Italian firms invited to tap abundant investment opportunities in Qatar

Qatar’s investments in Italy are set to be tripled in the next four years, following a bilateral agreement reached during the recent visit to Italy by the Qatari minister for diplomatic affairs. The agreement, signed by the Italian foreign minister and his Qatari counterpart, aims to strengthen bilateral relations and boost economic cooperation.

A recent report by the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) highlights the potential for increased trade and investment flows between the two countries. The report notes that Qatar’s investments in Italy have increased significantly in recent years, with a focus on sectors such as energy, construction, and infrastructure.

The report also emphasizes the importance of the agreements reached during the recent visit to Italy by the Qatari minister for diplomatic affairs. These agreements cover a range of areas, including trade, investment, and the promotion of cultural and educational exchanges.

The QCCI report recommends that Italian companies take advantage of the opportunities offered by Qatar’s strong economic growth and the large-scale projects underway in the country. This includes the development of new infrastructure, the expansion of the energy sector, and the growth of the financial services industry.

Among the key areas identified for potential investment are renewable energy, construction, and real estate. The report notes that Qatar is a leader in the development of sustainable energy solutions and is looking to partner with Italian companies to expand these efforts.

Italian firms are encouraged to explore opportunities in Qatar’s growing sectors, such as the construction of new infrastructure, the expansion of the energy sector, and the growth of the financial services industry. The QCCI report recommends that Italian companies take advantage of the opportunities offered by Qatar’s strong economic growth and the large-scale projects underway in the country.

The report also highlights the importance of cultural and educational exchanges, emphasizing the potential for partnerships in these areas. It recommends that Italian universities and cultural institutions consider partnerships with their Qatari counterparts.

Overall, the QCCI report provides a comprehensive overview of the opportunities available to Italian companies in Qatar and encourages a strong and strategic partnership between the two countries.

Ooredoo bolsters its ICT preparations to support businesses in digital economy

Ooredoo, a key player in the ICT sector, is bolstering its preparations to support businesses in the digital economy. The company is investing in the latest technologies to ensure seamless connectivity and support for businesses in Qatar.

Ooredoo is committed to providing businesses with flexible and cost-effective ICT solutions. The company’s efforts aim to support the digital transformation of Qatar’s economy and help businesses thrive in the digital age.

Ooredoo is focusing on three main areas: connectivity, cloud and data, and digital services. The company is investing in state-of-the-art infrastructure to ensure high-speed connectivity for businesses.

In addition to connectivity, Ooredoo is also focusing on cloud and data services. The company has invested in state-of-the-art data centers to support businesses with their digital needs. Ooredoo’s cloud services offer businesses the flexibility to scale up or down as needed, making it ideal for startups and growing businesses.

Finally, Ooredoo is expanding its digital services to support businesses with their digital needs. The company offers a range of digital solutions, including cybersecurity, e-commerce, and digital transformation services.

Overall, Ooredoo’s efforts are aimed at providing businesses with the tools they need to thrive in the digital economy. The company’s focus on connectivity, cloud and data, and digital services demonstrates its commitment to supporting businesses in Qatar’s digital transformation.

Qatar Hotels Association holds inaugural meeting at QBA headquarters

The newly-established Qatar Hotels Association (QHA), which is the umbrella body for Qatar’s hotel industry, held its first meeting at the QBA headquarters in West Bay.

The meeting was attended by over 25 hotels, which are members of the association. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the association’s future plans and objectives.

The meeting was attended by over 25 hotels, which are members of the association. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the association’s future plans and objectives.

The meeting was attended by over 25 hotels, which are members of the association. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the association’s future plans and objectives.
**QHA is unified voice of Qatar hotel industry**

**FivePages**

Al Baker underlined the importance of establishing QHA, saying: "To this day, there are no associations that represent hotel owners in the State of Qatar." The need for such an association is clear in the context of various international conferences and exhibitions. Al Baker said that the establishment of a hotel association will provide QHA the opportunity to participate in specialized domestic and international conferences and exhibitions, helping to obtain insights on trends and regulations concerning the industry. Sheikhat Mohammad bin Thayeb Al-Thani said, "The global health crisis has led to economic restrictions on the hotel sector, created an urgent need to unify the efforts of hotel sector representatives to maximize various initiatives and QHA initiatives."

