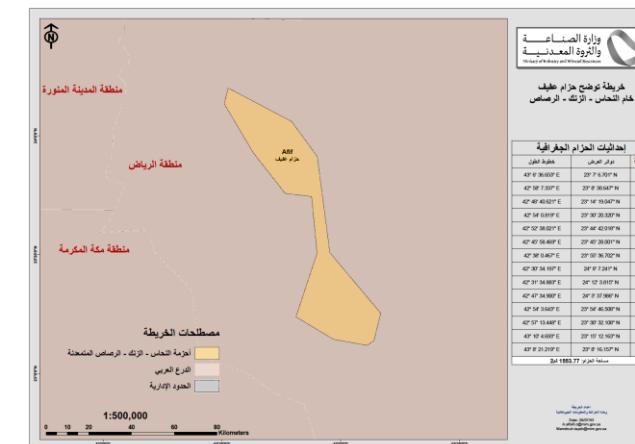
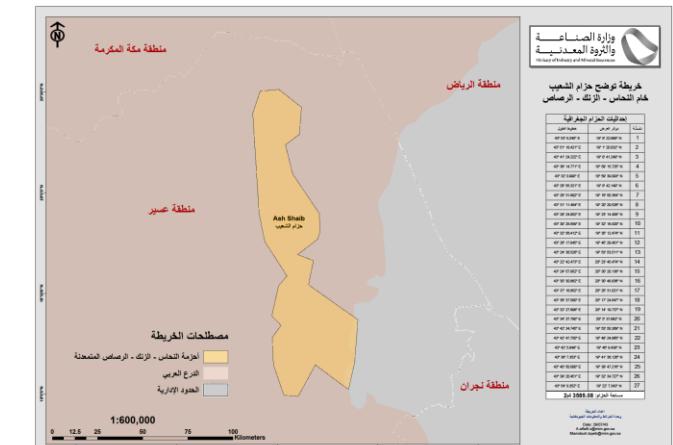
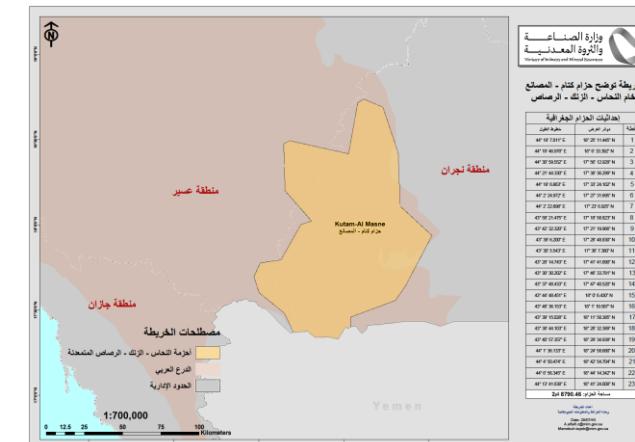


