



جامعة الشارقة  
UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

# Ο δρόμος των Μηχανικών Ορυκτών Πόρων προς τις χώρες του Αραβικού Κόλπου: Ευκαιρίες, Πλεονεκτήματα και Μειονεκτήματα

***Career opportunities for Mineral Resources Engineers in the Arabian Gulf countries; How to get there, advantages and disadvantages***

Dr. Hamdan Hamdan

Petroleum Geosciences & Remote Sensing

Department of Applied Physics & Astronomy

# Ο ΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΑΒΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΛΠΟΥ

## Summary of Presentation

- My Career path
- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries
- Mining Engineers Job Opportunities in GCC countries
- Advantages and disadvantages in working in GCC countries
- Greek community and Greek Mining Engineers in GCC countries
- Engineering and environmental Geophysical Projects

# Ο ΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΑΒΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΛΠΟΥ

## B.Eng.: Mineral Resources Engineering

Joined in September 1995  
Graduated in February 2002  
(6 years)  
Final Grade 7.08



**My Career path**

# Ο ΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΑΒΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΛΠΟΥ

## Master and PhD in Geophysics

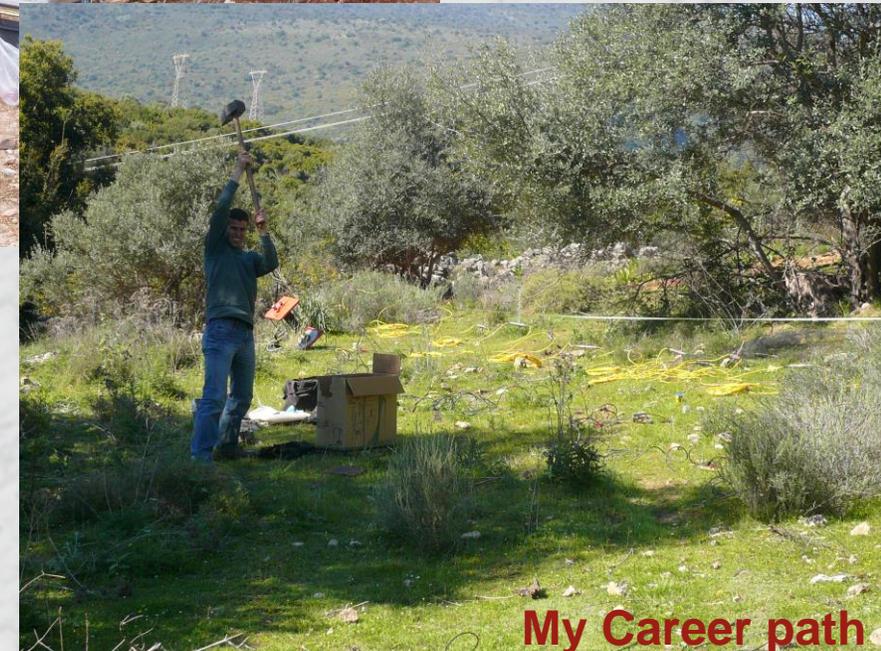


My Career path

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## Master and PhD in Geophysics

Research Associate:  
Geophysical surveys,  
Geophysical data processing  
and interpretation



My Career path

# Ο ΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΑΒΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΛΠΟΥ

## What Now?

Master Degree 2004

PhD Degree 2010



My Career path

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Seeking for Work

Exceeded 150 applications  
world wide

1	Company	Job	Date	e-mail
2	<b>Abdel-Latif A.Qahwash</b>	open	15-Oct	<a href="mailto:aqahwash@kfupm.edu.sa">aqahwash@kfupm.edu.sa</a>
3	Abdullatif Al-Shhail	open	15-Oct	<a href="mailto:ashuhail@kfupm.edu.sa">ashuhail@kfupm.edu.sa</a>
4	abdulwahab abokhodair	open	15-Oct	<a href="mailto:akwahab@kfupm.edu.sa">akwahab@kfupm.edu.sa</a>
5	Abu Dhabi National energy Company	open	24-Aug	<a href="mailto:career@taqaglobal.com">career@taqaglobal.com</a>
6	academickeys	job search engine	6/2/2010	<a href="mailto:mithrandir76_porcupinetree">mithrandir76_porcupinetree</a>
7	<b>Aces corp Amman</b>	open	15-Oct	<a href="mailto:acescorp@aces-int.com">acescorp@aces-int.com</a>
8	<b>Aces corp Aqaba</b>	open	15-Oct	<a href="mailto:acesaqaba@aces-int.com">acesaqaba@aces-int.com</a>
9	<b>Aces corp Headquarter</b>	open	15-Oct	<a href="mailto:acescorp@aces-int.com">acescorp@aces-int.com</a>
10	<b>Aces Dubai</b>	open	15-Oct	<a href="mailto:acesdubai@aces-int.com">acesdubai@aces-int.com</a>
11	<b>Al masarat for construction</b>	open	3-Dec	<a href="mailto:info@almasarat.net">info@almasarat.net</a>
12	al rajihi holding	open	5/19/2010	<a href="mailto:info@alrajhi-holding.com">info@alrajhi-holding.com</a>
13	AlJaber Group	open	3-Dec	through their site
14	All aces offices	open	15-Oct	<a href="#">all emails</a>
15	AMC Consultants Pty Ltd	Mining engineer - Adelaid	1-Sep	Through careerone
16	AMC Consultants Pty Ltd	Mining engineer - openpet-Perth	1-Sep	Through careerone
17	AMC Consultants Pty Ltd	open	1-Sep	<a href="mailto:careers@amcconsultants.com.au">careers@amcconsultants.com.au</a>
18	Andam International LLC	Open	3/19/2012	<a href="mailto:ian.unsworth@ailgroup.org/venu.seshan">ian.unsworth@ailgroup.org/venu.seshan</a>
19	Anglo Technicl Recruitment	Geophysicist	2-Dec	<a href="mailto:andrew.edge@anglo.com">andrew.edge@anglo.com</a>
20	ARAMCO	Exploration System Analyst	6/24/2010	<a href="mailto:donotreply@trm.brassring.com">donotreply@trm.brassring.com</a>
21	ARKex	Processing Geophysicist	17-Jan	<a href="mailto:nikki.clark@arkex.com">nikki.clark@arkex.com</a>
22	ASC	Geophysicist	27/3/2012	<a href="mailto:asc12031@earthworks-jobs.com">asc12031@earthworks-jobs.com</a>
23	<b>Bayt.com</b>	job search engine	5/20/2010	<a href="mailto:mithrandir76_porcupinetree">mithrandir76_porcupinetree</a>
24	BBM Tecnolohies	Junior geophysicist	17-Sep	Through careerone
25	BP	open	4-Oct	<a href="mailto:hamdan@mred_porcupinetree">hamdan@mred_porcupinetree</a>
26	BP/Aberdeen/Dyce	Geophysicist	4-Oct	bp site
27	Brisbane, QLD	Geophysicist	31-Aug	Through careerone
28	Brisbane, QLD	Geophysicist - Brisbane	31-Aug	through site
29	careerbuilder	job search engine	6/7/2010	<a href="mailto:hamdan@mred.tuc.gr_porcupinetree">hamdan@mred.tuc.gr_porcupinetree</a>
30	careerone.com	job search engine	31-Aug	<a href="mailto:hamdan@mred_Porcupinetree@6">hamdan@mred_Porcupinetree@6</a>
31	Catalyst Recruitment Ltd.	Geophysicist -- Auckland	28-Oct	Through icerecruits
32	CGGVertils	job search engine	30-Sep	<a href="mailto:hamdan@mred_porcupinetree">hamdan@mred_porcupinetree</a>
33	Chevron	open/company	28-Sep	<a href="mailto:hamdan@mred_porcupinetree7">hamdan@mred_porcupinetree7</a>
34	Chevron	Senior Geophysical Researcher - Electromagnetic Specia	28-Sep	geologist

