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# ACWA Power launches 120 MW Khalladi wind farm in Morocco

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Updated 02 July 2018

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July 02, 2018 19:08

- The facility will supply cost-effective clean energy to a number of large industrial companies mainly operating in the country's cement sector
- The Khalladi project will help Morocco to achieve its 2020 target of increasing the renewables energy component of its energy



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mix to 42 percent

LONDON: The energy and desalinated water producer ACWA Power has opened the 120 MW Khalladi wind farm near the Moroccan city of Tangier. The facility will supply cost-effective clean energy to a number of large industrial companies, mainly operating in the country's cement sector.



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The wind farm, developed by ACWA Power in collaboration with ARIF investment fund, and located at Jbel Sendouq, 30 km from Tangiers, represents an investment of 1.7 billion dirhams (\$170 million).

The entirely privately funded investment was financed with equity from ACWA Power and ARIF and long tenor debt, from the



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Bank of Africa  
(BMCE) while  
ACWA Power, ARIF  
and BMCE are well  
established  
investors in the  
renewable energy  
sector in the  
Kingdom, the  
Khalladi project will  
be the first  
renewable energy  
financing by the  
EBRD in Morocco.

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The 370 GWh of  
energy that the  
plant will produce  
and supply annually  
to industrial  
companies is  
equivalent to a  
yearly average  
consumption of a  
city of 400,000  
people and will  
contribute to the  
reduction of more  
than 144,000 tons of  
CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per  
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With renewable energy playing an important role in the overall development of countries in Africa, including Morocco, the Khalladi project will help Morocco to achieve its 2020 target of increasing the renewables energy component of its energy mix to 42 percent and to developing 2,000 MW of wind capacity.

# ARAB NEWS

ACWA Power

Chairman  
Mohammad

Abunayyan said:  
“Morocco’s energy sector offers attractive investment opportunities, due to a well-established regulatory framework put in place by the Moroccan government and due to the country having already attracted significant investments in solar and wind energy all

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of which has made it possible for ACWA Power to, within six years, deliver the NOORo I solar plant (160 MWe) and the Khalladi wind farm (120 MW) and a series of other investments in construction which by the end of 2018 will cumulate to 800 MW of generation capacity in the Kingdom.”

Mr. Abunayyan added: “Today, we are proud of having been able to establish in

Morocco a solid foundation of seven power plants which will all be operational by the end of this year. With a portfolio valued at over \$3.2 billion, we look forward to participating in the future tenders that will be offered to the private sector for power generation and

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desalinated water production capacity.”

ACWA Power has made significant investments in Morocco, with projects and operations expected to be rolled out over the coming decades.

ACWA Power Morocco aims to serve as a platform for the development of other energy projects in the continent as the company grows its operations into West Africa.

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- BeIN will pay \$600 million for three-year broadcast rights

- BeIN still unable to broadcast in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH: BeIN Media Group has retained the exclusive rights to stream the UEFA Champions League soccer tournament across the Middle East and North Africa in a cut-price

reported citing a person familiar with the matter.

Qatar-based BeIN paid \$600 million to renew a contract that will allow it to show live games across the MENA region for the next three years – 25 percent less than it spent to secure the rights in the last cycle, the person said.

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The price drop reflects how BeIN is still unable to broadcast in Saudi Arabia, the largest MENA market, even with Saudi-Qatar tensions easing.

Also, disputes over a rival Saudi channel's violation of BeIN's content are still ongoing.

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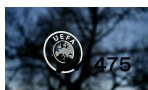
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companies  
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over  
dominant  
market  
position

- GAC also investigating economic concentration among auto retailers

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RIYADH: Saudi General Authority for Competition (GAC) issued two decisions to investigate if a number of

industrial sector companies have abused their dominant position in the market, Asharq reported citing sources.

GAC's board of directors also decided at their last meeting, held on May 30, 2021, to investigate the economic concentration among auto manufacturers and sellers, Asharq said.

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GAC is also investigating whether two contractors, four medical companies and six retailers colluded in bids for a government project, the sources said.

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In January, GAC announced sanctions against National Gas Co. and fined it SR3 million (\$800,000). In February, GAC fined four pharmaceutical companies SR20 million for engaging in behavior that obstructed the entry of a competitor into the market.

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Updated 11 Jun  
2021

Goldman,  
which has

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REUTERS

longstanding  
commodity  
sector  
expertise,  
expects  
recovery in  
oil demand  
to continue  
and sees  
global  
demand  
reaching 99  
mb/d in  
August

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BENGALURU: US investment bank Goldman Sachs expects Brent crude prices to reach \$80 per barrel this summer, betting that a recent oil market rally will continue as vaccination rollouts boost global economic activity and demand for the commodity.

Brent prices hit \$72.93 per barrel this week, their highest level in over two years, fueled by expectations of stronger demand.

Brent futures were trading at \$72.21 a barrel on Friday, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was around \$70 a barrel.

“Rising vaccination rates are leading to higher mobility in the US and Europe, with global demand

estimated up 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) in the last month to 96.5 million bpd,” the bank said in a note released late on Thursday.

Goldman, which has longstanding commodity sector expertise, expects recovery in oil demand to continue and sees global demand reaching 99 million bpd in August.

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The investment bank also said slow progress in negotiations on an Iran nuclear deal could also weigh on oil supply, supporting prices.

