

Profiles of oil and gas importers



Chairman Abdul Razzak El Hajjeh

Arabian Petroleum Company (APEC). As part of the Hajjeh Group, APEC imports, stores, and distributes oil and gas products. It manages over 100 gas stations in the North. It has five petroleum storage tanks with a maximum capacity of 25,000 tons for petroleum, one sea berth, two sea lines for discharge, and one loading facility. APEC has one LPG sphere storage tank with a capacity of 2,250 tons and 16 cylindrical tanks with a capacity of 1,800 tons. The company was established in 1985, and has a staff of 75. It is part owner of Eco Gas and is sister company of Nord Gaz, a gas importer. Eco Gas is a distribution and storage facility serving three LPG categories: Door to door, bulk, and propane. It has three storage tanks with a capacity of 350 tons, and a loading facility for distribution with a capacity of 5,000 gas bottles per day.



Mediterranean Petroleum Company (MPC).

Established in the 1930s, MPC is owned by BB Energy, which is owned by the Bassatne family. The company, which has over 60 employees, runs its local oil distribution operations through Hypco, which has two terminals, one in Antelias and another in Jiyeh, with a storage capacity of 82 million liters. The storage facilities are used for asphalt, gasoline, gas oil, fuel oil and LPG. Businesses operating at Hypco's gas stations include SNAP convenience store, as well as Liban Post, Cash United, National Bakeries, and OMT. Hypco is a sister company of Cogico, which is jointly owned by the Jumblatt family. Cogico was established in 1986 with the goal of importing and distributing oil products. Cogico has a network of 160 gas stations operating across the market. As part of its expansion plan, Cogico bought local lube oil importer Levant Oil a few years ago.



Chairman Bachir Bassatne



Chairman Michel Issa

IPT. Michel Issa kicked off the business by building a gas station in 1975 in his hometown, Amchit. "It was a challenge to choose such a business and in a rural area where there were very few vehicles," said Zakhia Issa, board member and Michel's son. Everyone opposed his plans, but he was not deterred. After a while, he rented another gas station, and then built a third station. The company made some administrative changes in the early '90s, when Issa separated from partners. IPT expanded its fleet, acquired new stations in Jbeil, and improved operations at the terminal until 2008. "It was a natural decision to expand our presence in parallel with rebranding the company," Issa said. The company also instituted corporate governance, Issa recalls, describing it as "a major challenge for us to change the way did business." IPT specializes in the import and storage of petroleum products including gasoline, gas oil, diesel oil, LPG, and lubricants. IPT boasts a network of 35 fully owned gas stations that are managed by the company, and has a chain of more than 145 franchised stations. Its services include Bon Appétit convenience stores, McDonald's restaurants, and Mountain Mudd Espresso drive-thru kiosks. The group holding now includes seven companies. IPT has gasoline and diesel oil tanks in Amchit, LPG facilities in Hosrayel, lubes warehouses in Amchit and Halat, and an equipment warehouse in Amchit. The gasoline and diesel oil storage facility in Amchit has a storage capacity to 30,000 tons. In 2011, IPT partnered with Total, which became its exclusive supplier of oil products and six years later, it launched the fuel additive Quantum.



The Coral Oil Company. In 2016, and as part of its expansion plan, the A. Yamine Group acquired The Coral Oil Company. The company is an importer, supplier, and distributor of petroleum products such as fuel, diesel, gas oil, Jet A1, and lubes and chemicals to wholesale, retail and its network of 238 stations covering the market. It is also a licensed marketer of refueling and related services to aircraft at Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport. The Coral Oil Company stores imported products in its Dora terminal. Tankers discharge products through several sea lines into 20 renovated tanks with a total capacity of around 60,000 tons. The company has around 140 employees. It is actively looking for growth opportunities across a diverse range of business sectors, and is launching a new identity and logo.



General Manager Antonio Yamine