My Career path

# Ο ΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΑΒΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΛΠΟΥ

## First job offer

Geoconsult

Stayed only for 3 months



جيوكونسلت  
Geoconsult  
Soil Investigation & Material Testing

ABU DHABI	DUBAI
T +971 2 4455436	T +971 4 3408544
F +971 2 4435996	F +971 4 3408543
POBox 45101	POBox 24681

www.geoconuae.com



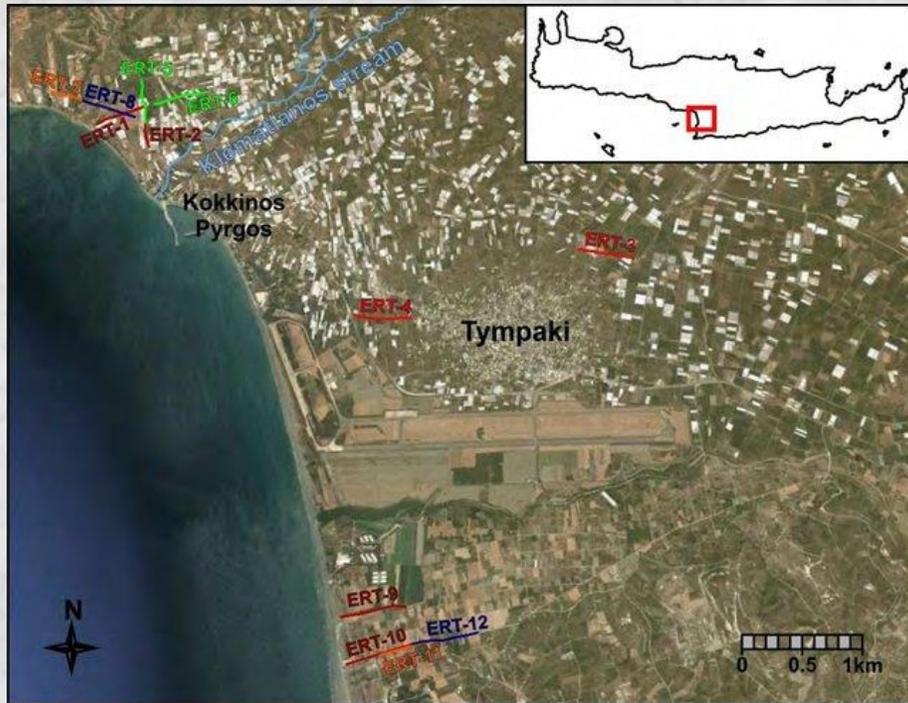
My Career path

# Ο ΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΑΒΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΛΠΟΥ

Seeking for Work again

And applications world wide focusing on UAE

Back to TUC (Postdoc)