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Iran and global powers have been negotiating since April to lift sanctions on Tehran, which have hit its economy hard by cutting its vital oil exports.

US Secretary of State Antony

Blinken said on Tuesday he anticipates that even if Iran and the United States return to compliance with the nuclear deal, hundreds of US sanctions on Tehran would remain in place.

“Recent headlines comfort us in our expectation that a potential recovery in Iran exports won’t happen till the fall,” the bank said.

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“While there exists both OPEC+ upstream and refinery downstream excess capacity, we expect OPEC+ to fall behind the demand rebound.”

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## Saudi Aramco hires Morgan Stanley as lead adviser to sell gas pipeline stake

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Updated 11 June  
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June 11, 2021  
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- Formal process to sell gas pipelines has not yet started
- Deal may take a

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similar structure to April's oil pipeline sale

RIYADH: Saudi Aramco has hired Morgan Stanley as the lead adviser to review a potential multi-billion-dollar stake sale in its natural gas pipeline network, Bloomberg reported citing people familiar with the matter.

The state-owned energy producer hasn't yet started a

formal process and could add more banks to work on the deal, the people said, asking not to be identified due to information confidentiality.

The deal may be structured similarly to Aramco's \$12.4 billion oil pipeline deal, the people said.

In that transaction, investors will own a minority stake in a new subsidiary that has leasing rights

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over the network, while Aramco will retain ownership of the oil pipelines with the majority stake in the subsidiary.

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The size of the stake up for sale has not yet been decided and deliberations are at an early stage and the company may not proceed with the transaction, the people said.

Aramco plans to offload stakes in non-core assets to

help maintain its \$75 billion dividend, most of which goes to the Saudi government.

Aramco also plans to spend about \$35 billion on capital expenditure this year.

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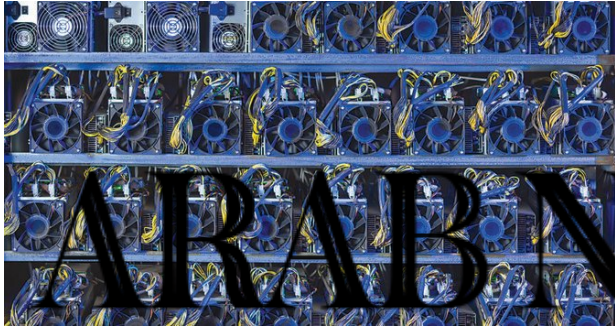
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## Bank regulators plan capital rule for

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Updated 11 June 2021

REUTERS

June 11, 2021 01:04

- Crypto assets could increase risk to global financial stability if capital requirements

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LONDON: Banks must set aside enough capital to cover losses on any bitcoin holdings in full, global banking regulators proposed on Thursday, in a “conservative” step that could prevent widescale use of the cryptocurrency by major lenders.

The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, made

up of regulators from the world's leading financial centers, proposed a twin approach to capital requirements for crypto assets held by banks in its first bespoke rule for the market sector.

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El Salvador has become the world's first country to adopt bitcoin as legal tender even though central banks globally have repeatedly warned that investors in the



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cryptocurrency must be ready to lose all their money.

Major economies including China and the US have signalled in recent weeks a tougher approach, while developing plans to develop their own central bank digital currencies.

The Swiss-based Basel committee said in a public consultation paper that while bank

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exposures to crypto assets are limited, their continued growth could increase risks to global financial stability if capital requirements are not introduced

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Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are currently worth around \$1.6 trillion globally, which is still tiny compared with bank holdings of loans, derivatives and other major assets.

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Basel's rules require banks to assign "risk weightings" to different types of assets on their books, with these totted up to determine overall capital requirements.

For crypto assets, Basel is proposing two broad groups.

The first includes certain tokenized traditional assets and stablecoins which would come under existing rules

and treated in the same way as bonds, loans, deposits, equities or commodities.

This means the weighting could range between 0 percent for a tokenized sovereign bond to 100 percent or full value of asset covered by capital.

The value of stablecoins and other group 1 crypto-assets are tied to a traditional

asset, such as the dollar in the case of Facebook's proposed Diem stablecoin.

Nevertheless, given crypto assets are based on new and rapidly evolving technology like blockchain, this poses a potentially increased likelihood of operational risks which need an "add-on" capital charge for all types, Basel said.

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The second group includes cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin that would be subject to a new “conservative prudential treatment” with a risk-weighting of 1,250 percent because of their “unique risks.”

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Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are not linked to any underlying asset.

Under Basel rules, a 1,250 percent risk weight translates into banks having to hold capital at least equal in value to their exposures to Bitcoin or other group 2 crypto assets.

“The capital will be sufficient to absorb a full write-off of the crypto asset exposures without exposing depositors and other senior creditors of the banks to a loss,” it added.

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Few other assets that have such conservative treatment under Basel's existing rules, and include investments in funds or securitizations

where banks do not have sufficient information about their underlying exposures.

The value of Bitcoin has swung wildly, hitting a record high of around \$64,895 in mid-April, before slumping to around



Thursday.

Banks' appetite for cryptocurrencies varies, with HSBC saying it has no plans for a cryptocurrency trading desk because the digital coins are too volatile. Goldman Sachs restarted its crypto trading desk in March.

Basel said that given the rapidly evolving nature of crypto

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assets, a further public consultation on capital requirements is likely before final rules are published.

Central bank digital currencies are not included in its proposals.

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