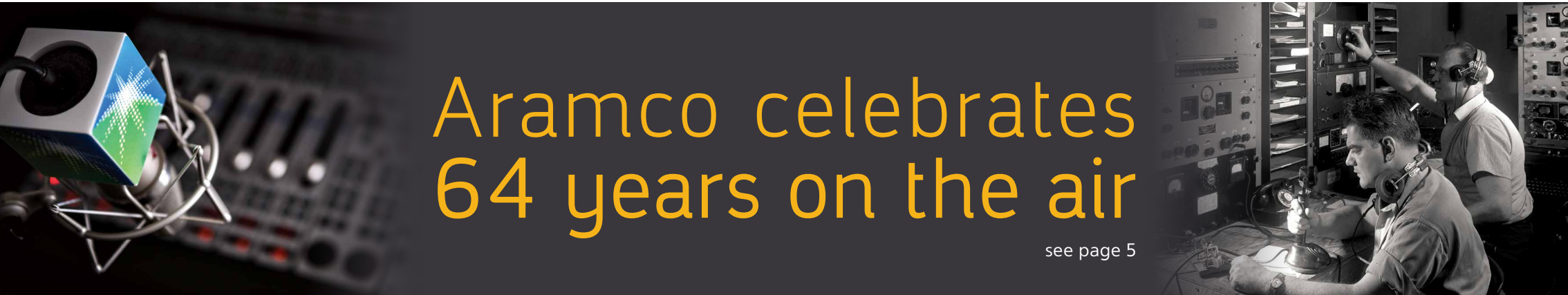


# the arabian sun

February 17, 2021 | Vol. LXXVI, No. 7

a weekly Aramco publication for employees



## Aramco celebrates 64 years on the air

see page 5

CEO talks safety

## PROTECTING OUR ARAMCO FAMILY, OTHERS, AND OUR FUTURE

see pages 6 and 7



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# Company unveils new digital services hub, 939 call center, showcase gallery

By Michael Ives

As part of Community Services' (CS) continuous efforts to improve the quality and range of the services it offers to employees, a new facility called the "CS Center" has been established.

Located on the ground floor of the Al-Mujamma' building in Dhahran, it was inaugurated by the senior vice president of HR & Corporate Services, Nabeel A. Al-Jama', on Feb. 4, 2021.

The CS Center was designed and built in two months by an in-house team. It acts as a business intelligence hub and nerve center that monitors and analyzes data from the diverse range of services that CS provides. Consumer behavior, customer satisfaction, and facilities utilization are all continuously monitored.



Ahmad J. Kurdi, a member of the Community Services Integration Organization, introduces the Community Services Control Center to Nabeel A. Al-Jama', senior vice president of HR and Corporate Services, and other management. (Photo: Hatim Oweida/MPD)

## The latest technology

With more than 200 inputs and outputs, the Center uses the latest in visualization technology to deliver a real-time, holistic view of CS operations. The Control Center is fully integrated with a new 939 Call Center, which handles the maintenance requests for around 30,000 residents across the Kingdom. It is a 24/7 operation, with 25 agents handling around 3,000 calls per week. The Call Center's scope will soon be expanded to cover more than 25,000 office users in CS managed offices.

Mansour Khulaifi, 939 supervisor, stated, "Recent improvements at the 939 Call Center have led to call answering and handling times that sur-

pass international benchmark standards."

"Community Services plays a key role in improving the quality of life of company employees and their dependents," said CS executive director Faisal A. Hajji. "The Control Center better enables CS management to make proactive, data-driven decisions that positively impact our customers' satisfaction." Hajji also stated that "The Customer Care Center '939' is a critical competent that complements the Control Center's strength, pinpointing customers' needs and acting accordingly."

The Control Center also acts as the CS Dhahran Emergency Control Center,

with direct links to both OSPAS and the Dhahran Fire Station.

## A CS showcase

Visitors to Al-Mujamma' will be impressed by the distinctive entrance to the CS Center. Known as the CS Gallery, it complements the Center and showcases how CS supports the company's strategic objective to provide the best working and living environment to help attract and retain a talented workforce.

A series of display panels describe the evolution of the company's communities, from the desert beginnings in 1930s Dhahran, through to the

present-day oases across the Kingdom. The contribution of CS to environmental stewardship is also described, including recent initiatives promoting the circular carbon economy, decarbonization, and biodiversity sustainability.

As the company's digital transformation continues apace, CS plans to leverage the latest technologies to build an "Internet of Things" platform and integrate it with the CS Center. "Installing and connecting smart devices and sensors throughout CS facilities will transform our operations, providing greater insights into how our facilities are being used and what improvement could be made," said Hajji.

## Your voice

### A brilliant takeoff into the virtual world



By Ebtessam R. Abdullah  
Dhahran  
Ebtessam.Abdullah.1@aramco.com

The past year has been a year full of challenges, opportunities, milestones, and major achievements.

This time last year, our life and business as we knew it changed dramatically when COVID-19 struck the world. The pandemic has impacted how people live and has accelerated changes in people's behavior. How we work, shop, entertain and communicate with others has been transformed. We are now very willing to adopt new digital tools and services.

With all the countless challenges that the pandemic brought upon the company, hosting physical events became one of the biggest challenges. Strict regulations to contain the spread of the coronavirus have affected the business event industry worldwide.

When the event business was on the edge of a cliff, management showed their agility and resilience

to keep the business moving forward by developing and deploying technologies to keep guests connected and engaged.

I had the privilege to be part of the first virtual events organizing team. No obstacles could hinder the team's enthusiasm and perseverance to maintain the company's image and keep the trust of our stakeholders and business partners.

In less than a week, we worked with a team to transform a physical event to a virtual one for the President's Excellence Award. It was a great experience, and there was a great spirit of collaboration with everyone involved in the event.

Although COVID-19 has not diminished the value of in-person events, our people's health and safety is a key concern and all precautionary measures, including social distancing, masks and disin-

fecting need to be applied.

While the pandemic has had a devastating impact on the events industry, it has also accelerated the digitalization of events to maintain vital business connections.

Here I express my gratitude to the great lessons learned and experience acquired during this transformation. We are now more knowledgeable and resilient for any change.

As an employee in a global company, I am proud to see how we are committed to success. I urge you to expand your knowledge and unleash your skills to lift up the hidden talents within you. I assure you that you will find all the resources and tools that will help you to adapt with the unprecedented changes, and show your abilities to excel. Just remember that change is inevitable and only you can harvest the beauty of change.



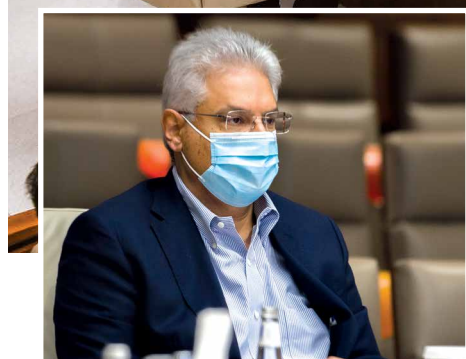
# ‘The Transformation of Downstream’

By Michael Ives

“We are standing on the shoulders of giants,” so said senior vice president of Downstream, Mohammed Y. Al Qahtani, launching the Downstream business’ Transformation Program and operating model that was announced in 2020.

Attending virtually from across the Kingdom and around the globe, members of Downstream’s extended leadership team were taken through the key aspects of the program. “This transformation is absolutely needed if we are to face the challenges of the future,” Al Qahtani said. “Our aspirations are huge.”

