

# **United Arab Emirates Petrochemicals Report Q4 2016**

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### **Abstracts**

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The UAE's diversification of feedstock with mixed-feed cracker capacity should support competitiveness at a time when external markets are affected by a surge in exports from Saudi Arabia and Iran and diminished import growth in China. Polymer margins have held up in spite of the pressures, but in H116 the UAE faced lower petrochemical product prices, while at the same time its chief rivals are in a better cost position with more competitively priced feedstock.

A higher level of naphtha use in the UAE's petrochemicals industry should enable it to benefit from low crude oil prices, polymer product prices have been falling faster than feedstock costs. The situation is a result of unfavourable trends in export markets, notably in Asia. The expansion of the Borouge facility in Abu Dhabi has merely exacerbated the oversupply situation.

However, on the upside, the Borouge plant overcame technical problems and feedstock disruption that plagued the complex in H116 and by mid-2016 was operating at full capacity. In addition, a 70,000tpa XLPE plant, the final part of the Borouge 3 complex, was set to start up in mid-2016. XLPE has high temperature resistance and is used in plumbing and heating pipes and systems.



#### **Contents**

**BMI Industry View** 

**SWOT** 

Political

**Economic** 

Operational Risk

**Industry Forecast** 

Table: UAE's Petrochemicals Projects

Table: UAE's Petrochemicals Sector - Capacity, 2012-2020 ('000 tpa)

Macroeconomic Forecast

**Economic Analysis** 

Table: Brent Price And UAE Real GDP Growth Forecasts

Industry Risk/Reward Index

MEA Petrochemicals Risk/Reward Index

Table: MEA Petrochemicals Risk/Reward Index - Q4 2016

**UAE Petrochemicals Risk/Reward Index** 

Market Overview

Table: The UAE's Petrochemicals Sector - Cracker Capacity, 2012-2020 ('000 tpa)

**Industry Trends And Developments** 

Fertiliser

Table: Major UAE Oil And Gas Concessions

Company Profile

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)

Abu Dhabi Polymers (Borouge)

Regional Overview

Middle East And Africa Overview

Global Industry Overview

**Demographic Forecast** 

Demographic Outlook

Table: Population Headline Indicators (United Arab Emirates 1990-2025)

Table: Key Population Ratios (United Arab Emirates 1990-2025)

Table: Urban/Rural Population & Life Expectancy (United Arab Emirates 1990-2025)

Table: Population By Age Group (United Arab Emirates 1990-2025)

Table: Population By Age Group % (United Arab Emirates 1990-2025)

Glossary

Table: Glossary Of Petrochemicals Terms

Methodology

**Industry Forecast Methodology** 



Risk/Reward Index Methodology

Table: Petrochemicals Risk/Reward Index Indicators

Table: Weighting Of Indicators



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