Afif



Muhaddad

VMS Gold Nickel Zinc



Tender Round 15

2027 – Q1

Area (km²) 8,847

Nabitah Mansourah

As Siham – Az Zeraib

Ghuzayyilat-Zalim

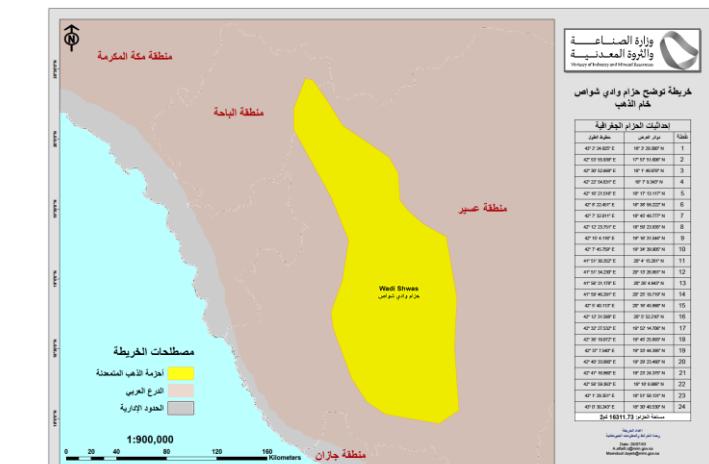
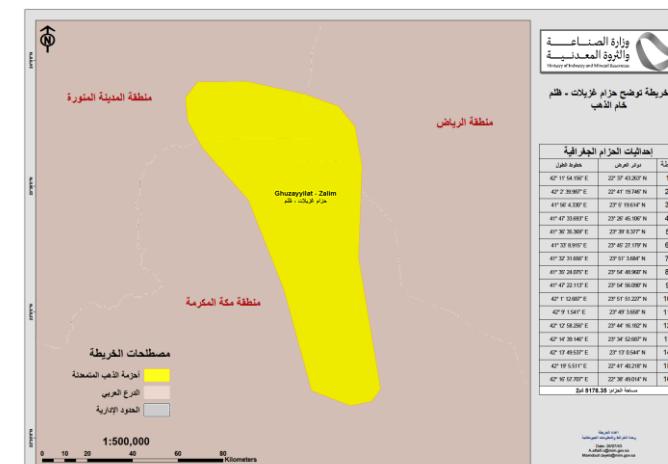
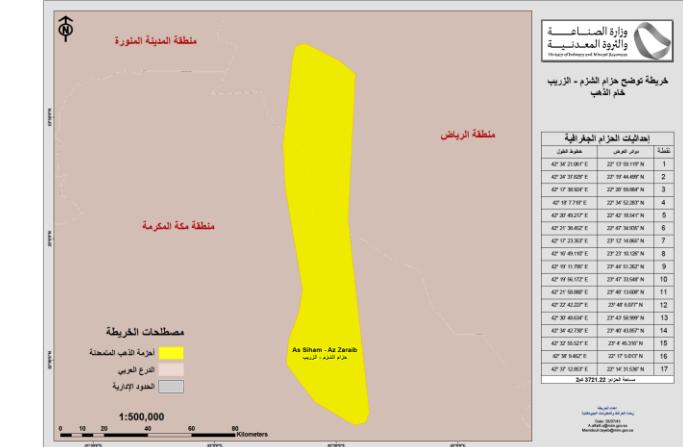
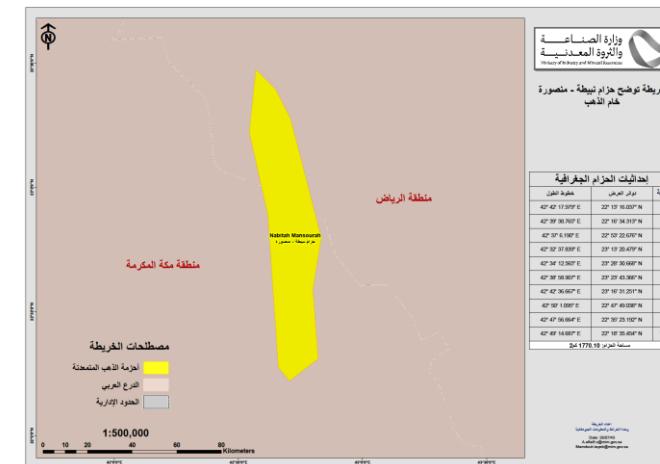
Wadi Shwas