After an inspiring video that took attendees through the sheer scale of Downstream, Al Qahtani highlighted his own deep connection to the business, and that he felt he was coming home after decades in Upstream. He recollected that he had been brought up in the shadow of Ras Tanura, which his father managed as part of a 36-year career with Aramco.



Mohammed Y. Al Qahtani is joined by other members of Downstream management as they virtually address Downstream’s extended leadership team to discuss the organization’s Transformation Program.

## Securing maximum value

Al Qahtani emphasized that Downstream and all its people need to ensure that it operates as a truly international, integrated business. “It is imperative that we get maximum value from our huge investments,” he said, “and this program and operating model is how we will do so.

“The possibility of our hydrocarbons extend way beyond raw energy, and as one of the largest integrated downstream businesses on Earth, we must squeeze every bit of value out of each molecule. This will take collective action from all of us.

“We have an excellent record of safety and reliability, delivered by highly capable and ambitious people,” said Al Qahtani. However, we must acknowledge we have areas that require improvement. Fundamentally, we must improve our return on average capital employed and provide stronger returns with the portfolio we have.”

## Transformation built on four pillars

The Transformation Program is built on the foundation of four key pillars:

1. Operational excellence
2. A commercial mindset and tech-

3. Portfolio optimization and growth
4. SABIC integration.

To achieve this, the program emphasizes that it is essential that the business has a laser-like focus on the execution of its plans. And every asset needs to be examined through the lens of an investor. With governance at the center, all assets will be assisted to deliver bottom-line growth through a fit-for-purpose operating model and a sharpened performance culture.

Al Qahtani noted that the company has more than 20 mega-assets across the globe, and although there will be capital constraints during the next few years, we can do tremendous things with our diverse and global portfolio. “The SABIC integration, for example, offers an opportunity in portfolio optimization, on a recurring, annual basis,” he said.

## New positions and oversight

To support the transformation, a Transformation Oversight Committee has been created, and will be led by Al Qahtani and Downstream executive members.

**The Transformation Program’s focus is Downstream’s competitiveness, particularly in financial performance, ways of working, and capabilities.**

Deliverables under these three focus areas are:

- Improve operating results
- Margin growth
- Improve cost structure
- Deliver a more agile and value focused operating model
- Drive best practices
- Empower staff
- Provide exciting development opportunities
- Improve decision making.

The Transformation Program consists of three key phases, with the third phase occupying center stage:

1. Establishing the full potential of the business using an investors’ due diligence approach.
2. Developing asset level transformation plans and enablers fully owned by line leaders.
3. Executing the transformation plans to deliver sustainable value.

With the transformation driven across the entire business line, Al Qahtani highlighted that every employee has a role to play, and all Downstream employees will have opportunities to impact the segment’s bottom line, creating tremendous opportunities for personal development and growth. A supporting communication plan will be rolled out over the coming weeks to the entire team.

“Across short- and long-term plans that prioritize returns and cash flows, Downstream is expected to deliver more value and earn the right to grow,” said Al Qahtani. In the short term, this includes optimizing the full potential of transformation in



The possibility of our hydrocarbons extend way beyond raw energy, and as one of the largest integrated downstream businesses on Earth, we must squeeze every bit of value out of each molecule.

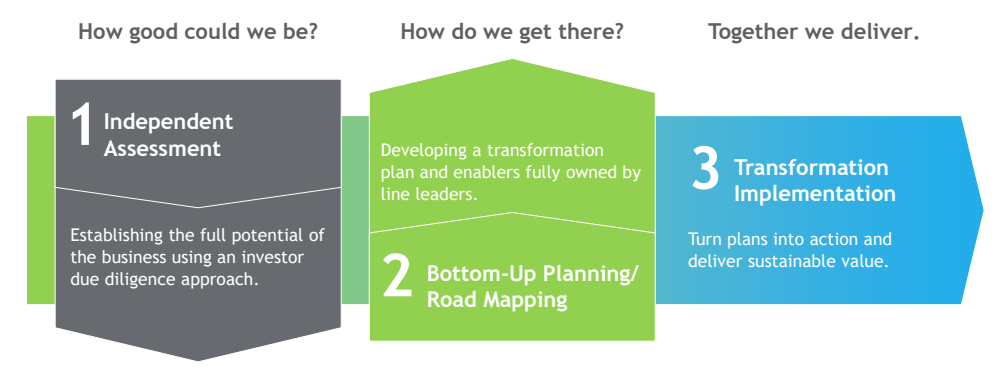
— Mohammed Y. Al Qahtani

Downstream’s assets; delivering an uplift in performance; capturing and maximizing value and synergies in SABIC; and expanding the trading business.

In the long term, the program includes upgrading assets’ complexity, placing significantly more crude oil into chemicals by 2030, and with integrated retail and lubricants, monetize our strong brand.

After taking questions from across the business, addressed by the heads of each administrative area, Al Qahtani brought the launch to a close with some final thoughts, “We are in a tough environment, but we are a talented and committed team, and together we will create a leading Downstream business.” “Indeed,” he added, “It always seems impossible until it is done!”

### High-level phasing of our Downstream Transformation





# Aramco Business Ventures builds on early blockchain success as database technology goes mainstream

Aramco's activities as an early adopter of blockchain has been highlighted in *Forbes'* Blockchain top 50 list for 2021.

In the past two years, Aramco has successfully invested in and utilized the distributed database technology to achieve business value as part of the company's accelerated digital transformation strategy.

"In 2019, Aramco invested \$6 million into Data Gumbo (a Texas-based startup), which has built a blockchain platform that strives to integrate thousands of sensors at oil fields and refineries ... to verify asset performance and reconcile smart contracts with the company's vendors," *Forbes* reported.

"Last year, Saudi Aramco Energy Ventures invested \$5 million in Vakt, a blockchain platform for trading cargoes of oil and petroleum products," the magazine added. The company is based in London and Lisbon.

The *Forbes* list "features companies that lead in employing distributed ledger technology and have revenue or a valuation of at least \$1 billion."



It includes major players such as tech giants Microsoft, IBM, and Oracle; Korean conglomerate Samsung; aerospace company Boeing; financial services powerhouses JP Morgan, HSBC, Visa, and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China; and energy company Equinor.

Blockchain is an encrypted, decentralized database of information that is controlled by members in a network. The real-time digital records are called "blocks," and once each is completed, they are linked together in virtual chains. Any change of a record can be seen immediately by

anyone in the network.

The technology originated in the financial services industry in 2009 to address a trust gap between transaction parties. It also reduced transaction costs and increased security. The technology has evolved to track any type of asset and ownership transfer.

Early last year, Aramco deployed the corporate blockchain platform. This private permission network enables the company to build enterprise scale blockchain solutions and collaborate with partners. Aramco has also completed a number of successful blockchain implementations. One of its successes, automated credential certificate verification, was recognized by the World Economic Forum.

Aramco continues to capitalize on blockchain technology and is planning to implement four new scenarios in 2021: automating invoice verification, tracking hydrocarbon custody transfer, securing records and document exchanges, and expanding its role as co-founder of Trust Your Supplier, a supply chain consortium.

## Nonmetallic solutions eat into traditional materials to combat corrosion, enhance the environment

By Mirza M. Baig and Ronald A. Loughland

Nonmetallic materials are playing a vital role in Aramco's environmental projects as the company develops alternative products to reduce the problem of corrosion and increase infrastructure longevity.

