

An Abridgment of IRAQ's 5th (2018), [5th+] (2023) and First Gas [6th] (2023) Exploration and Production Licensing Bid Rounds

Iraq's 5th Licensing Bid Round

On the 21st of February 2023 Iraq's newly appointed Prime Minister-Mohammed Shia Sudani attended the signing ceremony at the Ministry of Oil Building in Baghdad of six new Technical Service Contracts harvested by Iraq's 5th licensing bid round of 2018.

The 5th licensing round was advertised on the 26th of April 2018 when Mr Jabbar Al-Luiebi was the Oil Minister of Iraq, but processing the applications was delayed mainly due to the advent of Covid-19 Pandemic among other causes. Table 1 lists the 11 blocks, their geographical locations, bidding results and type of service contracts.

Table 1. Open Blocks in the 5th Iraqi Licensing Bid Round (April 26 2018)

No	Block	Province	Operator	Service Contract
1	Gilabat and Qamar Fields	Diyala	Crescent Petroleum (UAE)	Development (DPSA)
2	Khashm Al-Ahmer and Injana Fields	Diyala	Crescent Petroleum (UAE)	Development (DPSA)
3	Naft Khaneh, Nau Doman, Jaria Pika and Tel Ghazal Fields	Diyala	Geo-Jade Petroleum (China)	Development (DPSA)
4	Zurbatiya *	Wasit and Diyala	No Bid	Development (DPSA)
5	Shihabi *	Misan and Wasit	No Bid	Development (DPSA)
6	Huwaiza	Misan	Geo Jade Petroleum (China)	Development (DPSA)
7	Sindbad	Basra	United Energy Group (China)	Development (DPSA)
8	Fao *	Basra	No Bid	Exploration (EPSA)
9	Jabal Sanam*	Basra	No Bid	Exploration (EPSA)
10	Khidher Al-Mai, S. Khidher Al-Mai, Batin, Jerishan, Dibdibba and S. Rachi Discoveries, and Rachi Field	Basra & Al-Muthanna	Crescent Petroleum (UAE)	Development (DPSA)
11	Arabian Gulf *	Iraq's EEZ in The Arabian Gulf	No Bid (and removed from Iraq's LBR of 15/5/2023)	Exploration (EPSA)

Iraq's [5th+] Licensing Bid Round

On 15 May 2023, Iraq's new Minister of Oil Mr Hayyan Abdul Ghani invited international oil companies to bid for 13 blocks in a new Licensing Round which includes nine new development blocks (Fields) and four out of the five offered but not awarded Blocks in Licensing Bid Round 5 of 2018, he removed Iraq's only offshore block (Arabian Gulf (Block No.11 in the 2018 List) from the new Blocks list of 15/5/2023, which are: Fao Area in Basra Governorate, Jabal Sanam Area in Basra Governorate, Shihabi Area in Misan and Wasit Governorates, and Zurbatia Area in Wasit Governorate.

The added new blocks in Round [5th+] are mainly areas with discovered but undeveloped fields for Hybrid Development Production Sharing-Technical Service Contracts (DPS-TSCs). The fields are: Dima Field in Misan Governorate, Qalat Saleh Area in Misan Governorate, northern extensions of East Baghdad Field in Baghdad and Salahuddin Governorates, Dhafriya Field in Wasit Governorate, Alan Field in Ninawa Governorate, Sasan Field in Ninawa Governorate, Pulkhana Field in Salahuddin Governorate, Abu Khaimah Fields (Abu Khaimah and Abu Khaimah North Fields) in Al-Muthanna Governorate, and Middle Euphrates Fields (Kifl, West Kifl, and Marjan Fields). Table 2 lists the 13 new blocks. The map in Figure 1 shows the Blocks locations of Iraq's Licensing Bid Round 5 and [5+].

