

MEDIA RELEASE

KFUPM and ERG partnership driving skills and innovation in the Kingdom's resources sector

ERG Arabia and King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals signed an MoU to support local skills building and innovation program in the resource exploration sector



Eurasian Resources Group

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Dhahran, Saudi Arabia - Monday, February 12, 2024 | [ERG Arabia](#) (ERG) and King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM), are set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding solidifying their commitment to advancing the Kingdom's resources sector through industry knowledge-transfer and innovation, at KFUPM's campus in Dhahran this Sunday.

This milestone agreement underscores the pivotal role of major industry players, like ERG, have in fostering diversified skills and leveraging their experience and technical know-how to propel Saudi Arabia towards becoming a regional hub of exploration excellence, in line with targets set by the Kingdom's Vision 2030 strategy.

The agreement was signed in the presence of His Royal Highness the Minister of Energy and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of KFUPM, **Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud**, and Mr. Muhammad M. Al-Saggaf, President of KFUPM.

"Creating geologists of the future involves giving young explorers real-world, hands-on opportunities to learn and grow," said **Hani Sagr, General Manager, ERG Middle East and North Africa**. "Our partnership with KFUPM will cement a fruitful, long-term collaboration to share knowledge for continuous innovation, setting the Kingdom up for success for years to come.

The partnership with KFUPM will usher in a new era of innovation and collaboration, with several key initiatives poised to transform the landscape of the Kingdom's resources sector.

Among them, the parties will create opportunities on funded exploration operations research and development projects, building on ERG's existing initiatives through ERG Technology Intelligence to spearhead essential innovation to future-proof the global sector.

The parties will also provide for renewed focus on developing industry-ready academic programmes, followed by internship and job opportunities. These will leverage ERG's existing graduate and student network, focusing on hands-on experience and exposure to real-world challenges in the resources industry, nurturing talent and fostering the next generation of leaders in the sector.

Photos of the event can be [found on this link](#).

For further information contact communications.ksa@erg.net.

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About ERG Arabia:

[ERG Arabia](#) is a fully owned subsidiary of Eurasian Resources Group (ERG), a global metals mining company headquartered in Luxembourg. With integrated exploration, mining, processing, energy and logistics operations, the Group operates in 16 countries and is a major employer in the industry with around 80,000 people working for it.

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, ERG is focused on adopting a technological leadership position through industry partnerships, with the Kingdom serving as a strategic base for an advanced, high impact hub to sustainably meet mineral demand. ERG intends to expedite early-stage exploration in the Kingdom to help meet the surging demand for battery metals, by deploying innovative and sustainable exploration technologies through its technology intelligence division.

About ERG:

Eurasian Resources Group is a global metals and mining company, with a workforce of around 80,000 and integrated exploration, mining, processing, energy and logistics operations in Kazakhstan, Africa, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Brazil. ERG operates in 16 countries and is a growing supplier of critical raw materials that are enabling the global energy transition.

In **Kazakhstan**, ERG represents one third of the metals and mining industry. It is also a key power supplier and a large railway operator in Central Asia. ERG manages several of Kazakhstan's leading production entities, including Kazchrome, SSGPO, Kazakhstan Aluminium Smelter (KAS), Aluminium of Kazakhstan, Eurasian Energy Corporation, and others.

ERG is the world's largest high-carbon ferrochrome producer by chrome content and one of the largest producers of cobalt. It is also a large global supplier of copper and high-grade iron ore. In Eurasia, it is one of the largest suppliers of alumina and is Kazakhstan's only producer of high-grade aluminium.

In **Africa**, ERG mines and processes copper and cobalt ore and produces copper metal and cobalt hydroxide. Frontier is the cornerstone of the Group's copper business, while ERG's Metalkol, a major tailings reprocessing operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has become one of the world's largest producers of cobalt as well as a major producer of copper. The Group has its own supply chain on the continent through its logistics company Sabot as well as development projects which are focused on other minerals and products across Africa, including in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

In **Brazil**, ERG is developing BAMIN, an integrated mining and logistics project in the State of Bahia, which comprises the Pedra de Ferro iron ore mine, the Porto Sul deep-water port and the associated stretch of the new FIOLE broadgauge railway.

In the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, ERG is focused on adopting a technological leadership position through industry partnerships, with the Kingdom serving as a strategic base for an advanced, high-impact hub to sustainably meet mineral demand. ERG intends to expedite early-stage exploration in the Kingdom to help meet the surging demand for battery metals, by deploying innovative and sustainable exploration technologies through its Technology Intelligence division.

ERG is a Strategic Partner Associate of the **World Economic Forum** and a founding member of the **Global Battery Alliance (GBA)** which is dedicated to establishing a sustainable and responsible global supply chain for the lithium-ion batteries that can power the Fourth Industrial Revolution and a low carbon economy through mobile devices, electric vehicles and renewable energy systems.

Since its establishment in 2017, the GBA has grown into a partnership with of more than 150 businesses, governments, academics, industry actors, international and non-governmental organisation. [The GBA piloted the Battery passport in Davos this year](#). The Battery Passport in will likely become a compulsory requirement in Europe by 2026, with other geographies likely to follow suit in the future.

ERG is also a co-founder of the [ReSource](#) initiative, working together with CMOC, Glencore, Umicore and Tesla. The initiative uses blockchain to track cobalt and other battery materials in real operating conditions from the mine to an electric vehicle.

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