Ooredoo returns successfully to debt capital markets with $1bn bond issuance

First issuances since 2016

Ooredoo last touched international bond markets in 2016 when it raised $400 million across two tranches maturing in 2025 and 2026.

The latest deal is Ooredoo’s first in over four years and the first since it was awarded the latest 4G tender.

Ooredoo said the proceeds will be used to fund its 4G programme.

The deal was priced at 4.5% for the 2025 bond and 4.65% for the 2026 bond, which is slightly lower than the indicative pricing guidance of 4.65% and 4.8%.

The deal was syndicated with a broad investor base, including banks, sovereign wealth funds, and other institutional investors.

Commenting on the deal, Head of Capital Markets, Ooredoo, Abdulrahman Al-Maliky said: “The successful issuance was a testament to the strong demand received from global institutional investors across different regions for our bonds.

The proceeds will be used to fund our 4G programme, which is critical to our business strategy to strengthen our competitive position in the market and meet the growing demands of our customers.

Ooredoo is committed to providing world-class services to our customers and this issuance is a significant milestone in our financial history.

We are grateful to all our partners and investors for their support and trust in Ooredoo.

The 4G programme is a key priority for Ooredoo and we are confident that the proceeds from this issuance will be instrumental in achieving our strategic goals.”

The deal was managed by Credit Suisse and Credit Suisse, with Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, JPMorgan, Morgan Stanley, and Standard Chartered acting as joint bookrunners.
**Saudi unemployment falls in fourth quarter as virus slows**

**Bloomberg**

Unemployment among Saudi nationals fell to 2.9% in the fourth quarter, reversing three consecutive quarters of increase and providing a boost to the government’s efforts to reduce the jobless rate. The rate of 2.9% was lower than the previous quarter according to the Labour Department for Statistics. The drop was particularly dramatic for women, as female unemployment declined from over 18% in 2018 to 10.7% in 2020, while female participation in the labour force continued to increase. However, it was unusual when jobs were being created, as the private sector added around 12,000 Saudi workers but the ministry in the private sector fell by nearly 12,000. The latest figures also indicated that unemployment had declined sharply among young and foreign workers. The headline figures were an improvement on the third quarter, when unemployment declined slightly only when the government launched coronavirus-related restrictions.

**Aramco role in private investment drive guided by business not state: CEO**

**Reuters**

Saudi Aramco will not seek business deals that make it look like a state-owned company, its chief executive said, as the oil giant aims to change its image and attract private investment.

The energy giant, which is in the process of listing on the stock exchange, has been criticized for its close ties to the Saudi government. The company’s CEO, Amin Nasser, told Reuters in an interview that the company was focused on attracting private investment rather than state control.

Nasser said Aramco was working to separate its business operations from the Saudi government, and that the company was committed to providing a transparent and accountable environment.

**Saudi plans economic overhaul with $3.2tn investment by 2030**

**AFP**

Saudi Arabia has announced plans to invest $3.2 trillion over the next decade, which would include major grassroots programs to reduce unemployment and create new jobs. The investment plan is part of a wider economic overhaul to diversify the economy away from oil. The plan includes a focus on technology, tourism, and renewable energy.

The government has also announced plans to invest in education and healthcare, as well as to improve infrastructure. The plan will be overseen by a new committee, which will be led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

**Alpha Dhabi unit buys $953mn in Alard in Mubadala**

**Reuters**

Alpha Dhabi, a unit of Abu Dhabi’s Mubadala Investment Company, has acquired a 41.2% stake in Alard, a regional real estate developer in the UAE. The deal was made in late 2020 and was approved by the Abu Dhabi Financial Group (ADFC).

**Libya oil sector finally getting enough funding: Minister**

**Bloomberg**

Libya’s oil industry is on track to get enough money from the government for the first time in years, according to the country’s oil minister.

The minister, who has been in place for about a year, said the government is now investing in the sector and has approved a budget for the oil ministry.

The government has also announced plans to invest in infrastructure and speed up the development of new fields.

