

The Abridgment of Iraq's Last (2018) and Current (2023) Licensing Bid Rounds

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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 Palestine District of Baghdad of six new Technical Service Contracts (TSCs) that were harvested by Iraq's 5th licensing bid round of 2018. The 5th licensing round was advertised on the 26th of April 2018 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 TSCs.

Table 1. Blocks offered in the 5th Iraqi Licensing Bid Round on April 26 2018

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

Iraq's 6th (5+) Licensing Bid Round

On 15 May 2023, Iraq's Minister of Oil (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 of the five offered and not awarded in the 5th licensing bid round of 2018, but removed Iraq's only offshore block (Arabian Gulf Block No 11 in the 2018 List) from the offered blocks list of 15/5/2023. The new, 2023 Blocks 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.

Table 2. Blocks offered in Iraq 6th Licensing Bid Round "5+" on May 15 2023.

No.	Blocks 6 th Licensing Bid Round	Governorate	Contract	Comments
4	Zurbatia Area *	Wasit	Exploration (EPSTSC)	No Known Discovery
5	Shihabi Area *	Misan and Wasit	Exploration (EPSTSC)	No Known Discovery
8	Fao Area *	Basra	Exploration (EPSTSC)	Undev. Um Qasr Discovery
9	Jabal Sanam Area *	Basra	Exploration (EPSTSC)	Undev. J. Sanam Discovery
12	Dima Field	Misan	Development (DPSTSC)	Undeveloped New Discovery
13	Qalat Saleh Area	Misan	Exploration (EPSTSC)	No Discovery
14	N. Extensions of East Baghdad Field	Baghdad and Salahuddin	Development (DPSTSC)	New Undeveloped Field
15	Dhafriya Field	Wasit	Development (DPSTSC)	New Undeveloped Field
16	Alan Field	Ninawa	Development (DPSTSC)	Old Undeveloped Field
17	Sasan Field	Ninawa	Development (DPSTSC)	Old Undeveloped Field
18	Pulkhana Field	Salahuddin	Development (DPSTSC)	Old Undeveloped Field
19	Abu Khaimah and Abu Khaimah N. Fields	Al-Muthanna	Development (DPSTSC)	New Undeveloped Fields
20	Middle Euphrates (Kifl, West Kifl and Marjan) Fields	Al-Anbar, Al-Najaf and Karbala	Development (DPSTSC)	New Undev. Discoveries

The added new Blocks in Licensing Bid Round 6 (5+) are mainly areas with discovered and undeveloped fields. They are: Dima Field in Misan Governorate, Qalat Saleh Area in Misan Governorate, East Baghdad Field's northern extensions 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 Field in Al-Muthanna Governorate, and Middle Euphrates Fields (Kifl, West Kifl, and Marjan Fields). Table 2 lists the 13 new blocks, and the map in Figure 1 shows the blocks of LBR 5 and 6 (or otherwise "5+").

Prequalification and Bidding Deadlines

The spokesperson of the Ministry of Oil stated that the Iraqi Ministry of Oil are inviting International and regional Petroleum companies to review the pre-qualification and bid's submitting procedures and conditions set by the Ministry of Oil for participating in this round. However, an unusually short period was given for such endeavours; as interested IOCs and Regional Oil Companies are to submit their applications and bids to the Ministry of Oil via **Petroleum Contracts and Licensing Department (PCLD)** ahead of the **15th of June 2023 bidding deadline**, and that all applications should be emailed to: dq_pclد@oil.gov.iq

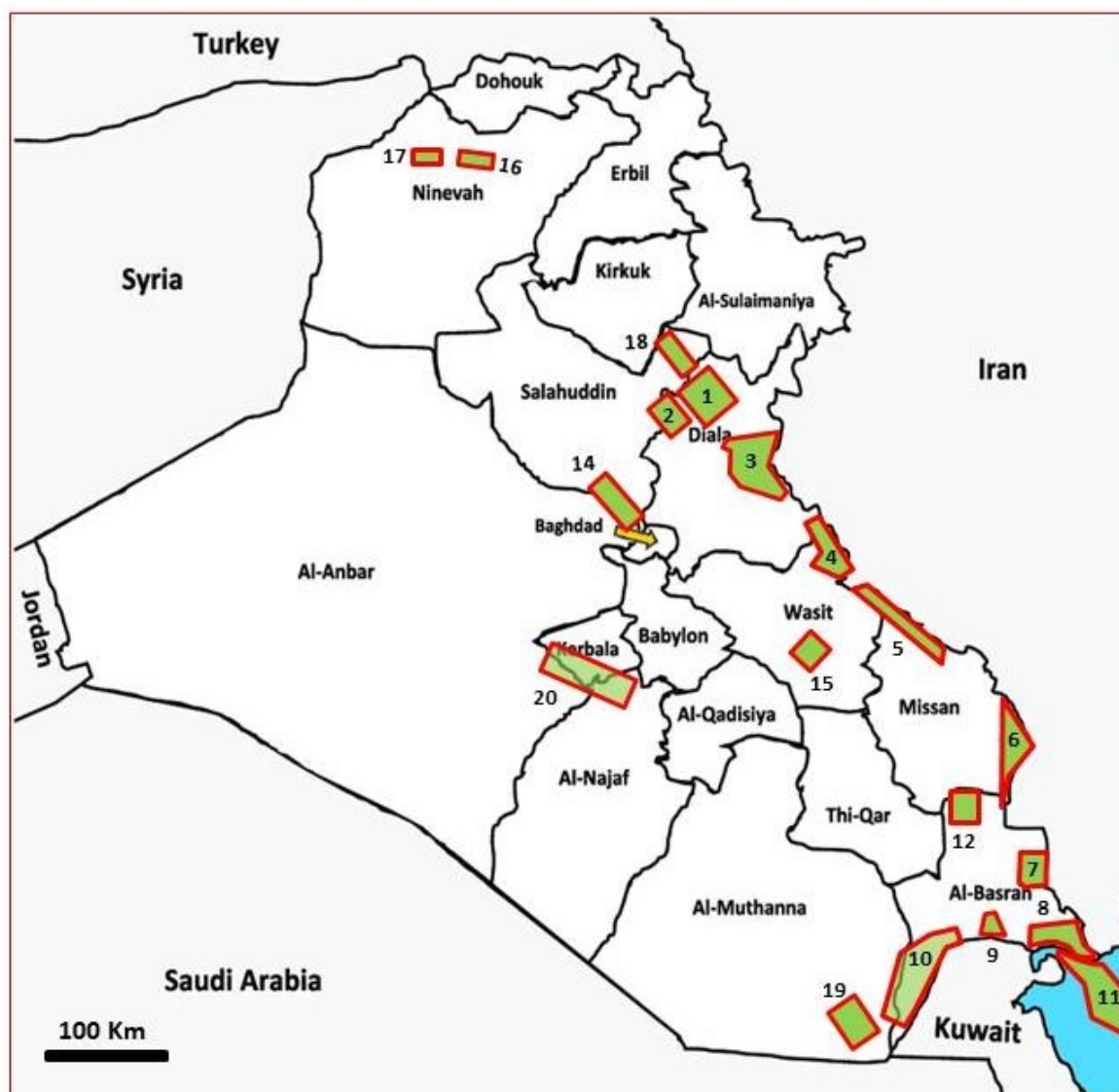


Figure 1. New blocks offered in Iraq 5th and 6th (5+) Licensing Bid Rounds