The recently opened Mangrove Eco-Park, near Ras Tanura, uses wood polymer composite for decking and fiber reinforced polymer for fences, guardrails and handrails along its 400-meter elevated boardwalk.

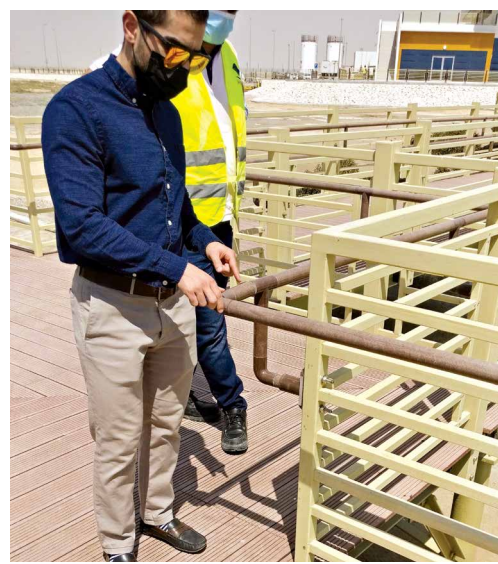
The use of polymers and composites is an example of how nonmetallic applications can add value to a project. Nonmetallics are organic structures that do not conduct heat or electricity, and are more resistant than metals to corrosion, which is estimated to cost the world \$2.5 trillion.

The Mangrove Eco-Park, the Kingdom's first, is part of the company's initiative to protect the environment, which includes the planting of millions of mangroves over the next 10 years. The park covers an area of 62 km<sup>2</sup> and is one of the region's few remaining old growth mangroves.

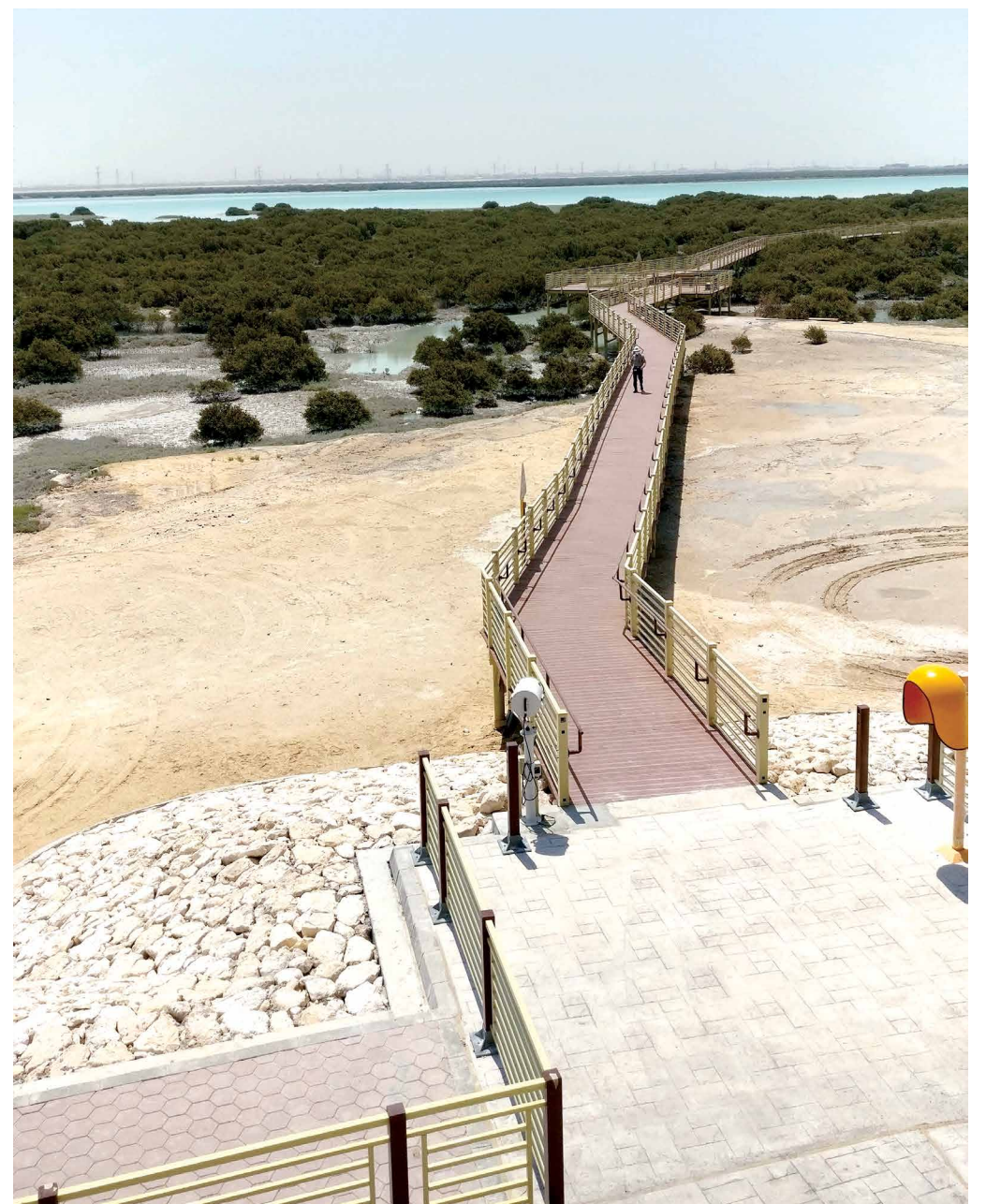
The materials selected for the park are cost-effective, easy to maintain, and durable in what is a corrosive coastal environment.

The project was a collaboration between Environmental Protection, the Northern Area Community Services, Project Management, and the Consulting Services Department. This initiative paves the way for more deployment opportunities of nonmetallic materials in infrastructure projects.

Nonmetallic composites, with their aesthetic qualities, functionality and versatility, are becoming the material of choice for different applications. They allow engineers to create unique, flexible designs that are impossible to make with traditional materials.



(Above) A close view of the nonmetallic handrail and wood plastic composite deck. (Right) The nonmetallic boardwalk at the Ras Tanura Eco-Park.





# Aramco Celebrates 64 Years on the Air

By Rawan Nasser

If you turn on the radio anywhere in the Eastern Region of Saudi Arabia, you'll probably stumble upon the latest Billboard hits on Studio 1 FM, or an intriguing new beat on the World Music Show on Studio 2 FM.

Each channel provides listeners with commercial-free music around the clock and carefully curated shows designed with their audiences' preferences in mind. They broadcast to more than 1 million listeners on a daily basis, accompanying people to work every day and providing a high quality service for news and entertainment.

Radio World Day is celebrated on Feb. 13 each year. This year, we are celebrating more than 110 years of radio and 64 years since the terrestrial launch of Aramco's radio channels.

## The evolution of Aramco radio

Aramco's radio stations have come a long way since their inception in the late 1930s. Back then, there were no radio stations for miles, and so, at the request of Dhahran employees and residents, music was played over speakers to entertain those visiting the Kings Road swimming pool. It was several decades later, in 1957, when the stations began broadcasting over the air on the AM band before switching to FM in the mid 1970s.