1	Company	Job	Date	e-mail
2	Abdel-Latif A.Qahwash	open	15-Oct	<a href="mailto:aqahwash@kfupm.edu.sa">aqahwash@kfupm.edu.sa</a>
3	Abdullatif Al-Shihail	open	15-Oct	<a href="mailto:ashuhail@kfupm.edu.sa">ashuhail@kfupm.edu.sa</a>
4	abduwahab abokhodair	open	15-Oct	<a href="mailto:akwahab@kfupm.edu.sa">akwahab@kfupm.edu.sa</a>
5	Abu Dhabi National energy Company	open	24-Aug	<a href="mailto:career@taqaglobal.com">career@taqaglobal.com</a>
6	academickeys	job search engine	6/2/2010	<a href="mailto:mithrandir76_porcupinetree">mithrandir76_porcupinetree</a>
7	Aces corp Amman	open	15-Oct	<a href="mailto:acescorp@aces-int.com">acescorp@aces-int.com</a>
8	Aces corp Aqaba	open	15-Oct	<a href="mailto:acesaqaba@aces-int.com">acesaqaba@aces-int.com</a>
9	Aces corp Headquarter	open	15-Oct	<a href="mailto:acescorp@aces-int.com">acescorp@aces-int.com</a>
10	Aces Dubai	open	15-Oct	<a href="mailto:acesdubai@aces-int.com">acesdubai@aces-int.com</a>
11	Al masarat for construction	open	3-Dec	<a href="mailto:info@almasarat.net">info@almasarat.net</a>
12	al rajihi holding	open	5/19/2010	<a href="mailto:info@alrajhi-holding.com">info@alrajhi-holding.com</a>
13	AlJaber Group	open	3-Dec	through their site
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17	AMC Consultants Pty Ltd	open	1-Sep	<a href="mailto:careers@amcconsultants.com.au">careers@amcconsultants.com.au</a>
18	Andam International LLc	Open	3/19/2012	<a href="mailto:ian.unsworth@aigroup.org/venu.seshan">ian.unsworth@aigroup.org/venu.seshan</a>
19	Anglo Technicl Recruitment	Geophysicist	2-Dec	<a href="mailto:andrew.edge@anglo.com">andrew.edge@anglo.com</a>
20	ARAMCO	Exploration System Analyst	6/24/2010	<a href="mailto:donotreply@trm.brassring.com">donotreply@trm.brassring.com</a>
21	ARKex	Processing Geophysicist	17-Jan	<a href="mailto:nikki.clark@arkex.com">nikki.clark@arkex.com</a>
22	ASC	Geophysicist	27/3/2012	<a href="mailto:asc12031@earthworks-jobs.com">asc12031@earthworks-jobs.com</a>
23	Bayt.com	job search engine	5/20/2010	<a href="mailto:mithrandir76_porcupinetree">mithrandir76_porcupinetree</a>
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30	careerone.com	job search engine	31-Aug	<a href="mailto:hamdan@mred_Porcupinetree@6">hamdan@mred_Porcupinetree@6</a>
31	Catalyst Recruitment Ltd.	Geophysicist -- Auckland	28-Oct	Through icerecruits
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33	Chevron	open/company	28-Sep	<a href="mailto:hamdan@mred_porcupinetree7">hamdan@mred/ porcupinetree7</a>
34	Chevron	Senior Geophysical Researcher - Electromagnetic Specia	28-Sep	geologist

Ready Sheet1 Sheet2 Sheet3 +

My Career path

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## First real job outside Academia

Arab Center for Engineering Studies  
(ACES) –KSA-Riyadh, Jeddah and  
Khobar

Stayed for 2.5 years

Head of Geophysical Department  
After 2 years: Around 10 employees  
Nowadays around 45 employees



My Career path

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## First real job outside Academia

### Riyadh Metro Project

Six metro lines  
176 kilometers,  
85 stations.

Estimated budget: \$22.5 billion  
Expected to open to passengers in  
First Quarter of 2022 .

Source: <http://riyadhmetro.sa/>

Athens Metro: Three lines  
85 kms  
61 stations

Source: <https://transportwiki.com/>



Source: <https://ro.linkedin.com/company/bacs-riyadh-metro-project>

**My Career path**

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## Moving to UAE

Arab Center for Engineering Studies (ACES) – Technical Manager of the Geophysical department  
Stayed for almost 3 years



My Career path

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## Moving to UAE

Many Big and prestigious projects:



Source: <https://www.npc.ae/>

Emiratis Housing Development



Source: <https://www.kellerma.com/>

Doha Metro Project

**My Career path**

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## Back to Academia

University of Sharjah



Petroleum Geosciences and  
Remote Sensing Program



My Career path

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## Back to Academia

### Petroleum Geosciences and Remote Sensing Program



My Career path

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## Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries

### The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

#### ➤ Saudi Arabia

- Population: 34 Million, area: 2,149,690 km<sup>2</sup>

#### ➤ Oman

- Population: 5 Million, area: 309,500 km<sup>2</sup>

#### ➤ UAE

- Population: 10 Million, area: 83,600 km<sup>2</sup>

#### ➤ Qatar

- Population: 3 Million, area: 11,581 km<sup>2</sup>

#### ➤ Bahrain

- Population: 1.5 Million, area: 785.08 km<sup>2</sup>



Source: [info.stratfor.com/twlg](http://info.stratfor.com/twlg)

Source: Wikipedia.com

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## Mining Engineers Job Opportunities in GCC countries

- Oil Industry
- Mining Industry
- Construction Industry
- Energy Transition
- Environmental agencies
- Space Industry (Geology of planets)
- Academia



Source: <https://www.irena.org/energytransition>

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## Mining Engineers Job Opportunities in GCC countries

### Oil Industry

- Petroleum Exploration
  - Mostly International companies
- Petroleum engineering
  - ARMCO
  - ADNOC, ENOC, SNOC
  - Qatar Petroleum
  - ENOC



King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra)

Source: <https://www.aramcolife.com/>

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## Mining Engineers Job Opportunities in GCC countries

### Mining Industry

- Relatively new field
- The mining sector of Saudi Arabia created about 250 thousand jobs.
- Mainly Gold, Silver, copper, zinc and aluminum.
- Different minerals and quarrying for cement
- Refining companies as well specially for aluminum
  - Emirates Global Aluminium, Aluminium Bahrain, Qatar Aluminium, Sohar aluminium,, Maa'den Aluminium,.