Table 2. Open Blocks in the Iraqi [5th+] Licensing Bid Round (May 15 2023)

No.	Block	Governorate	Contract	Comments
4	Zurbatia Area *	Wasit	Exploration (EPSA)	No Known Discovery
5	Shihabi Area *	Misan and Wasit	Exploration (EPSA)	No Known Discovery
8	Fao Area * (Um Qasr-1 Discovery)	Basra	Exploration (EPSA)	INOC Undeveloped Um Qasr Discovery
9	Jabal Sanam Area *	Basra	Exploration (EPSA)	INOC Undeveloped Jabal Sanam Discovery
12	Dima Field	Misan	Development (DPSA)	INOC Undeveloped Discovery
13	Qalat Saleh Area	Misan	Exploration (EPSA)	No Discovery
14	N. Extensions of East Baghdad Field	Baghdad and Salahuddin	Development	INOC Undeveloped Field
15	Dhafriya Field	Wasit	Development (DPSA)	INOC Undeveloped Field
16	Alan Field	Ninawa	Development (DPSA)	MPC Undeveloped Field
17	Sasan Field	Ninawa	Development (DPSA)	MPC Undeveloped Field
18	Pulkhana Field	Salahuddin	Development (DPSA)	IPC Undeveloped Field
19	Abu Khaimah & A. Khaimah N. Fields	Al-Muthanna	Development (DPSA)	HYDR Undeveloped Fields
20	Mid. Euphrates (Kifl, W. Kifl & Marjan) Fields	Anbar, Najaf & Karbala	Development (DPSA)	BPC+INOC Undeveloped Discoveries