James S. Baker, supervisor of the company's broadcast services, said the channels originally supplied news and companionship for the expatriate community and grew to reach more of the Dhahran community and nearby areas. "There was a time when the channels were used to play the audio for the television channel owned by Aramco in Arabic and English," he said. "When the TV station signed off each day, the channels would play classical and country on one station, rock and pop on the other."

Not many listeners knew the channels belonged to Aramco until 2012, when the Aramco media team, headed by Osama S. Al Kadi, decided to brand the channels and utilize them as a communications platform for the company.

"It was an opportunity for Aramco to provide stewardship for the community and offer another way of experiencing the Aramco brand," said Baker. "After all, people spend more time with us on a daily basis than any other platform."

## Fresh content around the clock

Perhaps it is this sense of community that drove the numbers of listeners up



Collaboration has always been the tradition at Aramco's television and radio channels. Today Danah Abu Khamsin (left) and Lamees Al Oboudi host the "All Request Show" together on the weekend.



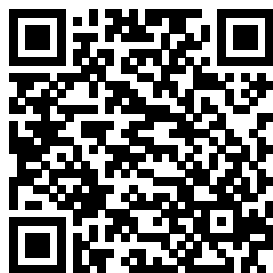
Voices of Aramco radio stations from left to right: Nader Al Fassam, James Baker, Scott Boyes, Marie Claire, and Ahmed Al Sharqi.

during the past few years. "Our surveys show that Saudis and young listeners are tuning in to our channels more than ever," said Al Kadi. Localizing the channels was on the top of Al Kadi's to-do list for the radio stations from the very beginning, along with surveying listeners to find out more about their interests, and introducing fresh and engaging shows for audiences throughout the day.

"We updated a lot of our music and tried to become more contemporary on Studio 1," said Al Kadi. "We upgraded all public service announcements, hired excellent local writers, and started expanding our network and making each show unique."

More recently, the team also completely revamped Studio 2 from its earlier days of classical and smooth jazz playlists. Over the past six years, it has transformed into one of the top channels in the region.

"Our mission was to create a channel



Download the app and listen now.

that introduces our listeners to music from all over the world," said Scott Boyes, the voice of Studio 1 FM's morning show and manager of Studio 2 FM. "Studio 2 is a platform of discovery into new cultures, instruments, and stories. And we are happy that the channel has its own identity now."

In a way, the direction of the radio stations is a reflection of the growing culture and diversity of Aramco. "There's always something new to learn when you're looking to step out of your culture zone," said Boyes.

## A strong sense of community

Engaging with the audience is a big part of working in radio. Danah Abu Khamsin, radio host and social media manager, said she wanted to create a real connection with people instead of just talking at them. So, instead of merely posting about the times of shows, she shifted the focus of the channel to become more interactive.

Abu Khamsin currently co-hosts the All Request Show with Lamees Al Oboudi. "The show consists purely of what people want to hear and we get it all through social media," said Al Oboudi. "It's one of the best feelings because you know that someone is tuned in to hear your show, and we definitely don't take this responsibility lightly."

Prior to the pandemic, the dynamic duo had started covering events as they happen at Ithra and at the Sharqiyah music festival, where they conducted live interviews with artists.

"There are so many talented people in the community and we want to give them an opportunity to share their talents with us," said Abu Khamsin. "Featuring emerging local artists is definitely the next step for us."

## Always something new

Radio is one of the oldest mediums that has persevered because of its simplicity and effectiveness. "Radio has survived because it re-evaluates its purpose in the community," said Boyes. "Its real value comes from being able to localize your music, weather, and stories. People want to feel like you are part of their community and that's what we strive to do every day."

There are many surprises in store for listeners around the Kingdom. So, stay up-to-date with the radio family's news by following them on social media and download the app "Energy Radio KSA."



Broadcast Services Group (BSG)

### Through the years

- 1930s  
"Patio" broadcasting
- 1957  
Terrestrial launch
- 1970s  
Move to FM
- 1988  
Reduced to two stations
- 2014  
Aramco branding
- 2017  
Global streaming
- 2019  
Digital assistant support
- 2020  
Aramco branded app



# CEO talks safety

## CONTINUING VIGILANCE ON OUR LONG SAFETY JOURNEY



By Janet Pinheiro

**Aramco defines safety as protecting ourselves, protecting others, and protecting our future.**

**The Arabian Sun delves into this with our president and CEO, Amin Nasser.**

**A strong safety culture is critical in the oil and gas industry.**

**Aramco's core business — the production, refining and transportation of hydrocarbons — means working with inherent safety risks.**

**Energy and chemical products need to be handled with extreme care.**

**While pandemics and digital transformation pose new safety risks, safety is central to our vision of becoming the world's leading integrated energy and chemicals enterprise.**

### Learning safety on the frontline

In 1982, as a graduate engineer, Amin Nasser began his Aramco career on the production frontline. Thirty-three years later, after becoming CEO in 2015, he has led the company through a number of crisis events, including attacks aimed at disrupting production. In dealing with those cri-

ses, what's helped the company to successfully overcome challenges, is the strong safety culture established by pioneer Aramcons. That spirit and commitment to carry on that legacy remains alive and well, Nasser says, and can be felt like a heartbeat in the fields and facilities today, similar to

when he joined Aramco.

"Our response to the attacks on our facilities clearly demonstrated that safety is in our DNA. The actions of our people make me very proud, not only of our response to those events, but also in the way we've gone about

making safety a habit of excellence.

"I am privileged to be leading a great team and even though I am in an office nowadays, I have never really left the field. The monthly EMSRs are a great way to connect with our people."

#### Protecting ourselves and others

#### What does safety mean to you?

Someone from outside the oil and gas industry once said to me that safety is about business continuity.

I couldn't disagree more. We are nothing without our people. Nothing is more important than the safety of the Aramco family and our communities.

A critical safety incident is the number one thing I dread. One critical incident or even one fatality is one too many. The majority of our workforce are based in industrial plants and facilities, but whether you are working on an operational site, or in an office, safety is a nonnegotiable priority.

#### How do you create a safety culture?

What's critical to success is an open safety culture. A safety culture will only grow in an environment where people are empowered to speak up.

To avoid or prevent hazards, you need to know what's actually happening on the ground at our facilities, worksites, and workplaces.

Being open and constantly learning are important elements to get us there. A key part of safety excellence is reporting not only the accidents, but also things like near misses.

It's why we're constantly making our systems more user-friendly to encourage reporting, moving away from a rigid safety environment to one that promotes timely, accurate reporting and openness in communication. Just as important are education and a strong culture of lessons learned.

#### Creating a decades-old safety culture

#### What's behind Aramco's safety culture?

In one word: training. We invest

a lot in making sure our people are trained well and can step up when it matters.

Safety culture is in our DNA, we live and breathe it. Operating oil and gas facilities carries risks, but our people know how to deal with them, and I am immensely proud of their efforts. Aramco has decades of experience aimed at ensuring the safety of our people, but we must do more. We can never be complacent.

#### Where is Aramco on its safety journey?

This is a journey that never ends. It's only getting more complex and demanding as we progress into the future.

We have a long and proud safety record, but the bar keeps getting higher. It's not just internal risks to monitor and manage, we also have to watch out for external threats and dangers too.

We are known for being the most efficient producer of energy. That wasn't earned in a day, it took decades of work. Any compromise on safety standards will hurt our reliability, which is one of our major competitive advantages.

#### What sets Aramco's safety culture apart from the rest of the world?

Our commitment.

We always want to create a far safer, and a more efficient workplace. Safety and efficiency are not mutually exclusive. Aramco is an example to the world that safety and profitability can coexist.