The hotel industry is one of the most important pillars of the tourism and hospitality industry. Establishing a QHA association would support the success of the hospitality sector and increase its contribution to the economic developments," Al Baker said. QHA is the first leading hotel association in Qatar to be born. It will be the only hotel association in the country, including hotel operating companies and tourism facilities. In addition, QHA aims to be abroad. It also emphasized the importance of developing QHA, especially with the preparation of the upcoming 2022 FIFA World Cup events, and working together with the hotel and hospitality sectors. The founding members also discussed QHA's proposed activities, such as encouraging periodic market research and newsletter to analyze the main economic indicators of the hotel sector and the business environment in Qatar, issuing legal advice, establishing special interest groups to discuss current issues, and working on comparisons with similar organizations in various countries, working to unite common interests for the hotel sector and social events to gather members and sector representatives, attracting more hotels at the national and international levels. Providing hotel property protection services, and issuing economic reports and annual reports. The association also looks to realize an economic report on the hotel sector and the impact of COVID-19, and an analysis of the sector's economic performance, as well as a presentation of recommendations of operational performance of the sector in 2020. The report also included different support packages provided by the hotel association's members, especially in the US, Turkey, and Portugal.

---

**QATAR FUEL**

The Tender Committee invites Tender Submission for the following Service:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tender Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Contractor Name</th>
<th>Tender Closing Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D.R.A.11/19/191/610200001</td>
<td>Construction of Refineries and Production Facilities</td>
<td>Qatar Petroleum Company</td>
<td>30th November 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.R.A.12/19/191/610200002</td>
<td>Installation of Heavy Duty Gas Turbine</td>
<td>Qatar Petroleum Company</td>
<td>30th November 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.R.A.13/19/191/610200003</td>
<td>Construction of Power Plants</td>
<td>Qatar Petroleum Company</td>
<td>30th November 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.R.A.14/19/191/610200004</td>
<td>Refining of Petroleum Products</td>
<td>Qatar Petroleum Company</td>
<td>30th November 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Russia favours further Opec+ output hike in February**

**Dubrovnik (Bosn)**

Russia intends to support a further increase in Opec+ production in this group's meeting next week as members are split on the impact of new US sanctions on consumer demand, and officials familiar with the country's view. At Moscow's behest, a crucial Opec+ crisis meeting is due Friday, which is considered a key to its success. The president has backed the Opec+ policy, and the pressure on Opec+ is expected to persist. The European Union has convened a series of video conferences caused by the discovery of several new sanctions. US sanctions on Russia and the EU are expected to hit the global economy.
US falls further behind Europe in fast-growing ESG market

Financing Clean Energy

Green bond issuance in Europe was 16% higher than in the US this year.

- **Europe**: $230bn
- **US**: $162bn

Impact Investing

- ESG bond issuance in Europe hit an all-time high in 2021, surpassing $230bn.
- Europe has also made significant progress in the area of sustainable debt financing, with green bonds accounting for a larger portion of the overall market.

ESG: Environment, Social, Governance

- EU leads in ESG innovation and implementation, with strict regulations and strong investor base.
- The US, on the other hand, has seen a surge in ESG interest due to growing environmental concerns and regulatory pressures.

ESG Investing

- Europe has established a robust framework for sustainable investments, with various initiatives like the European Green Deal.
- The US, though making strides, still lacks a comprehensive regulatory framework.

Investors and Corporations

- Corporations in Europe are increasingly committed to sustainability goals, with many integrating ESG considerations into their corporate strategies.
- The US is seeing a similar trend, but with a focus more on risk management and regulatory compliance.

Future Prospects

- Both markets are expected to grow significantly in the coming years, with increased investor demand and regulatory support.
- The US could benefit from catching up with Europe's leading position in ESG investing to position itself as a major player in the global sustainability market.
European markets plunge on new virus strain fears

European stocks, options and the pound tumbled worldwide in a swift reprise of March's pandemic panic after authorities reported a new and potentially more contagious virus strain in the United Kingdom.

The S&P 500 sank 4.3% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average 4.9%, with all 11 major US sectors falling. The technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index crashed 5.2%.

AstraZeneca Plc's shares tumbled 15% after the UK recommended against its vaccine for people under 65, and Moderna's shares dropped 13%

European Central Bank president Christine Lagarde said the virus now "seems to be out of control in the United Kingdom, which is the original epicenter of the virus."

The new strain is believed to be spreading faster and could affect global economies, but it is still unclear whether it is more deadly, said Michel Bresson, a Paris-based economist at Capital Economics.

"But the rapid spread of the new strain of the coronavirus fuels more stringent rules in England and a lockdown has been enforced in several countries," said Bresson.

"The virus is still spreading in South Africa, where a new and more contagious strain has been found. This is a major concern for global markets," he added.

The dollar gained against most major currencies, with the yen rising 0.8% to ¥114.75 per US dollar.

Oil prices were down more than 5% as investors braced for a potential drop in demand. Brent crude was at $52.58 per barrel, down $2.84, or 4.98%.

In other news, the US Federal Reserve announced a $385 billion emergency lending facility for small businesses affected by the pandemic. The move was seen as a lifeline for millions of Americans who have lost their jobs.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which was up 0.4% earlier in the day, closed down 453 points, or 1.5%, and the S&P 500 ended down 418 points, or 1.2%.

