

Jordan's oil shale development: Policy & strategy

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The Government of Jordan (GoJ) is eager to bring to production its indigenous energy sources as quickly as is technically and economically feasible. Potential international and local oil shale investors and developers have been attracted. Potential investors will be offered terms and conditions that are very competitive. The GoJ had adopted a two-phase strategy to develop its oil shale resources. The implementation of Phase 1 and Phase 2 is ongoing. The GoJ is at this stage well placed in terms of implementing its strategy through encouraging involvement in oil shale in Jordan by developing competition for access to its resources. The tangible fruits of this strategy have been:

1. Conclusion of an Oil Shale Concession Agreement (OSCA) for deep seated oil shale resources with Jordan Oil Shale Company (JOSCo), a company fully owned by Shell Exploration & Production Company,
2. Conclusion of a Surface Retorting Concession Agreement (SRCA) with Jordan Oil Shale Energy (JOSE) to develop the oil shale resources within Attarat Um Al-Ghudran Area and
3. Conclusion of a Surface Retorting Concession Agreement (SRCA) with Kerak International Oil psc. (KIO) for Blocks A & C of the Al-Lajjun Area as the Concession Block.

Jordan is currently licensing large pieces of land with known presence of oil shale resources and expects to award one million tonnes of mineable resource once the extent of resources are determined and interest and capabilities of companies are verified. Jordan had signed several Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) and additional companies have shown strong interest in Jordan's oil shale resources.