#### Adapting to a pandemic

#### How is the COVID-19 pandemic impacting Aramco's safety culture?

This is a very important question given the current rise in cases.

Pandemics are a key risk and we've learned a lot from this experience, particularly in infectious disease control management.

These are difficult times as the pandemic continues to keep people separated. But I know it's also brought people together. I've heard so many great stories of friends and colleagues looking out for each other. I have to say that COVID-19 has made us more aware, made us more caring, and also more compassionate during these times.

When the pandemic hit, most of our office-based workers switched to remote work seamlessly. But our core business is the supply of energy and the production of oil, gas, refined products and chemicals, and these can't be done from home. It meant that thousands of our people who work at sites and facilities in the field had to stay away from their families for extended periods of time. This was a huge and heroic sacrifice but it ensured that Aramco kept going when most of the world stopped.

To keep our people as safe as possible we had to do things differently. We instituted additional precautions, even though many of our standard plant operational safety requirements and procedures already served as preventative measures against the virus. We set a high bar on precautionary measures and a high bar on expectations because we are Aramco.

This is what the current COVID-19 situation demands of us. Everyone, at every level of the company, needs to know exactly what action to take based on the various risk scenarios outlined in our COVID-19 response protocol. The experience of other countries battling mutant strains shows why there is no room for compromise or complacency.

Being separated from families and not doing things normally with

### Loss Prevention receives international recognition for safety initiatives

The Loss Prevention Department (LPD) was recently recognized by the Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) for its efforts to advance safety and promote inclusion in the workplace.

The IChemE Global Awards celebrates excellence and are considered the world's most prestigious chemical engineering awards.

Two of the department's initiatives were selected for commendation in the categories of Process Safety and Diversity and Inclusion. These initiatives were titled: "Developing an Innovative Hybrid Approach for Plan-

ning Land Use around Saudi Aramco Facilities," and "Developing a Flame Resistant Shirt for Women," respectively. A third initiative, an effort at driving excellence across the company, was also selected as a finalist in the Process Safety category.

The LPD initiatives competed against more than 100 submissions from top-tier global organizations.

"We are extremely pleased to receive this commendable recognition by such a reputable multinational institute," said Ghassan G. Abulfaraj, manager of LPD.



friends — like playing sports — can have an emotional impact. But that said, thankfully for video calls, we are actually regularly checking up on our elderly parents and relatives.

Being the optimist that I am, I am confident that as we roll out the vaccine, our lives will gradually return to normal. But for now, we must do whatever it takes to overcome this health crisis and we must do it as one

team. By the way, that includes signing up for the vaccine. Please do so if you haven't already.

#### Our safety future

#### How do you maintain safety performance with affiliates and joint venture partners during a time of significant Aramco growth?

Growth is essential to the company's future success and ambitions. Our global network will continue to expand substantially over the next few decades — both organically and through partnerships as we continue to diversify our portfolio. And we're very clear that if you want to partner with Aramco, safety and accountability are nonnegotiable.

#### How will technology change the future of safety?

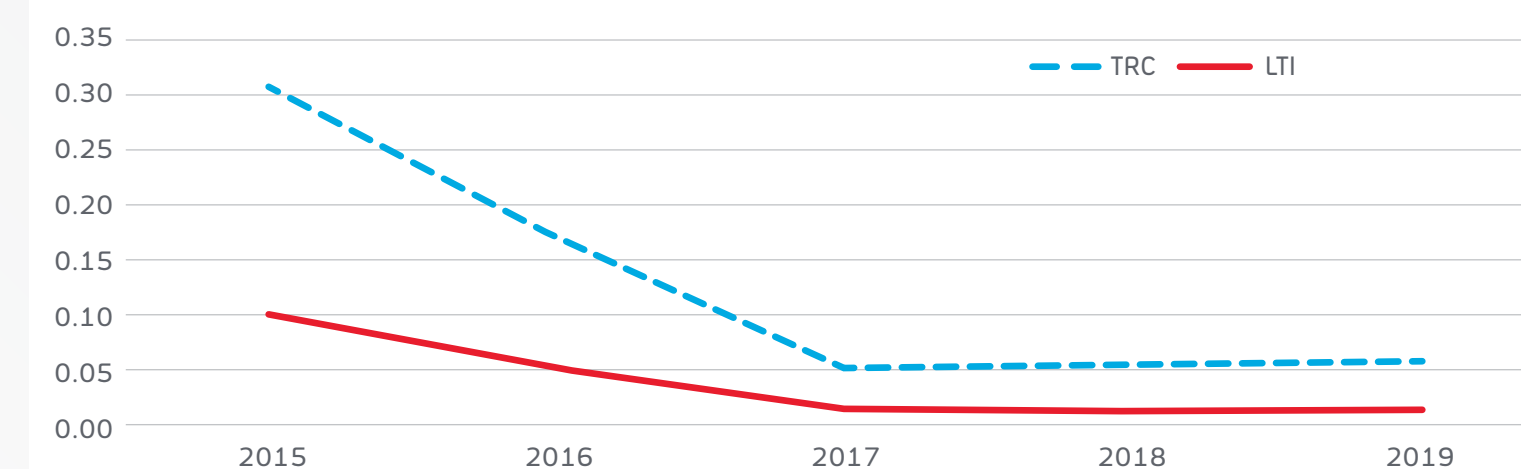
Significantly. The Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0) has had one of the most profound effects on our industry since the rise of the internal combustion engine.

We now have access to technologies that we could only have dreamed of about a decade ago. Smart cities and plants enabled by IR 4.0 technologies, for example, have the potential to be much safer than conventional cities and plants.

Using these technologies is the reason why our 'Uthmaniyah and Khurais facilities were recently awarded "Lighthouse" status by the World Economic Forum.

Technology of course, brings new risks like cyberattacks. But I know that if we are as committed to safety in the digital space as we are in the field, then we can manage those risks, while capturing the enormous benefits of a smarter and more data-driven Aramco.

The chart shows the TRC rate and LTI rate for the company's total workforce, including contractors, from 2015 to 2019.



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
EHSS rate (incidents/200,000 work hours)	0.48	0.63	0.50	0.43	0.57
Total recordable incident rate (incidents/200,000 work hours)	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.14	0.14
Occupational illness rate (incidents/200,000 work hours)	0.000	0.002	0.014	0.003	0.008
Process safety total incident rate (incidents/200,000 work hours)	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.03
Fatalities (number)	0	14	1	0	0



# Library book club discusses classic literature line-up

Dhahran Recreation Library's After Hours Book Club has read and reflected on some of the world's most well-known literary works of art since its formation in 2016.

Early on, the group decided to read the classics. These masterpieces of the written word ensured a good read that spanned the globe, provided historical context, stretched the imagination, strengthened vocabulary, and either solidified an understanding of peoples and cultures, or spurred a curiosity to learn more.