Source: <https://www.statista.com>

Source: <https://www.argaam.com/>

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## Mining Engineers Job Opportunities in GCC countries

### Construction Industry

- Mainly in the field of geotechnical engineering
  - Soil investigation and foundation recommendations
  - Material testing
  - Quality and safety control
  - Engineering Geophysics
- Construction and Consulting Companies, specially Greek Companies
  - Archirodon, Salfo and associates, CCC.
- Dredging and offshore Companies



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/ArabCenterForEngineeringStudiesAces/>



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## Mining Engineers Job Opportunities in GCC countries

### Energy Transition

- UAE Energy Strategy 2050
- increase the contribution of clean energy in the total energy mix from 25 per cent to 50 per cent by 2050 (Source: <https://gulfnews.com/>)
- the UAE's energy mix will include clean coal, gas, nuclear energy, solar and wind power, and biofuels.



Source: <https://gulfnews.com/>

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## Mining Engineers Job Opportunities in GCC countries

### Energy Transition

- The Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 aims to generate 75% of its total power output from clean energy by 2050.
- Mohammad Bin Rashid Solar Park project
- 5,000 MW will be generated from photovoltaic and Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) technologies.



Source: <https://www.mbrsic.ae/>

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## Mining Engineers Job Opportunities in GCC countries

### Energy Transition

- World's biggest solar power plant project in Abu Dhabi
- Al Dhafra Solar Project, Abu Dhabi
- 2 GW will be generated from photovoltaic solar pannels
- The plant will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 2.4 million metric tonnes annually - equivalent to taking out 470,000 cars from the roads.



Source: WAM/Gulf News archives

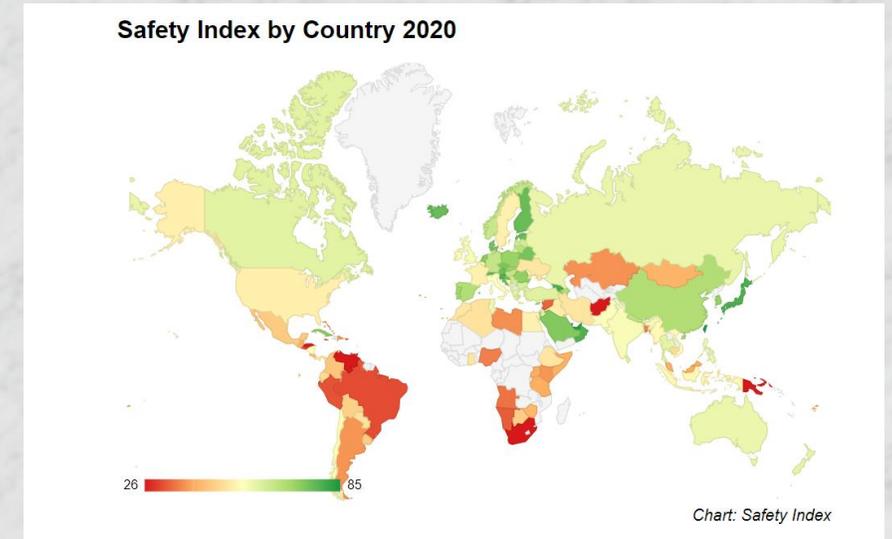
Source: <https://gulfnews.com/>

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## Advantages and Disadvantages

### Advantages:

- Safety
- High Salary Packages and other benefits for qualified professionals
- Good life quality
- Not very far with direct flights to and from Greece most of the times.
- Multicultural environment
- Life style
- Encouraging for starting your own business
- Global Exposure and Professional experience
- Good professional Environment for women



Source: [https://www.numbeo.com/crime/rankings\\_by\\_country](https://www.numbeo.com/crime/rankings_by_country)

# Ο ΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΑΒΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΛΠΟΥ

## Advantages and Disadvantages

### Disadvantages:

- Climate conditions
- Cultural differences
- Lifestyle
- Away from home and friends
- Greek schools not available in most GCC countries
- No direct Flights to Greece in some countries

# Ο ΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΑΒΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΛΠΟΥ

## Greek community and Greek Mining Engineers in GCC countries

- Increase increase in the number of Greek professionals migrating to the UAE and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region for employment due to the economic recession in Greece (Source: Emfasis Foundation, [gulfnews.com/](http://gulfnews.com/), 2014)
- Majority of whom reside in Dubai and work in banking and finance, construction, health, and hospitality sectors.
- Probably more than 8000 Greek in UAE (Source: [www.protothema.gr/](http://www.protothema.gr/), 2018)
- Active Greek community in UAE, Greek School, Greek restaurants.



Source: <https://gulfgreeks.com/>

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## Greek community and Greek Mining Engineers in GCC countries

### Other Mineral Resources Engineers in GCC



**Ignatios Fotiou**

Quality Manager in Project at Siemens

Jun 2009 - Aug 2010 · 1 yr 3 mos

Trikala, Greece

E-65 Central Greece Motorway (project budget €1.2bn)



**Archirodon Construction (Overseas) Co. S.A.**

2 yrs 8 mos

- **Site Engineer**

Jun 2008 - May 2009 · 1 yr

Taweela, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Khalifa Port Industrial Zone (KPIZ) project, phase 1 (project budget \$1.5bn)

- **Blasting Engineer and Quality Assurance / Quality Control**

Oct 2006 - May 2008 · 1 yr 8 mos

Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates



**Mike Pitharoulis**

Superintendent - Marine Works

### Experience



**Superintendent - Marine Works**

NBHH (United Arab Emirates)

Sep 2016 - Mar 2019 · 2 yrs 7 mos

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



**Site Superintendent**

National Marine Dredging Company

May 2011 - Aug 2016 · 5 yrs 4 mos

Abu Dhabi



**Superintendent - Dredging and earth moving**

Boskalis BV Dredging Contractors

2007 - 2010 · 3 yrs

International



**Monteur**

Gispen International

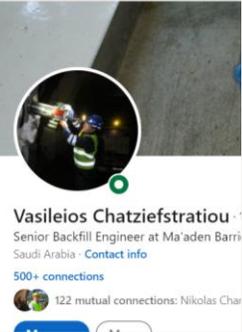
Aug 2005 - Nov 2006 · 1 yr 4 mos

Culemborg

# Ο ΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΑΒΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΛΠΟΥ

## Greek community and Greek Mining Engineers in GCC countries

### Other Mineral Resources Engineers in GCC



**Vasileios Chatziefstratiou**  
Senior Backfill Engineer at Ma'aden Barrick  
Saudi Arabia · [Contact info](#)  
500+ connections  
122 mutual connections: Nikolas Char