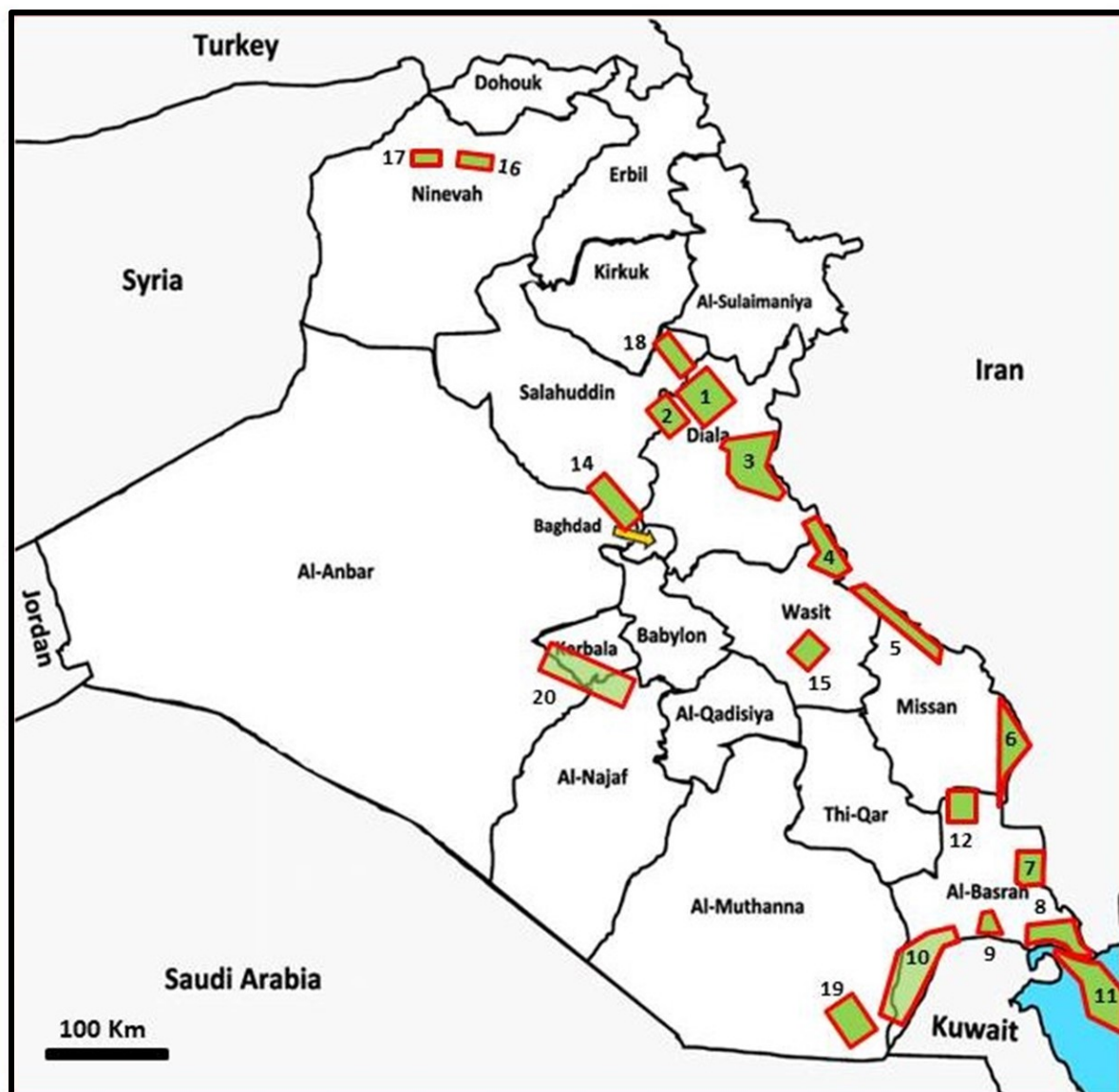


Figure1. Locations Map of Open Blocks in Iraq's 5th and [5th+] Licensing Bid Rounds*

Iraq's First Gas (6th) Licensing Bid Round

Due to domestic and international demand for natural gas, Iraq's Oil Ministry launched its' sixth licensing round on the 18th of June 2023 by low key announcement of 11 new [patches] blocks with proven and prospective oil and gas potentials in western Iraq.

The 6th Round according to Minister Abdul-Ghani includes the 11 following exploration [patches]: 1.Tel Hajar and 2.Khleisia in Ninawa Governorate; 3. Anbar, 4. Anah, 5. Al-Anz, 6. Akashat; 7. North Rutbah, 8. South Rutbah, 9. Tubal and 10. Al-Walid in Al-Anbar Governorate and Al-Quraynain Patch in Al-Anbar and Al-Najaf Governorates.

Table 3 lists the 11 new blocks of round 6, the map in Figure 2 shows the provisional Blocks locations of Licensing Bid Round 6 as compiled by Target Exploration from previous Iraqi Ministry of Oil, INOC, and OEC publications.

Table 3. Blocks of Iraq's First Gas [6th] Licensing Bid Round (June 18 2023)

No.	Blocks	Province	Exploration and Discovery Wells	Possible Contract
1	Tel Hajar	Ninawa	Tel Hajar-1, Ain Ghazal-1 and Abtah-1	Exploration (EPSA?)
2	Khleisia	Ninawa	Khleisia-1	Exploration (EPSA?)
3	Anbar	Al-Anbar	None	Exploration (EPSA)
4	Anah	Al-Anbar	Anah-1, Anah-2, Al-Qaim-1 and Tlul-1	Exploration (EPSA?)
5	Al-Anz	Al-Anbar	None	Exploration (EPSA)
6	Akashat	Al-Anbar	None	Exploration (EPSA)
7	North Rutbah	Al-Anbar	None	Exploration (EPSA)
8	South Rutbah	Al-Anbar	None	Exploration (EPSA)
9	Tubol	Al-Anbar	None	Exploration (EPSA)
10	Al-Waleed	Al-Anbar	None	Exploration (EPSA)
11	Al-Quraynain	Al-Anbar and Al-Najaf	Ekhaider-1 and Ekhaider-2	Exploration (EPSA?)