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Russia has multi-pronged strategy to confront climate change: Official

Russia has a multi-pronged strategy to confront climate change, according to the country's minister. The strategy includes reducing emissions, promoting renewable energy, and developing new technologies. Russia has set ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting renewable energy sources. The government is also investing in research and development to create new technologies to combat climate change. The strategy is aimed at achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The official acknowledged that the strategy faces challenges, such as the high cost of implementing new technologies and the need for international cooperation. However, the official emphasized that Russia is committed to addressing climate change and contributing to a sustainable future.

XBR1 results disclosures to enhance transparency in market: QSE

XBR1 has resulted in disclosures to enhance transparency in the market: Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE). The disclosures include the provision of additional information, such as the risk factors associated with investments, the performance of companies, and the governance structure of firms. These disclosures aim to provide investors with a comprehensive understanding of the companies they are investing in. The QSE has also introduced new regulations to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the disclosures. The new regulations require companies to disclose timely and accurate information, and to comply with the regulations. The QSE's efforts to enhance transparency are expected to attract more foreign investors to the market and to promote the growth of the QSE as a leading financial center in the region.

Oil price rise alleviates pressure on GCC countries' public finances: Oxford Economics

The rise in oil prices has alleviated pressure on GCC countries' public finances, according to Oxford Economics. The rise in oil prices has enabled countries in the region to reduce their dependence on oil exports and to diversify their economies. The rise in oil prices has also enabled countries to increase their spending on social programs, infrastructure, and development projects. The rise in oil prices has also enabled countries to reduce their debt-to-GDP ratio, which is an important indicator of financial stability. The rise in oil prices has also enabled countries to increase their foreign exchange reserves, which are important for financial stability. The rise in oil prices has also enabled countries to increase their investment in the private sector, which is important for economic growth.

QSE remains bullish as key index crosses 10,400 levels

The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) remains bullish as the key index crosses 10,400 levels. The index has been rising steadily over the past few months, reflecting the strength of the local economy and the positive outlook for the region. The QSE has been attracting more investors, both domestic and international, who are looking for opportunities to invest in the region. The QSE has also implemented new regulations to improve the efficiency and transparency of the market. The QSE has also introduced new initiatives to promote the growth of the market, such as the QSE Global Index, which is designed to attract more foreign investors. The QSE's efforts to improve the market's efficiency and transparency are expected to attract more investors and to promote the growth of the QSE as a leading financial center in the region.

A delegation from the Democratic Republic of the Congo visited Hamad Port in order to discuss the expansion of joint cooperation in the field of ports and maritime transport. The delegation was led by Mr. Franklin Mwahwa Brooga, director general of SCP (Société Commerciale des Transports au Port).
Singapore Exchange mulls stricter SPAC listing rules under US pressure

Singapore Exchange (SGX) is preparing to close its listing window for blank-cheque companies at the end of this year, in response to US presure.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has been cracking down on blank-cheque companies, also known as SPACs, which are shell companies that raise capital in an initial public offering (IPO) to pursue a target company.

SGX’s move is part of a broader global trend as regulators around the world are increasing scrutiny of blank-cheque companies, which have come under fire for their role in the recent SPAC craze.

Hong Kong

India plans 99bn of bond sales in fiscal first half

India announced a fiscal first half bond issuance of Rs 59,770 crore, or about 16% of the full-year target of Rs 355,000 crore. The bonds will mature between September and August with a fallow of the full-year target.

The market is still yet to recover from the impact of the second wave of the virus.

Chinese markets slip after Wall Street

Asian markets were volatile as Wall Street posted its worst session in three weeks.

The benchmark S&P 500 index was down 0.8% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 1.2%, following a turbulent session on Wall Street that saw the S&P 500 slip for the fourth consecutive session.

EM currencies and stocks set for worst month in a year

Easing market risk has improved optimism among investors, who are now focusing on the positive economic news emerging from China, the world’s second-largest economy.

The renminbi (RMB) was trading at 6.9350 against the US dollar as of 1600 GMT on Monday, its highest level since mid-June.