#### Experience

- Ma'aden Barrick**  
Senior Backfill Engineer  
Ma'aden Barrick Copper Company · Full-time  
Jul 2021 - Present · 9 mos  
Saudi Arabia
- CENTRAL ASIA METALS PLC**  
Full-time · 1 yr 5 mos
- Capital Projects Engineer (Backfill & Dry Stacking)**  
Nov 2020 - Jul 2021 · 9 mos  
Makedonska Kamenica, Eastern, North Macedonia
  - Project Manager of the U/G Reticulation Installation and Tailings Dry Stacking landform projects
  - Completed tendering and procurement for 8km of paste reticulation including pipes, couplings, ...see more
- Backfill Engineer**  
Mar 2020 - Oct 2020 · 8 mos  
Makedonska Kamenica, Eastern, North Macedonia
  - Appointed Backfill Engineer of the Sasa Mine in North Macedonia
  - Essential part of the Capital Projects Team working in switching from Sub-level Caving to Cut and ...see more
- Eldorado Gold Corporation (Hellas Gold S.A.)**  
6 yrs 9 mos
  - Backfill Engineer**  
Mar 2018 - Feb 2020 · 2 yrs  
Olympias Mine, Olympiada, Greece



**Nikolaos Oikonomou**

**Title:** Associate Professor  
**Office No:** 2075 (2nd Floor- Extension building)  
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**Education:** Ph.D. (Technical Univ. Of Crete, 2010, Greece)