Pre-qualification and Bidding Deadlines

The Ministry's spokesperson stated that the Iraqi Ministry of Oil is inviting international and regional petroleum companies to review the pre-qualification and bid-submitting procedures and conditions set by the Ministry of Oil for participating in the [5th+] Blocks Licensing Bid Round. However, an unusually short time was set for due diligence reviews; as interested companies are to submit their applications and bids to the Ministry of Oil's Petroleum Contracts and Licensing Department (PCLD) ahead of the 15th of June 2023 bidding deadline. No applications deadline is known for Bid Round 6. All enquiries and applications should be e-mailed to: dq_pclcd@oil.gov.iq

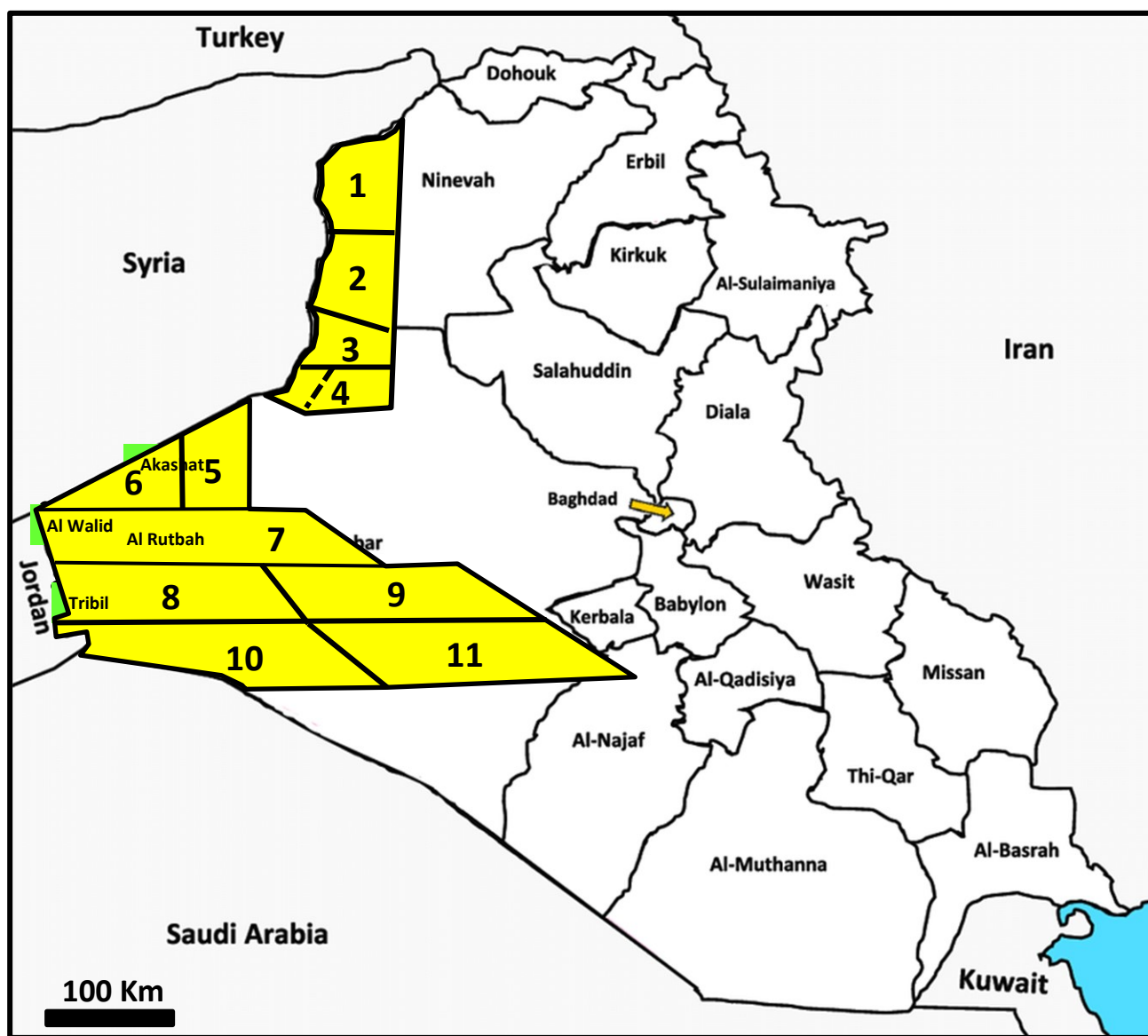


Figure 2. Block's Location Map of Iraq's First Gas [6th] Licensing Bid Round*

Table 3. Some of Target ECL's Independent reports on the Petroleum Geology of IRAQ**