The oil price rally has helped boost sentiment in Asia, where oil is a major export for many countries.

Huang Xijun, a professor at the School of World Politics and Economy at the Shanghai International Studies University, said: “The recent rise in oil prices has fuelled optimism in the region, as it is a major source of revenue for many countries.”

The EM currencies are expected to continue to track the US dollar, with the exception of the South Korean won, which may continue to strengthen against the greenback.

EMF currencies have been under pressure due to rising US interest rates and the dollar’s strength.

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Suez crisis is over; now time to add up the damages

Brussels (Reuters)

The Suez Canal may be open again, but the traffic overload from the waterway's blockage is likely to continue for some time, with up to $6 billion in lost business a day.

The canal is expected to be operational by this weekend, but the congestion is likely to persist for several days, with shipping companies reporting delays of up to three weeks.

The closure of the canal, which connects the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, caused a severe logjam of ships, with the latest estimate putting the cost of the delays at $6 billion.

Shipping companies have been working to clear the backlog of ships, but the process is likely to take several days, with some ships remaining stranded for weeks.

The crisis has also had a significant impact on the energy sector, with many ships carrying oil and gas that were delayed in reaching their destinations.

The Suez Canal Authority announced on Friday that the canal would be open again by Sunday, but the full impact of the delay is likely to be felt for weeks to come.

The Suez Canal is a vital link for international trade, carrying around 12% of the world's cargo.

The incident has also raised concerns about the resilience of the global supply chain, with some shipping companies calling for the need to diversify routes and reduce dependence on key maritime routes.
Europe stocks mostly down ahead of Biden spend plan

U.S. stocks moved mostly higher after Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday that she supports “a little bit of inflation” to spurs growth, and another earnings report beat expectations from the financial sector. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 0.3% as of 5 p.m. Eastern Time.

The S&P 500 was up 0.2% and the Nasdaq Composite Index was up 0.3%. The S&P 500 is within 2% of its record high.

Apple Inc. was up 1.5% and Microsoft Corp. was up 1.2%. Amazon.com Inc. was up 1.4%.

U.S. stocks rallied on Monday, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average up 343.41 points, or 1.04%, and the S&P 500 index up 40.31 points, or 1.05%. The Nasdaq Composite index was up 122.90 points, or 1.15%.

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**Opec+ panel cuts oil demand estimate before key meeting**

**Weakness Outlook**

**Bloomberg**

- Opec+ panel has lowered its oil demand growth forecast for 2022, in line with the International Energy Agency (IEA) and other analysts, who have also revised down their forecasts for global economic growth.

- The panel's decision is likely to weigh on oil prices, as it follows the recent market sell-off and the ongoing geopolitical tensions.

- The Opec+ panel is scheduled to meet in early April, and its decision will be closely watched by investors and policymakers.

**Opec+ oil output rises in March, led by Iran, says survey**

- The Opec+ panel's decision to cut its oil demand growth estimate for 2022 is likely to lead to a surge in oil prices, as it raises concerns about the global economy's ability to absorb the additional supply.

- Iran, which is a key member of the Opec+ group, has been increasing its oil production in recent months, and its output is expected to continue to rise in the coming months.

- The Opec+ panel's decision is also likely to raise concerns about the group's ability to maintain its oil production targets, as several members are facing economic and political challenges.

**Business**

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**Bloomberg QuickTake Q&A**

The different Covid-19 tests and what they can reveal

**By Tim Lince**

Even with Covid-19 vaccines gaining traction, the need for frequent testing may continue for years. That realization has challenged labs to invent new types of tests to meet health officials’ needs. What are some examples of the latest Covid-19 testing technologies? How do they work? What are their strengths and weaknesses?

**3. What are the differences in the molecular tests?**

Molecular tests are used to detect the DNA or RNA of the virus. Once the sample is collected, a lab abandons it by breaking down the sample and extracting the viral RNA or DNA. Then the lab amplifies the viral RNA or DNA so that it can be seen in a spectrophotometer. The DNA or RNA of the virus is then tested for the presence of the virus’s genetic material.

