

thebusinessyear

United Arab Emirates 2026

Diplomacy ♦ Economy ♦ Green Economy ♦ Finance
Energy Transition ♦ Industry ♦ Logistics & Transport
Construction & Real Estate ♦ Health ♦ Education ♦ Culture & Tourism

Energy Transition

YOU CAN ALWAYS *go downstream*

FOR THE UAE, the energy transition is both an emissions challenge and an opportunity to strengthen its role as a reliable supplier of energy and low-carbon solutions. The world will need more energy, albeit cleaner. This dual objective underpins the UAE Energy Strategy 2050, which targets a 30% share of clean energy in the mix by 2030, and the National Hydrogen Strategy, which envisions 5 million tons of hydrogen production annually by 2050. Parallel industrial decarbonization roadmaps and carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) targets reinforce this agenda.

The country's flagship producer, ADNOC, is expanding crude capacity to 5 million bpd by 2027 while simultaneously investing heavily in low-carbon fuels and CCUS. International partners such as bp, Shell, TotalEnergies, Siemens Energy, ENGIE, and others are deeply embedded in these plans, co-developing hydrogen hubs, ammonia export corridors, and shared CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure. EPC and service players such as Saipem or Bilfinger are critical in scaling pipelines, compression, and hydrogen-ready facilities, illustrating how national and international companies collaborate to translate policy into megaproject execution.

Hydrogen is moving from vision to reality. Green hydrogen clusters are taking shape around industrial and port zones, while blue hydrogen projects linked to CCUS are being structured for both domestic industry and exports. Certification schemes and offtake agreements are progressing, especially in steel, shipping, and fertilizers. At the same time, CCUS is shifting from enhanced oil recovery

into cement, power, and gas processing. The UAE aims to capture 10 million tons of CO₂ annually by 2030, building a model that will also serve regional neighbors.

The transition is broader than molecules. Solar and nuclear continue to expand. For instance, Barakah nuclear plant now supplies over a quarter of Abu Dhabi's electricity, and digital tools are being deployed across the grid. AI-based forecasting, battery storage pilots, methane abatement, and cross-border interconnections are all part of a whole-of-system transformation. Likewise, more than USD150 billion has been earmarked by 2030 for upstream decarbonization, clean power, and new energy exports.

At the downstream and retail level, ADNOC is extending the energy transition from industrial megaprojects to the everyday experience of UAE consumers. Bader Al Lamki, CEO of ADNOC Distribution, told *The Business Year* "we place sustainability at the heart of our strategy and operations," noting the company's roadmap to reduce emissions intensity by 25% by 2030 and expand its E2GO EV charging network nationwide.

As a result, energy security is strengthened by a diversified supply base; industrial competitiveness is enhanced through cleaner, cheaper electricity and low-carbon feedstocks; and export resilience is secured as the UAE develops the fuels and technologies its partners increasingly demand. The sector's shared goal? Delivering more energy with fewer emissions, positioning the UAE as both a global energy partner and a leader in shaping the net-zero future. ✖



NEXT STAGE *of growth*

SNOC's ambition is to support the UAE's clean energy ambitions by placing technology and digital transformation at the heart of its operations and developing partnerships that create shared value and accelerate growth.

Khamis Al Mazrouei
CEO,
SNOC

Delivered Hedebah gas discovery from exploration to production in under 1 year

Launched Sharjah's 1st utility-scale solar PV facility

AI-powered exploration, launched company digital vision and mission

BIO

Khamis Al Mazrouei was appointed CEO of SNOC in April 2025, following his tenure as Deputy CEO since 2024 and operations executive director since 2023. In July 2025, he was also named a Member of the Sharjah Energy Council. With over 15 years in the oil and gas industry, Al Mazrouei started his career with BP Sharjah followed by a move to Petrofac. He later joined SNOC as operations team leader before moving up to operations manager. Al Mazrouei holds a BS degree (with honors) in chemical engineering from the American University of Sharjah and a master's degree (with honors) in executive management business administration from the University of Sharjah. He is also a graduate of the Sharjah Leadership Program.

SNOC has had a dynamic year. What have been the key milestones, and what is your vision for SNOC moving forward?

2024 was pivotal for SNOC. One of our major milestones was the Hedebah gas discovery in May, which went from discovery to first production in under a year. We are now actively progressing into the appraisal and development phase, with the drilling of additional wells underway. This upstream success underscores our ambition to continue excelling in our core operations while diversifying strategically. Another major achievement in 2024 was the enhancement of the Moveyeid gas storage field. Through an underbalanced coiled tubing drilling (UBCTD) campaign, we increased the field's injection and production capacity by 50%, making SNOC a critical enabler of grid stability and a facilitator of the energy transition. That same year, we witnessed the ceremonial signing of the SANA solar power plant in partnership with Emerge (a joint venture with Masdar and EDF). While we continue to produce hydrocarbons, we are now doing so with a lower carbon footprint. Looking ahead, we are conducting feasibility studies to use our depleted reservoirs for CO₂ storage. This will enable SNOC to contribute to decarbonization beyond our own operations, supporting industrial emitters and power producers in their efforts to manage carbon emissions. We estimate our depleted fields could store around 200 million metric tons of CO₂, positioning SNOC as a future-ready player in the carbon management space.

How is SNOC integrating innovation, AI, and digital tools into its operations?

SNOC has recently launched a comprehensive digital strategy that directly supports and enhances our company's overarching business objectives. This initiative marks a pivotal moment in SNOC's modernization journey, positioning us as a leader in the energy sector through innovation and technological advancement. We are investing in AI and data science specifically for exploration and development. These advanced tools allow us to process seismic data and geological

models more efficiently, significantly shortening our processing time and improving drilling accuracy. Beyond just employing advanced tools, we are also committed to empowering our workforce with essential AI skills. We are proud to be one of the early adopters in the country of AI business tools like Copilot, positioning SNOC at the forefront of digital innovation.

The UAE continues to emphasize Emiratization and workforce development. How does SNOC support these national goals?

Emiratization has been embedded in SNOC's culture for decades. Our journey began in the early 1980s under the guidance of Sharjah's Petroleum Department (formerly the Petroleum Council), and many of our longest-serving technical staff are Emiratis who joined during those early years. In 2017, we launched the National Development Program, recruiting and training over 40 Emirati professionals to date. Today, they make up around 40% of our workforce. We believe in a gradual, structured approach to talent development where our succession planning aligns closely with retirements to ensure that knowledge is transferred organically and efficiently. This allows the next generation of UAE nationals to learn from experienced mentors before stepping into technical and leadership roles.

2025 marks SNOC's 15th anniversary. How do you reflect on the company's journey thus far?

The first five years of SNOC's history (2010-2015) were focused on transitioning operations from our previous international operators. Since 2015, SNOC has taken full control of its operations and embarked on an ambitious journey of growth and transformation. The next phase of our strategy involves accelerated growth within our existing portfolio. We aim to expand upstream production, strengthen our role in supplying gas to the power and industrial sectors, and develop Sharjah into a regional LPG hub. We believe Sharjah is well-positioned to serve as the LPG re-export gateway for the region. ✕



مؤسسة نفط
الشارقة الوطنية
SNOC

RELIABLE ENERGY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

From strategic gas infrastructure to advancing sustainable energy solutions, SNOC drives energy resilience and innovation across the UAE.

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