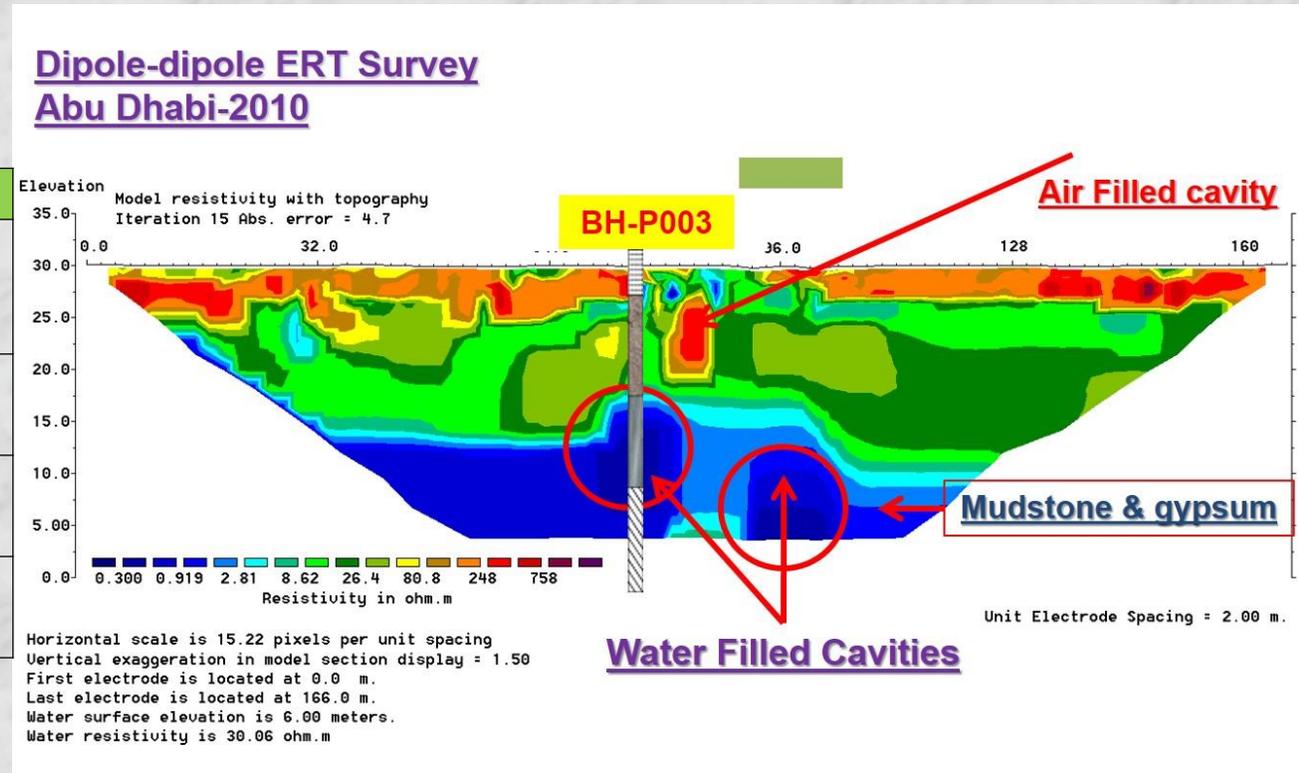


# Ο ΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΑΒΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΛΠΟΥ

## Engineering and environmental Geophysical Projects

### ➤ Cavity detection

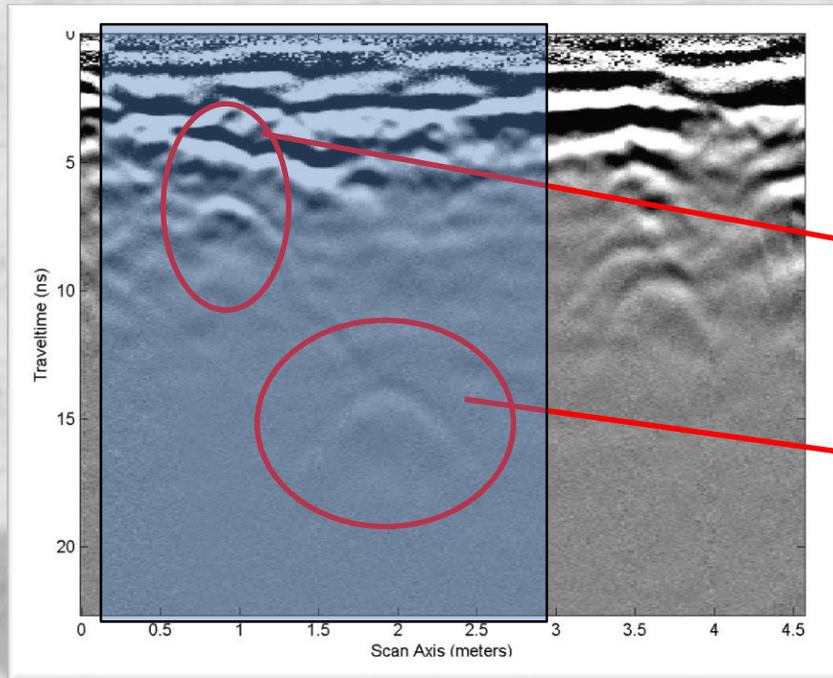
No.	Project Name	Project Location	Project Area
1	Emarati Housing of 3,000 Villas at Jabal Hafeet, Al Ain	Al Ain, UAE	450 Hectares
2	Capital District, Zayd City, Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi, UAE	1,800 Hectares
