

Fact sheet – Qatalum

Based on industrial activities in Qatar since 1969, Hydro was in 2004 invited to participate in a joint venture, Qatar Aluminum Company (Qatalum) together with Qatar Petroleum to produce aluminum metal. A final agreement was signed in 2007 and the plant came into operation in 2010. Qatalum was developed as a 50/50 partnership between Hydro and Qatar Petroleum.

Qatalum has a current nameplate capacity of primary aluminium of 636,000 metric tons and casthouse capacity of 664,000 metric tons. The company has about 1,100 employees, of which the large majority are highly qualified migrant workers. These are employed on internationally competitive conditions. Qatar has a clear ambition to increase the share of Qataris in the workforce. This is also valid to Qatalum.

Hydro's Projects organization was the operator during the construction phase, with more than 30,000 contractor workers at the peak. We built a construction workers' village for 10,000 residents, setting a new standard in Qatar for living quarters of migrant workers. There was one fatal accident during the project phase, which was – according to local and Hydro rules – investigated by the authorities as well as by Hydro. Apart from this, the safety results at Qatalum are very good compared to Hydro as well as the industry in general.

As unions are only allowed for Qatari citizens in Qatar, it is important to Qatalum and Hydro to find other means to contain a good dialogue with employees. This includes dedicated health and safety committees with employee representatives elected by their peers, as well as management representatives.

The Norwegian Guarantee Institute for Export Credits (GIEK) has performed two corporate responsibility reviews at Qatalum, most lately in April 2019 when the main topic related to working conditions for employees as well as contractor workers. Findings are followed up by Qatalum and its owners through the board of directors.

Qatalum uses Hydro's enhanced HAL 300 technology, the same as in Sunndal, Norway, with an energy consumption of about 13.5 kWh/kg aluminium compared to a global average of about 14 kWh/kg aluminium. The electricity source is natural gas. Annual greenhouse gas emissions from Qatalum is about 4.8 million tons including total emissions from power generation.

In 2018, the Qatar Petroleum ownership in Qatalum was listed on the Qatar stock exchange as Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Company (QAMCO). Qatar Petroleum hold 51 percent in QAMCO, while Hydro still holds 50 percent of the shares in Qatalum.