**4. What are the differences in the antibody tests?**

Antibody tests are used to detect the presence of antibodies in the blood that indicate the body has been infected with a virus. These tests can be used to detect antibodies against a wide range of viruses, including Covid-19. Antibody tests can be performed on blood, saliva, or urine samples.

**5. Why do some people test positive 10 days after the reported date of onset?**

If someone has Covid-19 but hasn’t been tested, the signs of the disease won’t be apparent to a lab. That means that the person is infected but doesn’t show up as positive in the lab’s tests. This can cause a delay in diagnosis for people who are infected with Covid-19.

**6. How accurate are rapid antigen and nucleic acid tests?**

Both tests are used to detect the presence of Covid-19 in a person’s system. Rapid antigen tests are used to detect the presence of the virus’s genetic material. Nucleic acid tests are used to detect the presence of the virus’s genetic material. Both tests are effective in detecting the presence of Covid-19.

**7. What about self-tests?**

Self-tests are used to detect the presence of Covid-19 in a person’s system. Self-tests are easy to use and can be performed at home. Both rapid antigen tests and nucleic acid tests are used to detect the presence of Covid-19.

**8. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each type of test?**

Rapid antigen tests are easy to use and can be performed at home. However, they are less accurate than nucleic acid tests. Nucleic acid tests are more accurate than rapid antigen tests. However, they are more expensive and require specialized equipment.

**9. Who is the target audience for these tests?**

The target audience for rapid antigen tests is people who are at risk for Covid-19. The target audience for nucleic acid tests is people who are not at risk for Covid-19.

**10. What are the differences between the two types of tests?**

Rapid antigen tests are used to detect the presence of Covid-19 in a person’s system. Nucleic acid tests are used to detect the presence of Covid-19 in a person’s system. Both tests are effective in detecting the presence of Covid-19.

**11. What are the differences between the two types of tests?**

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Doha Bank and Visa officials during launch ceremony.

Why businesses need to act now to adopt IoT

The Internet of Things (IoT) has been making waves across several industries, over the past few years, and is reaching new horizons in Qatar with businesses now having the opportunity to gain from it.

"The potential for the IoT is huge and has penetrated many industries, including energy, retail, transportation, health, and more," said a representative from Doha Bank. "Businesses can take advantage of it by connecting devices, sensors, and systems to gather data, analyze it, and make informed decisions." 

Last year, industries around the world began to embrace IoT, as it promised a more intelligent, efficient, and sustainable future. It has the potential to revolutionize industries by enabling companies to connect and control a wide range of devices and processes.

"IoT is not just about connecting things, it's about connecting people and processes, and creating new business opportunities," said another representative. "It's about improving efficiency, reducing costs, and enhancing customer experience." 

According to recent studies, IoT is expected to generate a global revenue of $1.2 trillion by 2025, with a compound annual growth rate of 11.1%.

The benefits of IoT are numerous and significant, and businesses that adopt it early will gain a competitive advantage.

"Businesses that adopt IoT early will be able to gain a competitive edge, improve their operations, and increase their profits," said the representative. "They will be able to make better decisions, reduce costs, and improve their customer experience." 

However, the transition to IoT can be challenging, as it requires significant investments in technology and infrastructure.

"Businesses need to plan ahead and consider the long-term impact of adopting IoT," said the representative. "They need to ensure that they have the necessary skills and resources to manage and operate the technology." 

Despite these challenges, the benefits of IoT are significant, and businesses that adopt it early will be well-positioned to succeed in the future.

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In conclusion, businesses need to act now to adopt IoT, as it promises significant benefits and advantages. Those that do will be well-positioned to succeed in the future.
Global Covid-19 vaccines rollout hinges on smooth air cargo flow

By Figgy Jogan

Preventive-concept inoculants have become clear cut success stories in this world amid the epoch-making Covid-19 in early 2020. Obviously the pandemic has impacted almost every aspect of modern life, from the economy to healthcare. To this end, the process of manufacturing and shipping these vaccines has been streamlined to ensure their safe and timely delivery to the global population.