3	Ruwais Derivative Park, Ruwais, Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi, UAE	1,000 Hectares
4	Development of Bani Yas, Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi, UAE	700 Hectares



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## Engineering and environmental Geophysical Projects

### ➤ Utility detection

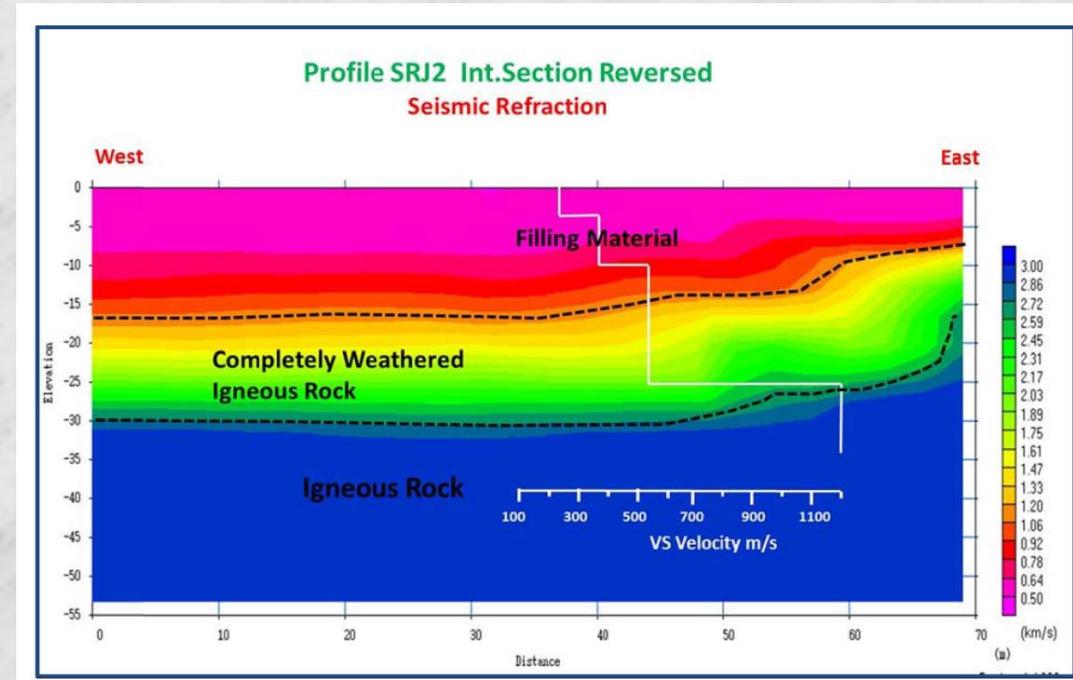
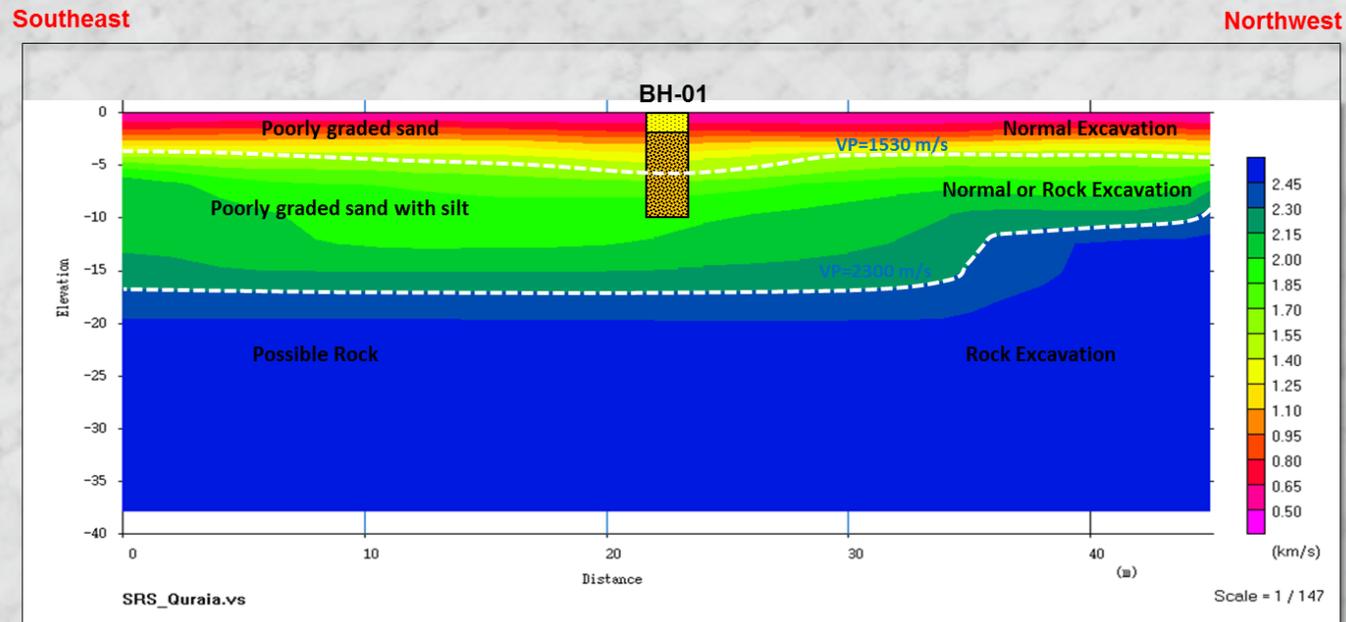


