

The Canadian Embassy in Amman is responsible for Canadian trade activities in Syria. We have developed a good base of contacts in oil and gas including government officials, oil companies, local engineers and agents. The Commercial Section is pleased to assist Canadian exporters seriously interested in the Syrian market to introduce their products and provide ongoing guidance and market advice. Our main concern and strategy is to connect the Canadian exporters of equipment and services to effective local agents and counterparts who are essential to obtain business in the country with SPC and foreign operators alike.

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TUNISIA



Oil and gas reserves dominate Tunisia's energy resource base. Gas reserves with 80 million toe are more than double those of oil which are only 36 million toe. Oil reserves are enough to last about eight years at the current production rate of 4.6 million toe per year.

After ten years of decline, Tunisia's oil industry is finally on the rebound. Output is increasing and new discoveries are encouraging and there are plans to expand exploration in the coming years. The challenge ahead is to uncover substantial hydrocarbon resources, in using new techniques and rethinking drilling strategy. With energy consumption increasing by 5 to 6% a year, Tunisia is pushing the development of natural gas resources as an alternative to oil for domestic use, including electricity generation. At the present time, Tunisia's gas reserves are meeting less than 10% of primary energy requirements.

In this regard, two main projects are currently underway: the Miskar gas field and the World Bank project for the transmission and distribution system linking the north with the south. The Miskar gas field, offshore Tunisia in the Gulf of Gabes, is to be developed by British Gas. The total cost of Miskar's development will be approximately US \$630 million over a three-year period. The development of the field will initially involve drilling 12, installing two offshore platforms linked by a 26 inch diameter pipeline to an offshore gas processing plant. Buying operations for supply of equipment and services will be concentrated at British Gas International based in Houston, Texas. The STEG project financed by the World Bank in the gas sector, as mentioned previously, is estimated at \$100 million. Although this project is already underway towards completion, some opportunities still exist for Canadian firms in the technical assistance area. The products and services for which there is good potential are: vertical and horizontal drilling; pipeline maintenance and inspection equipment; process trains and equipment for oil and gas production; specialized equipment for oil fields and drilling operations and instrumentation, remote sensing, and data analyses.