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# Saudi NEOM Joint Venture Reportedly Working With Lizard On \$5B Hydrogen Project

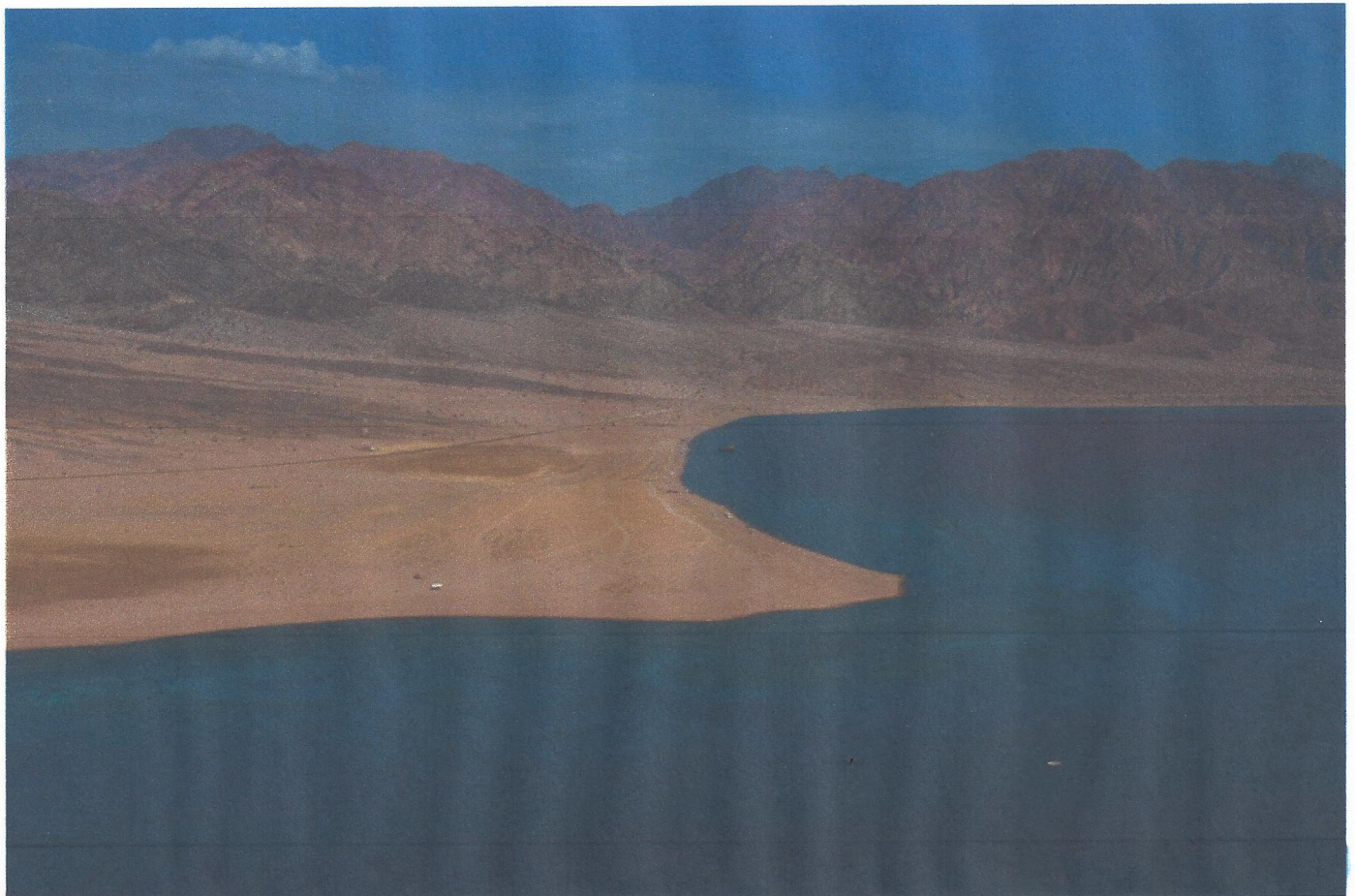


By **Sumantra Das** Forbes Middle East Staff Jan 14, 2021, 10:22 AM

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The world's largest green hydrogen project will be based in NEOM, in the northwest corner of Saudi Arabia. Image by NEOM.com

**U**S financial firm Lazard has been reportedly hired by the joint venture comprising Air Products, ACWA Power, and NEOM to advise them on a planned \$5 billion iconic green hydrogen project in the NEOM high-tech business zone in Saudi Arabia.

The firm has already initiated the process with several banks to see their willingness to invest in the project, a Reuters report said. Under Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia is planning to diversify its economy into the non-oil sector.

## Key points

- The world's largest green hydrogen project, equally owned by the three partners, will be based in NEOM in the northwest corner of Saudi Arabia.
- Considered a new model for sustainable living, the new venture will produce green ammonia for export to global markets.
- The new facility will supply 650 tons of carbon-free hydrogen per day for transportation globally, and save the world three million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.
- The joint venture project is the first partnership for NEOM with leading international and national partners in the renewable energy field.
- It will include the innovative integration of more than four gigawatts of renewable power from solar, wind, and storage and produce 650 tons of hydrogen per day by electrolysis, using ThyssenKrupp technology.
- It will use Air Products technology to produce nitrogen by air separation and produce 1.2 million tons of green ammonia per year using Haldor Topsoe technology.
- The project is scheduled to be onstream in 2025.
- Air Products will be the exclusive off-taker of the green ammonia, which intends to transport around the world to produce green hydrogen for the transportation market.

## Key background

Saudi's Prince Mohammed in 2017 announced the NEOM development project, which envisages the high tech development of 26,500-square-km (10,230-square-

mile) on the Red Sea with several zones, including an industrial and logistics areas, planned for completion in 2025.

The project is expected to create 380,000 jobs and contribute 180 billion riyals (\$48 billion) to the kingdom's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.

Construction is expected to start in the first quarter of 2021 and will be able to house one million residents by 2030.

Hit by low oil prices, world's largest oil exporter is likely to borrow money from the international markets to plug the budget deficit.

The Saudi government also plans to enrich its sovereign wealth fund Public Investment Fund (PIF) with liquidity to fund big-time projects in the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia

NEOM

Saudi Vision 2030

Green Hydrogen



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Sumantra Das is an Online Reporter at Forbes Middle East. With nearly two decades of working experience, he has written articles on business, infrastructure and financial issues.

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