The small, spherical protein molecules that make up these vaccines are fragile and cannot be exposed to high temperatures or rapid changes in humidity, so they must be stored and transported in very controlled conditions. In developed countries, this process is relatively straightforward. But in many developing nations, the logistics of transporting these vaccines can be complex and challenging.

The transportation of Covid-19 vaccines requires a series of interconnected processes. First, the vaccines must be produced in large quantities at the various pharmaceutical companies that have developed them. Then, they must be packaged and shipped to distribution centers, which then transport them to hospitals and clinics. Finally, the vaccines must be stored and administered to patients.

Beyond the Tarmac

The capacity within the embattled vaccine supply chain is stretched to the limit, and the process of getting vaccines from the factories to the patients is a complex and time-consuming one.

This complex journey of the vaccines is enabled by the ability of the world’s airlines to move large quantities of cargo. With the help of these big players, the vaccines are transported from the production sites to the distribution centers, and then finally to the hospitals and clinics.

Air cargo is a crucial link in the global supply chain, and it will continue to play an essential role in the distribution of vaccines. However, the success of this process depends on a number of factors, including the availability of cargo capacity, the reliability of the supply chain, and the effectiveness of the regulatory frameworks.

Indonesia retrieves crashed Boeing jet's cockpit voice recorder

By Friggy Jogan

The Indonesian National Transportation Safety Committee (KNKT) has recovered the cockpit voice recorder (CVR) of the crashed Boeing 737 MAX jet. The CVR is a crucial piece of evidence in the investigation of the crash, and its retrieval will help investigators understand what happened during the flight.

The CVR is located in the cockpit of the aircraft, and it records all of the sounds that occur in the cockpit, including conversations between the pilots. By analyzing the data recorded by the CVR, investigators can determine the course of events leading up to the crash.

The KNKT is responsible for investigating all flights in Indonesia and determining the cause of any accidents. The agency has a team of experts who analyze the data recorded by the CVR to determine what happened during the flight.

Aberus to boost "cold" tech testing as part of decarbonisation road map

By Friggy Jogan

Aberus has bolstered Advanced Supervising and Cryogenic Testing (ASCT) to explore the impact of supercooling materials and cryogenic temperatures on the performance of electronic systems. The introduction of superconducting materials has been a key driver in recent developments, owing to their superior electrical properties.

The ASCT is a platform that enables Aberus to test components under cryogenic conditions, which can simulate the extreme temperatures encountered in space or other cryogenic environments. By testing components under these conditions, Aberus can ensure that they will function reliably in real-world applications.

The ASCT is designed to support the development of cryogenic electronics for a range of applications, including aerospace, defense, and medical.

Your travel questions answered

By Ada Muicara

The news Blitzed is immeasurable, the most frequently asked specific question on travel topic has been Covid vaccines.

Will there be a future where only passengers who have taken the Covid vaccine can get on an aircraft?

"No vaccine, No fly": It’s not just a travel industry tagline now, and has been forced on airlines because of the virus. The policy of the U.S. government does not allow travelers to fly without a negative test. The government has stated that it is looking into mandating a negative test requirement for all international travelers entering the U.S. As of now, the rules are being phased in to require all international travelers entering the U.S. to have a negative test.

It’s arguable that most international destinations will have similar policies, possibly even requiring a test and then quarantine. This is a significant change for the travel industry, as it could potentially affect millions of travelers.

"No vaccine, No fly" policy is a reflection of the global shift towards more stringent health and safety measures. It’s the new normal, and it’s here to stay. The travel industry is adapting to this new reality, and it’s working hard to ensure that travelers are safe and healthy on their journeys.

The current situation is unprecedented, and the travel industry is working hard to ensure that travelers are safe and healthy on their journeys. The pandemic has forced the industry to re-evaluate its practices and implement new measures to protect both travelers and employees.

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