Utility detection Using GPR

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## Engineering and environmental Geophysical Projects

- Bedrock mapping and rippability

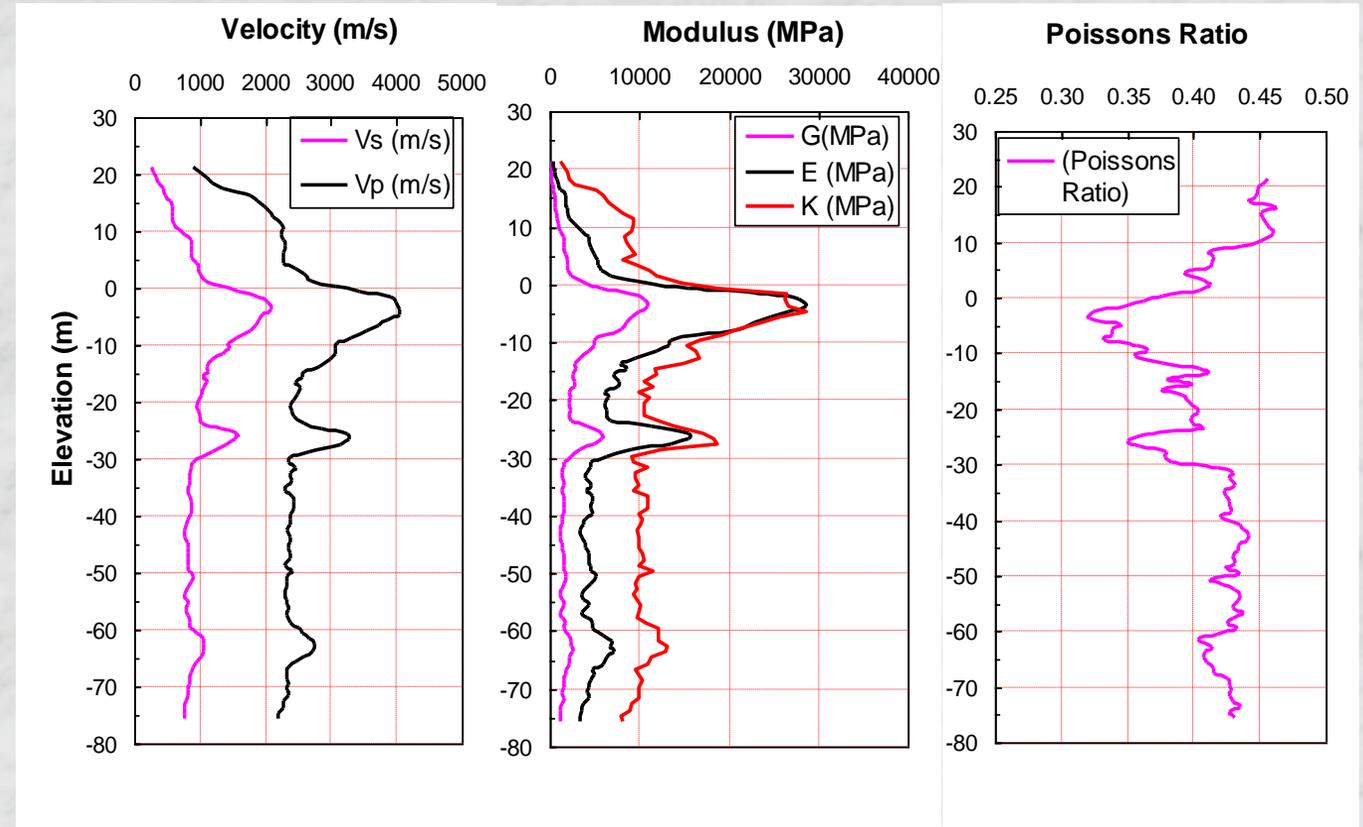


# Ο ΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΑΒΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΛΠΟΥ

## Engineering and environmental Geophysical Projects

### ➤ Dynamic Geotechnical properties

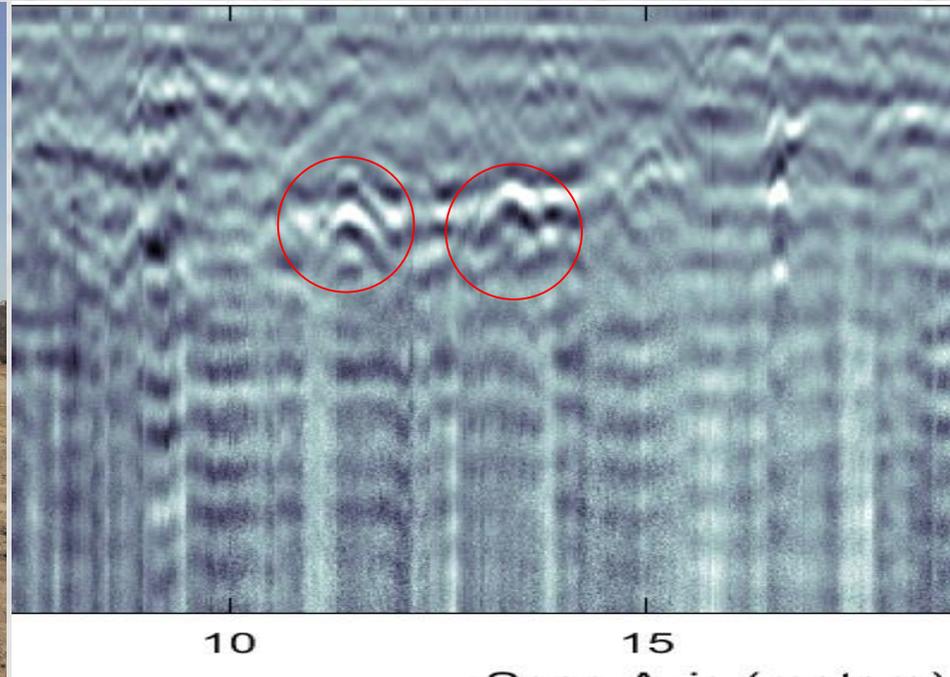
The material properties derived from P- and S-wave velocities along with Bulk Density ( $\rho$ ) :		
Poisson's Ratio ( $\nu$ )	Shear Modulus (G)	Young's Modulus (E)
Bulk Modulus (K)	Velocity Ratio ( $V_p/V_s$ )	Site Classification



# Ο ΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΑΒΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΛΠΟΥ

## Engineering and environmental Geophysical Projects

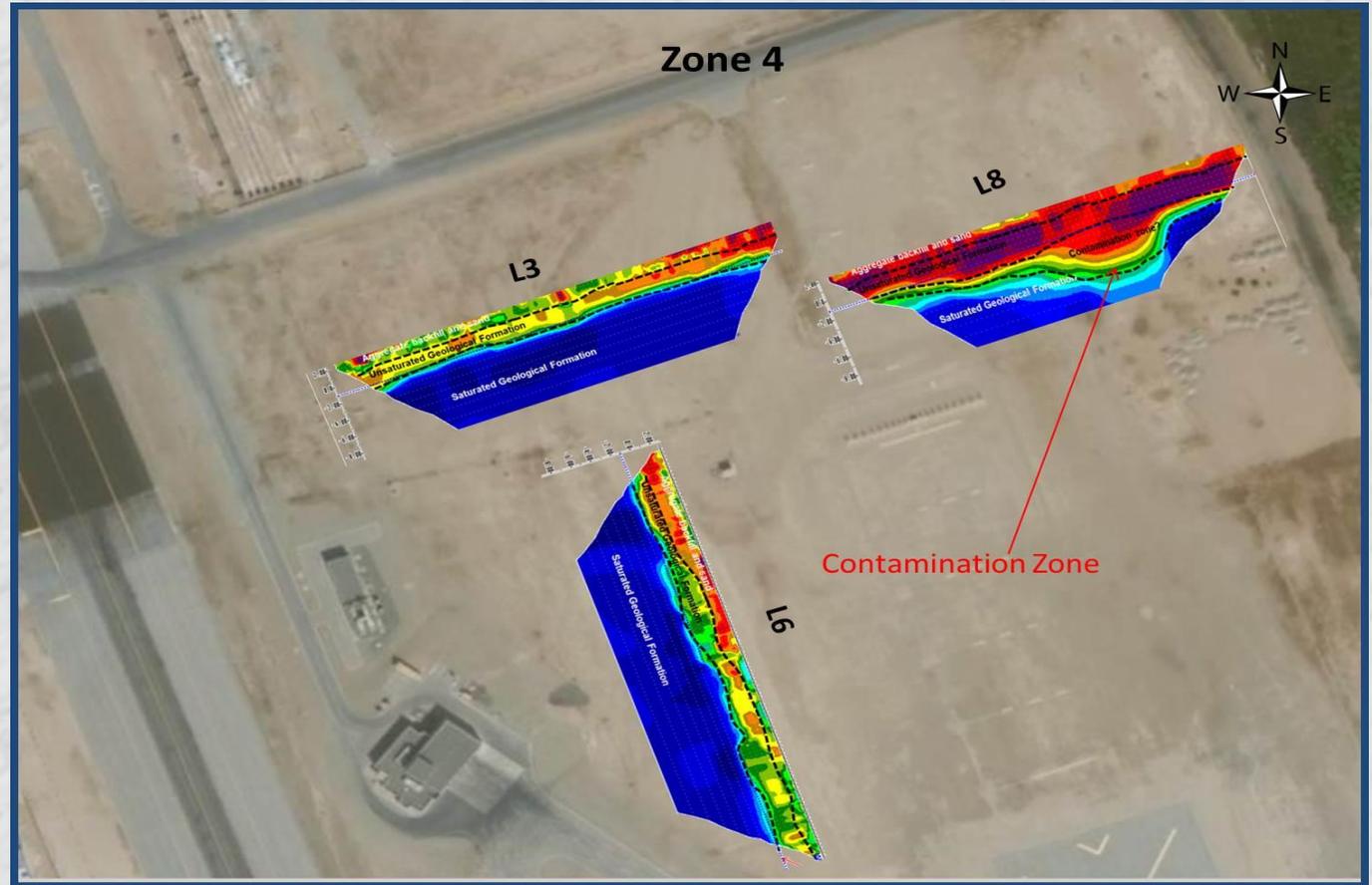
### ➤ Archeological Investigations



# Ο ΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΑΒΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΛΠΟΥ

## Engineering and environmental Geophysical Projects

- Environmental applications



**Thank you for your  
attention**

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