



OPIC Highlights

OPIC Supports U.S. Investment in North Africa and the Middle East

In the Middle East, North Africa, and around the world, OPIC leads the way for private-sector investment. OPIC's insurance, finance, and investment funds programs support U.S. businesses of all sizes, advance U.S. foreign policy, encourage economic development in emerging markets, and developing nations while generating U.S. jobs and exports. Since committing support to its first project in the region in 1974, OPIC has committed nearly \$4.5 billion in political risk insurance and finance support to more than 380 projects. As of September 30, 2002, OPIC's outstanding portfolio in the region was more than \$520 million.

OPIC Supports Production Facility

OPIC is providing \$200 million of political risk insurance to an integrated petrochemical production facility near Kuwait City in Kuwait. The project will produce several products for the sale to manufacturers in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. These products will be used as intermediate inputs in the production of a wide range of consumer and industrial products, such as film, grocery sacks, antifreeze, plastic bottles, and clothing.

This project is expected to yield numerous benefits including increasing net annual export earnings, generating local procurement, creating local jobs, and increasing gas production capacity.

OPIC Supports Manufacturing in Israel

OPIC provided support for the expansion of a radio communications equipment manufactur-

ing facility in

Israel. This facility will add approximately \$350,000 to host country revenues as well as add 350 jobs in management, professional and technical fields.

Additionally, the staff will receive on-the-job training on a continuous basis.

Local private suppliers and workers will also benefit from the annual operational procurement of \$3 million.

OPIC Supports Gas Field Project in Algeria

OPIC has provided support for the development and production of gas from four gas fields in Algeria.

The total proven gas reserves for the project area are estimated at over 3 trillion cubic feet. In support of the regional initiative, OPIC has issued up to \$93 million in political risk insurance.



The project entails the construction, development, production, and operation of the Ohanet gas fields in the southern desert of Algeria. This project is sponsored, in part, by Petrofac Resources International, Inc., a small business headquartered in Tyler, Texas.

This environmentally sound project is expected to yield numerous benefits including increasing net annual export earnings, generating local procurement, creating local jobs, and increasing gas production capacity.

OPIC Supports Innovative Energy Project in Morocco

Along with the U.S. Export-Import Bank, another OPIC-supported project that is helping economic development in North Africa is the Jorf Lasfar Energy Company project in Morocco. Sponsored by CMS Generation Company of Michigan and supported by OPIC commitments of \$200 million in financing, the Jorf Lasfar project is providing Morocco with a large source of power generation and with a revenue generator. Not only will this facility provide tax revenue, generate local procurement, and create new jobs, Jorf Lasfar is expected to use \$644 million in U.S. goods and services and create 1,695 American jobs.

The \$1.3 billion Jorf Lasfar deal is Morocco's first privately financed power project and Africa's biggest independent power project and limited-recourse financing to date. Named project of the year by Project Finance Magazine in February 1998 and sponsored by CMS Energy Corporation of Dearborn, Michigan, the 1.32 gigawatt power project is backed with \$200 million in OPIC financing. CMS and its partner, ABB Energy Ventures, are privatizing and expanding the state-owned Jorf Lasfar power plant near Casablanca. Joseph Tomasik, Vice President, CMS, in Project Finance said, "Jorf Lasfar is an essential step to prove that Morocco is serious about private projects and in creating terms and conditions that are good for the market."

The plant is providing 64% of the country's annual domestic electrical energy production. The control panel for the four units is completely computerized and has the latest monitoring modern equipment. The plant employs 325 local residents and maintains good corporate citizenship programs, such as rebuilding a local school and play area, providing school supplies, funding the Fulbright Scholarship program and supporting local orphanage.



Funds Provide Regional Investment

OPIC investment funds leverage investment in emerging-market businesses of all sizes, helping to develop all sectors of the economy. Several of these privately managed funds are eligible to invest in countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Through the Inter Arab Investment Fund and other eligible funds, OPIC will continue to support investment at all levels of the economy in the Middle East and North Africa.



OPIC is a U.S. government agency that helps U.S. businesses invest overseas, fosters economic development in new and emerging markets, complements the private sector in managing risks associated with foreign direct investment, and supports U.S. foreign policy.

Because OPIC charges market-based fees for its products, it operates on a self-sustaining basis at no net cost to taxpayers. Since 1971, OPIC has supported over \$142 billion worth of investments that will generate \$64 billion in U.S. exports and create more than 253,000 American jobs.

For general information, contact OPIC's InfoLine at (202) 336-8799. For information via the Internet please go to <http://www.opic.gov>.

To subscribe to our OPIC News newsletter via the Internet please go to <http://www.opic.gov> and click on "subscribe".