Five years later, the group has read and discussed more than 40 books, from science fiction and fantasy, to tragedy, horror, mystery, and adventure. They have also read children's literature, such as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

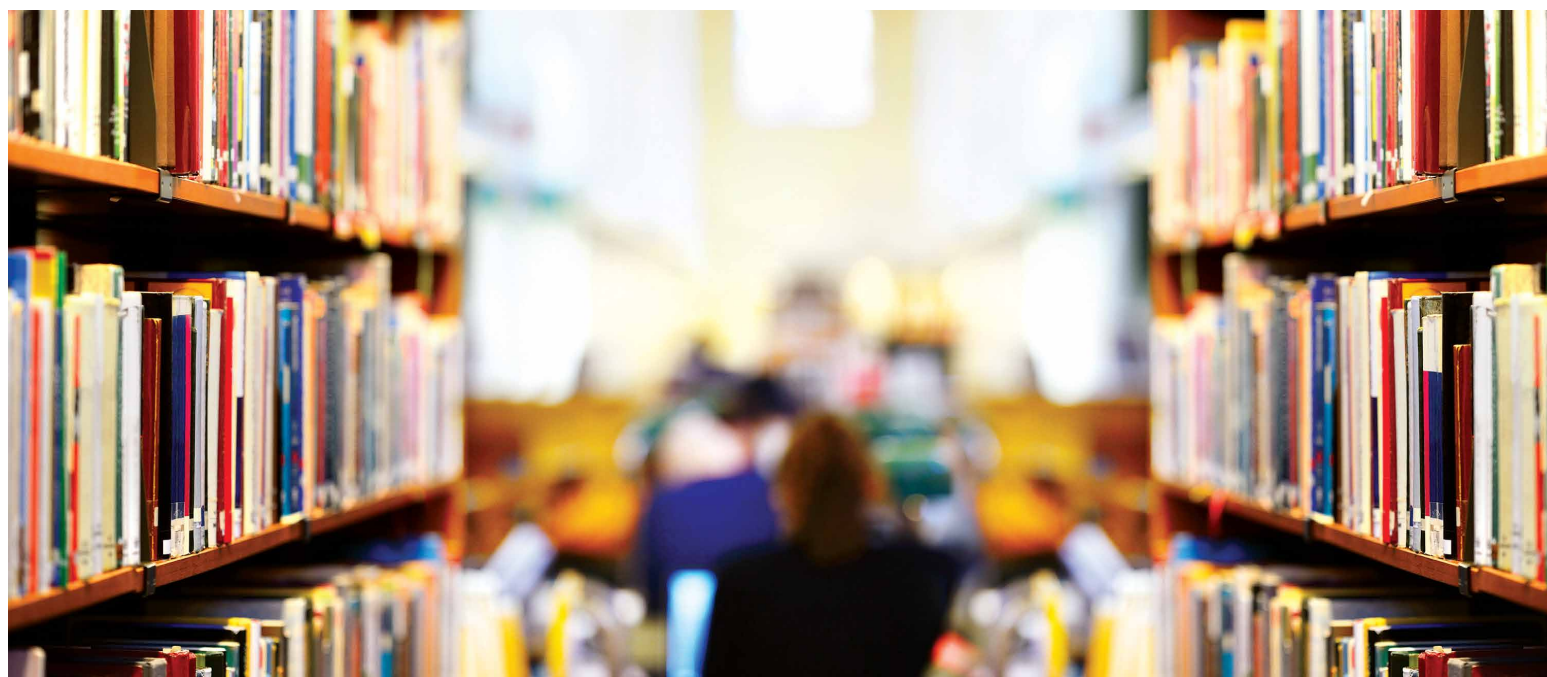
The themes are timeless and universal, the characters, though placed in centuries past at times, are recognizable and relatable, and the language is sometimes rich with challenging syntax and vocabulary, and other times beautiful in its simplicity.

## Imagine another place and time

Prose has the power to transport readers to another place and time, to feel the frigid temperatures of the Klondike (*The Call of the Wild*) or the bone-shattering cold of a New England winter (*Ethan Frome*); to suffer the sweltering heat of an Alabama courtroom (*To Kill a Mockingbird*) or the steamy climes of an uncharted tropical island (*Lord of the Flies*).

At times the artistry of the writers

The Dhahran Recreation Library is the flagship for 16 recreation libraries in the Aramco recreation library system. It's the place to connect, imagine, learn, read, watch, listen, make, and play. For more information please visit <http://reclibraries/> or send an email to Recreation Library (DH). Patrons outside of the Aramco network can send email enquiries to [RecreationLibraryDh@aramco.com](mailto:RecreationLibraryDh@aramco.com).



attacks the senses with vivid and palpable descriptions of sights, sounds, smells, flavors, and touch. The evolution of language, regional dialects and accents, and historical context all focus on the human condition and societal evolution.

## Member comments

Members of the group come from different countries with their own cultural perspectives and backgrounds that flavor opinions about literature. Some members have been avid readers all their lives; others are discovering the joy of diving into a good book.

Longtime member Stuart Burt, a management and professional trainer, says reading classic novels is enjoyable, rewarding, and thought provoking.

"There is a shared interest in discussing the narrative, structure, and idiosyncrasies of great novels. That shared interest, in turn, feeds back into your own reading experience."

Avid readers like Rami Kamal, a retiree, says he has read 27 classic novels from around the world that he had never had the opportunity to read over his lifetime.

"Most of the books have left a powerful impact on my intellect and greatly enriched my literary base."

The group always welcomes new members and encourages those who might be reluctant to commit to read-

Some of the book titles read and discussed by the club since 2016.

Title	Author
<i>A Farewell to Arms</i>	Ernest Hemingway
<i>Animal Farm</i>	George Orwell
<i>Cry the Beloved Country</i>	Alan Paton
<i>Dubliners</i>	James Joyce
<i>Frankenstein</i>	Mary Shelley
<i>My Antonia</i>	Willa Cather
<i>The Alchemist</i>	Paulo Coelho
<i>The Good Earth</i>	Pearl S. Buck
<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	John Steinbeck
<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>	Oscar Wilde
<i>The Remains of the Day</i>	Kazuo Ishiguro
<i>Treasure Island</i>	Robert Louis Stevenson

ing what arguably can sometimes be challenging.

Mel Scott, a public relations specialist, says joining a book club for the first time has been very rewarding.

"The book club has been a highlight during my time here in the Dhahran community."

The newest member, Ameera Ahmed, from the Corporate Venturing Department, says she is looking forward to reading and discussing classic titles soon.

"This is an active and very interesting group, and I am delighted to take part. I am excited to read the

upcoming books for 2021."

## About the club

The After Hours Book Club meets every six weeks to discuss a selected title and is open to Aramco employees, retirees, and dependents over 18 years. To learn more or to be added to the membership list, call the library at 872-5738 or send an email to: [RecreationLibraryDH@aramco.com](mailto:RecreationLibraryDH@aramco.com) with "After Hours Book Club" in the subject line.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The group will be discussing *The Invisible Man* by H.G. Wells. A limited number of copies is available from the library. During the pandemic the group meets virtually.

## Aramco Trading sponsors New Silk Road CEO of the Year Awards

As part of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the UAE Energy Forum recently held virtually among leading energy stakeholders, the winners of the New Silk Road CEO of the Year Awards 2020 were announced.

Founded in 2017 in partnership between the government of Fujairah and Aramco Trading, the awards were conceived to identify and celebrate the pioneering industry leaders who are spearheading the transformation of energy markets across the New Silk Road, the ancient trading route connecting Asia with the Middle East and Africa.

"In our industry, leadership real-

ly matters. We operate on a global scale. The decisions we make can affect the lives of literally billions of people," said Ibrahim Al-Buainain, president and CEO of Aramco Trading, and chairman of the Awards International Selection Committee. "The 2020 award winners have consistently got it right on the big decisions. Each of them has a vision as well as a strategy and each has built a culture as well as a team."