Gold, seen as a safe haven during times of uncertainty, rose 0.7% to $1,800.70 per ounce.

The Bank of England said it would keep interest rates at a record-low 0.1% and maintain its quantitative easing program, which has injected £800 billion into the economy.

In Japan, the Nikkei 225 fell 1.8% and the Topix index was down 1.7%.

In Germany, the DAX 30 dropped 1.7% as the pound fell to £1.32 per US dollar.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng Index was down 3.5% and the ChiNext Composite Index fell 3.8%.

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index was down 2.9% and the MSCI World Index was down 2.7%.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which was up 0.4% earlier in the day, closed down 453 points, or 1.5%, and the S&P 500 ended down 418 points, or 1.2%.

The dollar gained against most major currencies, with the yen rising 0.8% to ¥114.75 per US dollar.

Oil prices were down more than 5% as investors braced for a potential drop in demand. Brent crude was at $52.58 per barrel, down $2.84, or 4.98%.

In other news, the US Federal Reserve announced a $385 billion emergency lending facility for small businesses affected by the pandemic. The move was seen as a lifeline for millions of Americans who have lost their jobs.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which was up 0.4% earlier in the day, closed down 453 points, or 1.5%, and the S&P 500 ended down 418 points, or 1.2%.

Gold, seen as a safe haven during times of uncertainty, rose 0.7% to $1,800.70 per ounce.

The Bank of England said it would keep interest rates at a record-low 0.1% and maintain its quantitative easing program, which has injected £800 billion into the economy.

In Japan, the Nikkei 225 fell 1.8% and the Topix index was down 1.7%.

In Germany, the DAX 30 dropped 1.7% as the pound fell to £1.32 per US dollar.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng Index was down 3.5% and the ChiNext Composite Index fell 3.8%.

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index was down 2.9% and the MSCI World Index was down 2.7%.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which was up 0.4% earlier in the day, closed down 453 points, or 1.5%, and the S&P 500 ended down 418 points, or 1.2%.

Gold, seen as a safe haven during times of uncertainty, rose 0.7% to $1,800.70 per ounce.

The Bank of England said it would keep interest rates at a record-low 0.1% and maintain its quantitative easing program, which has injected £800 billion into the economy.

In Japan, the Nikkei 225 fell 1.8% and the Topix index was down 1.7%.

In Germany, the DAX 30 dropped 1.7% as the pound fell to £1.32 per US dollar.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng Index was down 3.5% and the ChiNext Composite Index fell 3.8%.
Brexit talks flirt with failure as new deadline blown

EU stocks slide as Brexit talks falter

Stock markets and bond yields pull back as talk of a delay to the trade deal with the US remain.

Asian stocks mixed and pound, oil sink as virus offsets stimulus deals

UK retail sales pick up ahead of January, Christmas plunge feared: CBI

Retail sales saw a rebound in December as stores reopened under new coronavirus restrictions, with a boost to online sales.

EU gives green light to merger of PSA and FCA

The European Union has given the go-ahead to the merger of French carmaker PSA and Italy's Fiat Chrysler.

Brexit talks flirt with failure as new deadline blown

EU stocks slide as Brexit talks falter

Stock markets and bond yields pull back as talk of a delay to the trade deal with the US remain.

Asian stocks mixed and pound, oil sink as virus offsets stimulus deals

UK retail sales pick up ahead of January, Christmas plunge feared: CBI

Retail sales saw a rebound in December as stores reopened under new coronavirus restrictions, with a boost to online sales.
Aspirers innovators urged to apply for QSTP’s XLR8 accelerator programme

A promising opportunity is available for start-ups and entrepreneurs in Qatar and beyond, as the Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP) launches its XLR8 accelerator programme for aspiring innovators. The programme aims to provide a comprehensive support package to selected start-ups, helping them to scale their businesses and achieve commercial success.

QSTP’s XLR8 programme is a unique opportunity for innovators and entrepreneurs to gain access to expert resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities. The programme offers a range of benefits, including access to QSTP’s state-of-the-art facilities, expert mentors, and a network of investors and industry partners.

The programme is open to innovators across a wide range of industries, including but not limited to, renewable energy, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and more. Participants will receive intensive support to develop their business plans, refine their products or services, and explore potential market opportunities.

Applicants are encouraged to apply for the XLR8 programme by visiting the QSTP website and completing the application form. The application process is open for a limited time, and successful applicants will be announced soon.

QSTP is committed to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in Qatar and is dedicated to supporting the growth of the country’s tech ecosystem. With the XLR8 programme, QSTP aims to create a platform for innovators to thrive and contribute to the country’s economic development.

For more information, visit QSTP’s website or contact the team directly for assistance. Don’t miss this opportunity to take your business to the next level with QSTP’s XLR8 accelerator programme.