



The 11th INTERNATIONAL
**FUJAIRAH BUNKERING &
FUEL OIL FORUM**

25 – 27 MARCH 2019, AL DIAR SIJI HOTEL
FUJAIRAH, UAE

In Conjunction with the Fujairah Bunkering Week
23-27 March 2019

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Held Under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Mohammed Al Sharqi,
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S&P Global Platts – 27 Mar 2019

Rajesh Nair

Fujairah could meet up to 50% of bunker fuel demand with local production

Singapore (Platts)--27Mar2019/1144 am EDT/1544 GMT

Fujairah could be in a position to meet up to 50% of its current bunker demand with local production of marine fuel with a maximum 0.5% sulfur limit, Vitol Group director Mike Muller said.

Refining economics permitting, Vitol's Fujairah-based 82,000 b/d refinery could produce 45,000-50,000 b/d of bunker fuel compliant with the lower sulfur limit of 0.5% from 2020, Muller said at the International Fujairah Bunkering & Fuel Oil Forum.

German energy trader Uniper Energy's Fujairah-based crude processing unit was also likely to produce similar volumes, Muller said, adding that would account for around half Fujairah's current demand of around 200,000 b/d.

"That would be the maximum...it could be a bit less," Muller said about Vitol Fujairah refinery's compliant fuel output.

Vitol has already produced a batch of compliant fuel which is being stored in Fujairah, but demand for which was yet to emerge, Muller said.

Vitol is among the top suppliers of bunker fuel at Fujairah.

Uniper has two 40,000 b/d distillation columns in Fujairah, right alongside Vitol's existing refinery. These two columns, which together constitute a micro refinery of sorts, have been designed to process low sulfur crude oils to produce ultra low sulfur fuel oil.

In preparation for International Maritime Organization's global sulfur limit rule for marine fuels from 2020, Uniper would undertake a turnaround in August, Uniper Energy DMCC managing editor, Christopher Wood, said at the conference.

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