



Wintershall in the Middle East region

- **New focus region for Wintershall**
- **2018 Ghasha Concession agreement a key milestone**
- **Wintershall brings decades of sour gas experience**

About 50 percent of the worldwide oil and gas reserves can be found in the Middle East region. No other region has comparable potential, and without these reserves in the Gulf, further growth of the global economy is inconceivable. For these reasons Wintershall has targeted expansion in the Middle East since first opening an office in Abu Dhabi in 2010, confident that it has a lot to offer the region.

2018 saw a major milestone reached, as Wintershall took a ten percent stake in the Ghasha Concession for offshore ultra-sour gas fields, alongside the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC.) The signing of a 40-year contract is an important step for Wintershall's growth strategy and means the Middle East will become a new focus region for Wintershall, alongside Europe, Russia, North Africa and South America.

Wintershall is now applying its 125 years of technical know-how, and its deep experience developing sour-gas fields, to expand and build a strong partnership in Abu Dhabi. Wintershall's success is based on combining modern exploration technologies with innovative production methods for increasing the yields from complex reservoirs. "The challenges are also increasing in the Gulf. The energy consumption of

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Wintershall successfully completed drilling two appraisal wells in the Shuwaihat sour gas and condensate field, onshore in 2015 and offshore in 2017.

the local people is growing enormously,” explains Martin Bachmann, Wintershall Executive Board Member responsible for Exploration and Production in Europe and the Middle East region. “In order to keep production stable in the long term, existing sources must be extracted more efficiently and technically more complex fields must be developed. This is what we specialize in.”

Abu Dhabi: Building a strong partnership

Abu Dhabi is one of the most important centres for oil and gas activities in the Gulf region. In view of this, in 2010 Wintershall was the first German E&P company to open a representative office in the United Arab Emirates. In June 2012, Wintershall signed a first agreement with ADNOC to take over the long-term exploration and development of the technically complex Shuwaihat sour gas and condensate field. Two appraisal wells were successfully completed, one onshore in 2015, and one offshore in 2017. As operator Wintershall gained a lot of valuable experience with local geographical conditions, and built an effective partnership with ADNOC.

In November 2018, Wintershall received a ten per cent stake in the Ghasha Concession, as a partner to ADNOC. The Ghasha Concession, covers ultra-sour gas and condensate fields located in the Al Dhafra region off the Abu Dhabi coast. The gas fields are the largest yet to be developed in the UAE. ADNOC plans that the project will start producing more than 40 million cubic meters of natural gas a day from the middle of the next decade, sufficient to provide electricity to more than two million homes. The reservoirs also contain significant quantities of condensate. When complete, in addition to gas, the project will produce over 120,000 barrels of oil and high value condensate per day.

Development of Ghasha will make a major contribution to meeting ADNOC’s 2030 vision goals, for a sustainable and economic gas supply, and ultimately gas self-sufficiency for the UAE. His Excellency, Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE Minister of State and ADNOC Group CEO has said that “development of the Ghasha concession area is a strategic priority for ADNOC.” Through its investment in Ghasha, Wintershall intends to build a strong and long-lasting cooperation in Abu Dhabi, and together with ADNOC, build up substantial production.

With decades long experience of safely developing sour gas fields, Wintershall brings significant technical expertise to Ghasha, as well as strength in project implementation and cost effectiveness. As CEO Mario Mehren has said: “Wintershall is particularly qualified for the offshore operations in the Ghasha Concession. We are experts in drilling



Mario Mehren of Wintershall and H.E. Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, CEO of ADNOC, after signing the Ghasha Concession Agreement, November 2018.

technically demanding wells and developing fields efficiently. And we know precisely what counts in ecologically sensitive areas.”

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