Winners include Nicke Widyawati of PT Pertamina in Refining; Qual Ley Hoon of the Singapore MPA (Ports); Russell Hardy of Vitol (Trading); Kristian Mørch of Odfjell, SE (Shipping); and Rob Nijst of VTTI (Storage).



**We are all doing more online these days.**



*Renting a car*

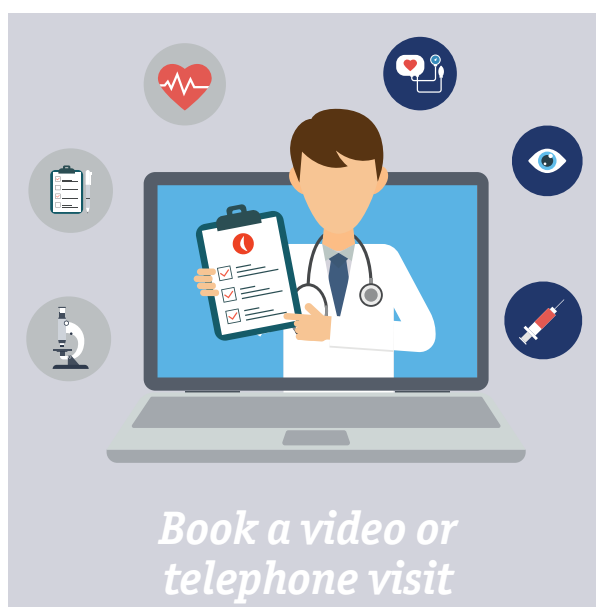
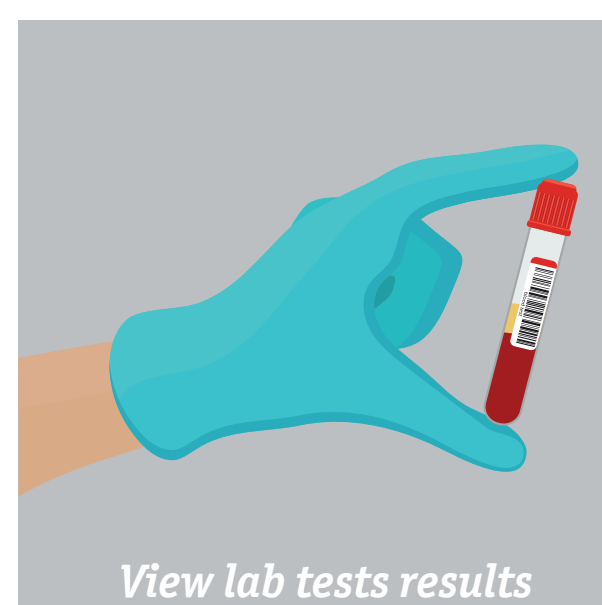
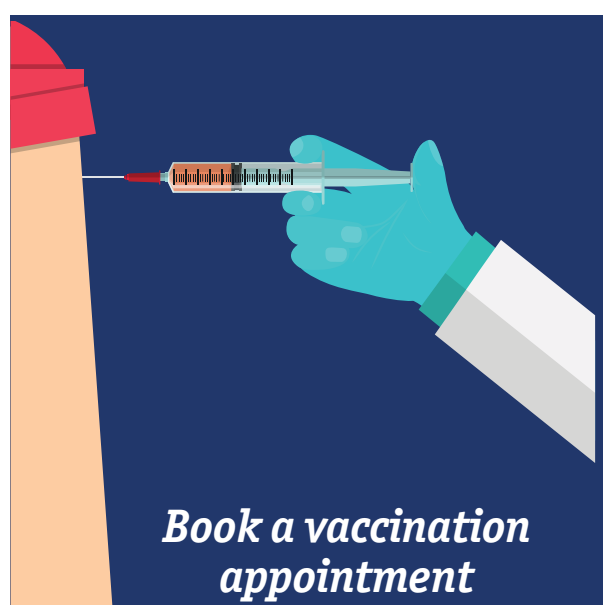


*Seeing family and loved ones*



*Going to school*

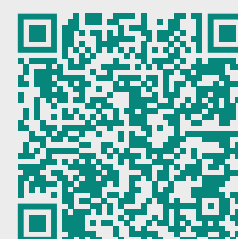
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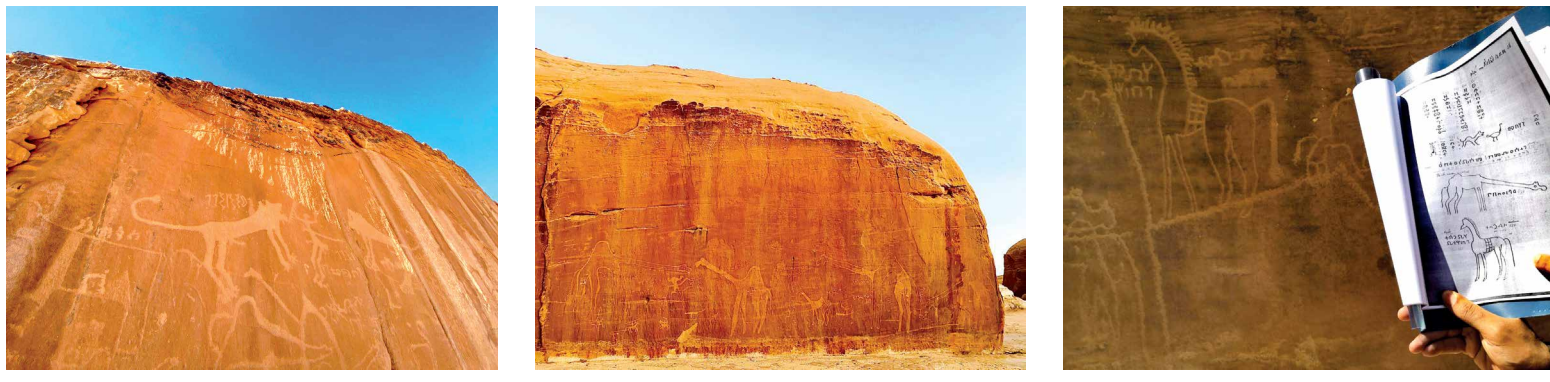
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Johns Hopkins  
Aramco Healthcare







Petroglyphs of animals found in the Kingdom, documented 140 years ago by travelers.

# Aramco geophysicist discovers remarkable Stone Age rock carving

By Rawan H. Nasser

Ghaith A. Alshaia, a geophysicist in the Geophysical Imaging Department and a passionate explorer, recently made a stunning discovery etched into the canvas of the Kingdom's vast desert.

During a trip with his father to the ancient city of Tayma, 400 km north of Medina, the pair came across a unique petroglyph on a rock.

"The Hunter" carving shows a human figure holding a wide bow. The figure is dressed in a hat adorned with a long feather and an *izaar*, a piece of cloth which is wrapped around the lower body. Alshaia and his father noticed the petroglyph displayed sophisticated detail not seen in previous discoveries in the Kingdom.

Alshaia immediately consulted Sandra L. Olsen, a professor at the Biodiversity Institute of the University of Kansas, who confirmed that the drawing dates back about 6,000 years. Olsen was also impressed by the level of detail. Alshaia then contacted the Heritage Commission, which documented the finding and arranged media coverage of the discovery.