VMS

Gold

Nickel

Zinc



Tender Round 16

2027 – Q2

Area (km²) 7,775

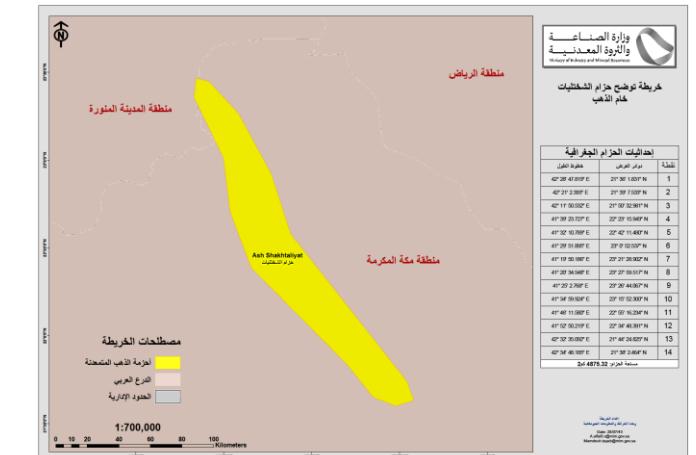
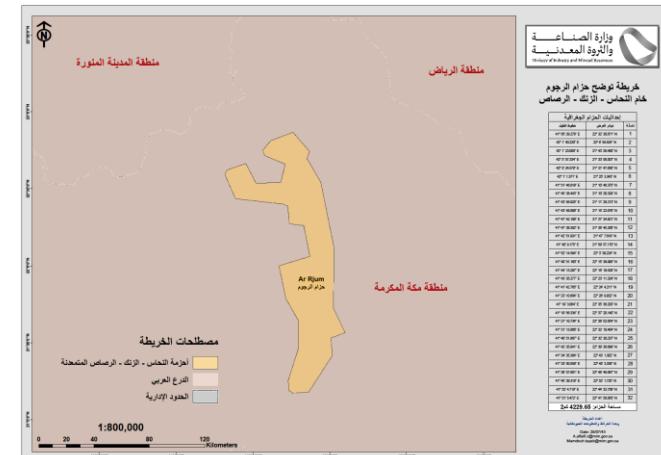
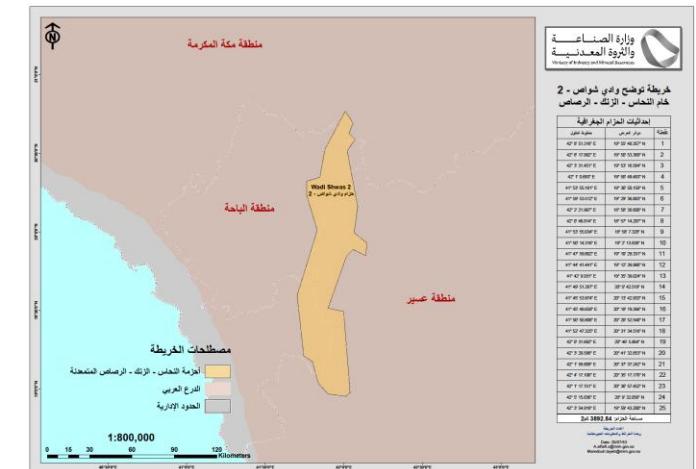
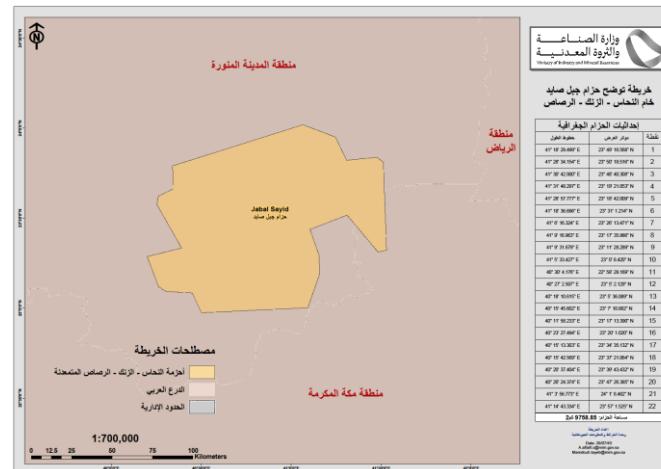
Jabal Sayid

Wadi Shwas

Ar Rujm

Ash Shakhtali yat

VMS Gold Nickel Zinc



Where Your Next Discovery Begins: Saudi Arabia



[Mineralized Belts KML files](#)

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



Saudi Geological
Survey

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



Saudi Geological Survey

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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Daleel (Investor
Journey)

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



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Thank You

Towards A New Era of Saudi Arabia Mining Industry

