

# Pressrelease

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## Successful Financial Close for Barka 3 and Sohar 2 Independent Power Projects

**Munich** – BayernLB as Joint Mandated Lead Arranger has assisted the sponsors of the Barka 3 and Sohar 2 independent power projects in Oman to put together a \$ 1,300 million joint financing for 744MW each gas-fired power plants. The projects are financed through a blend of equity, early generation revenues and a senior debt facility.

The consortium of sponsors led by GDF SUEZ holds 46% of the project, the rest being owned respectively by Shikoku Electric Power Company (Yonden) (11%), Sojitz Corporation (11%), both from Japan, and Bahwan Engineering Group (22%) and the Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI) (10%) of Oman.

The bank group comprises: BayernLB, CIC, Credit Agricole, Europe Arab Bank, HSBC, KfW-IPEX, Natixis and Standard Chartered Bank as Joint Mandated Lead Arrangers. Senior debt, involving export credit agencies Euler-Hermes and KEXIM, amounts to about \$ 650 million per project or \$ 1,300 million in total.

The projects are greenfield natural gas-fired power plants which will together add almost 1,500 MW to the Sultanate's current existing capacity of some 3,600 MW. Total investment cost will be around \$ 1,700 million for both projects. Their power output will be sold under two separate 15-year power purchase contracts to the Oman Power and Water Procurement Company (OPWP), who will be the single off-taker. Early power for Barka 3 and Sohar 2 is expected to be commissioned by May 2012 and full completion of the plants by April 2013. A consortium including Germany's Siemens AG was awarded the EPC contract.