Block No.	Block Name	Target Report	Target Report	Target Report
1	Gilabat and Qamar Fields	Tar-04	Tar-13	Tar-77
2	Khashm Al-Ahmer and Injana Fields	Tar-04	Tar-13	Tar-77
3	Naft Khaneh, Nau Doman, Jaria Pika and Tel Ghazal Oil Fields	Tar-04	Tar-13	Tar-77
4	Zurbatiya *	Tar-02	Tar-13	Tar-77
5	Shihabi *	Tar-02	Tar-13	Tar-77
6	Huwaiza Oil Field	Tar-02	Tar-13	Tar-77

7	Sindbad oil field	Tar-02	Tar-13	Tar-77
8	Fao Oil Field*	Tar-02	Tar-13	Tar-77
9	Jabal Sanam Oil Field*	Tar-02	Tar-13	Tar-77
10	Khidher Al-Mai, S. Khidher Al-Mai, Batin, Jerishan, Dibdibba and S. Rachi Oil Discoveries, and Rachi Field	Tar-02	Tar-13	Tar-74
11	Arabian Gulf *	Tar-02	Tar-77	Tar-160
12	Dima Oil Field	Tar-02	Tar-13	Tar-77
13	Qalat Saleh Area	Tar-02	Tar-13	Tar-77
14	N. Extensions of East Baghdad Oil Field	Tar-04	Tar-13	Tar-77
15	Dhafriya Oil Field	Tar-02	Tar-13	Tar-77
16	Alan Oil Field	Tar-10	Tar-13	Tar-74
17	Sasan Oil Field	Tar-10	Tar-13	Tar-74
18	Pulkhana Oil Field	Tar-04	Tar-13	Tar-77
19	Abu Khaimah and Abu Khaimah North Oil Fields	Tar-02	Tar-13	Tar-74
20	Middle Euphrates (Kifl, West Kifl and Marjan) Fields	Tar-02	Tar-13	Tar-155
21	Tel Hajar (INOC's Tel Hajar-1, Ain Ghazal-1 Oil Discoveries, and may include Abtah-1 Oil Discovery)	Tar-10	Tar-13	Tar-77
22	Khleisia (Khleisia-1 Gas Discovery)	Tar-10	Tar-139	Tar-77
23	Anbar	Tar-10	Tar-13	Tar-77
24	Anah (MPC's Anah-1, Anah-2 Oil Discoveries, and may include INOC's Al-Qaim-1 and Tlul-1 Oil Discoveries)	Tar-03	Tar-10	Tar-13
25	Al-Anz	Tar-03	Tar-10	Tar-13
26	Akashat	Tar-03	Tar-10	Tar-13
27	North Rutbah	Tar-03	Tar-02	Tar-13
28	South Rutbah	Tar-03	Tar-02	Tar-13
29	Tubol	Tar-03	Tar-02	Tar-13
30	Al-Walid	Tar-03	Tar-02	Tar-13
31	Al-Quraynain (INOC's Ekhaider-1 and Ekhaider-2 Oil Discoveries)	Tar-155	Tar-03	Tar-02

* The Iraqi Ministry of Oil did not publish the concession maps of Bid Rounds 5, 5+ and 6. The maps in figures 1 and 2 were compiled by Target Exploration from published research papers and Iraq's Ministry of Oil, Iraq National Oil Company and Iraq Oil Exploration Company publications.

** Target Exploration Consultants Ltd. participated in due diligence reviews of several concession rounds, developed concessions ranking software, and has a multidisciplinary team of associate geoscientists with extensive experience in the petroleum industry of Iraq. For further information contact us via Email Target@targetexploration.com or Telephone: (+44) (0) 207 371 2240.