The find did not happen by accident. Alshaia often takes exploratory trips around the Kingdom in pursuit of new discoveries. Before finding "The Hunter," he had been

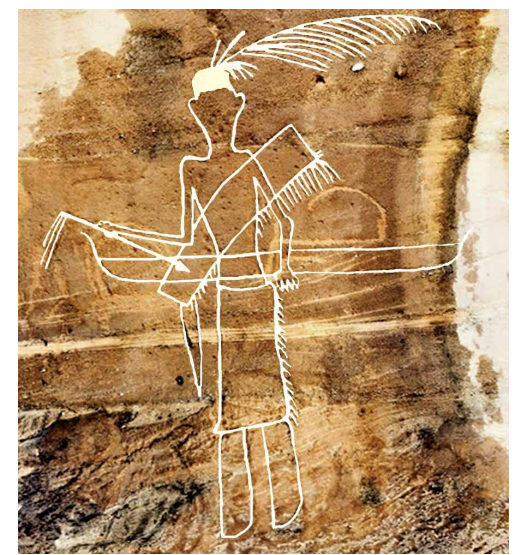


Alshaia identifies the 136-year-old signature of French explorer Charles Huber, who visited Northern Arabia in 1884.

following in the footsteps of 19<sup>th</sup> century travelers such as Charles Huber and Julius Euting, who kept diaries of their trips in Saudi Arabia.

"We had already completed most of the journey from Arar to Jiddah and decided it was time to explore more isolated areas near Al-Ula and Tayma," said Alshaia. "They are tough terrains that used to be caravan roads for travelers coming from China and Persia, so we knew that even if we didn't find the sites we were looking for, we would find something new."

Alshaia and his father's infectious excitement for ancient discoveries has led to their whole family traveling along with them, often driv-



Newly discovered Neolithic hunter carving.

ing for days and camping under the stars after long walks in pursuit of something new to find.

"There is a lot to discover, you just have to train your eyes," said Alshaia.

There are countless archaeological treasures to be found across the Kingdom. UNESCO's World Heritage List includes five Saudi sites: historic Jiddah, Al-Ahsa, Madayin Salih in Al-Ula, Al-Turaif district in ad-Dir'iyah, and Ha'il.

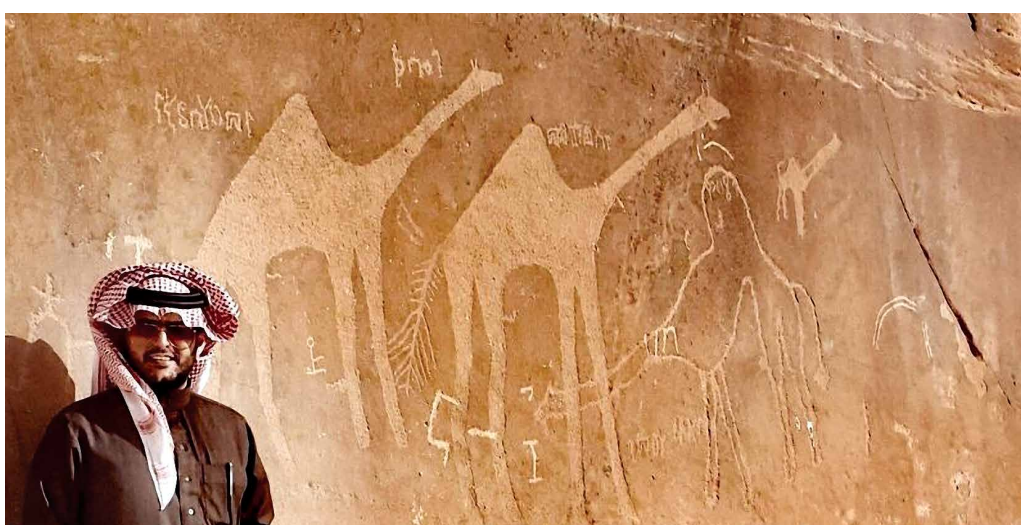
Saudi Arabia is investing in preserving and exploring historical sites, in addition to rehabilitating areas of historic significance. Such efforts led to the Kingdom being

elected to UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in 2019.

Alshaia said discoveries such as "The Hunter" are great additions to the historical record of the Kingdom, helping scholars and researchers to uncover more mysteries of the lives of those who inhabited this land before us.



Watch The Hunter Inscription II.



Petroglyphs of camels dating to around 3000-6000 years old.



# Stay apart to stay safe

Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare urges support for the Ministry of Health's campaign to stop the rise in COVID-19 infections.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) has launched a new awareness campaign, "Nata'wan ma Natahawan." The campaign slogan can be understood as "we cooperate, not relax;" and reflects the nationwide drive to encourage full adherence to precautionary measures to prevent and stop COVID-19 transmission.

This action comes as the MOH continues to respond to an upward trend in new cases throughout January and February.

The increasing cases of COVID-19 reinforce the need for compliance and cooperation with infection prevention behaviors.

- Avoid gatherings
- Watch your distance
- Wear a mask
- Wash or sanitize your hands
- Get vaccinated against COVID-19 and continue to observe infection control behaviors
- Download and use the Tawwakalna application.

"While there may be multiple con-

tributing factors to the increased number of COVID-19 infections, the solution is straightforward. We must follow the infection prevention guidance from

the MOH. Keep yourself and your loved ones safe until we can expand the COVID-19 vaccination program to reach everyone and stop the COVID-19 pan-

demia," commented Dr. Jaffar Al-Tawfiq, Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare COVID-19 incident commander, director of Infection Control.



## Photographic memory

The heart of the Dhahran community is pictured in 1952 with a row of three buildings, which house a canteen, post office, and laundry. The company's headquarters offices are located in the background.



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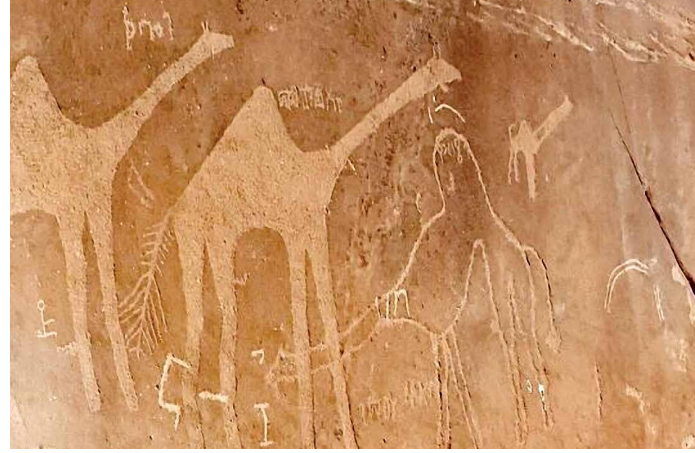
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# the arabian sun



Aramco geophysicist discovers remarkable Stone Age rock carving

see page 10

**Keep your eyes open**  
**COMING SOON**

Brought to you by Industrial Security Operations in collaboration with Information Technology

## Cloudy skies over the Arabian Gulf

Abdullah Garrous, who worked for Aramco for 17 years at various locations from Hawiyah and Haradh to Ras Tanura, Berri, and Qatif, captured the beauty of clouds over the Arabian Gulf while doing his daily walking and jogging exercises. Garrous, who lives in Qatif, used a Samsung Galaxy S8+ phone to take the photograph.



## You have the power to defeat it

COVID-19 is still a threat. But we have the advantage to defeat it. Because the virus needs us to survive and spread.

Don't give it that chance.

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