

Gulf One Advises on Landmark Debt Refinancing Deal

The first of its type for the Kuwait education sector and is expected to provide a template for similar refinancing and restructuring deals.

25 April 2012

Gulf One Investment Bank B.S.C. (c) (Gulf One) advised and arranged a USD 23.50 million Islamic debt refinancing transaction for the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), the largest private sector university in Kuwait. The transaction was successfully closed in early 2012 with Kuwait International Bank (KIB) as the sole lender.

Gulf One combined its regional network, leading structuring skills and extensive debt arrangement experience to deliver multiple benefits for GUST including a more favorable profit rate, longer tenor and better security structure.

The role of independent advisory has always played a key role in facilitating the speed and quantum of project execution; the key to success is taking a balanced approach that takes into consideration both the debtor and the obligor.

Gulf One's team of investment banking professionals provide an extensive range of regionally relevant and independent structuring and advisory services, including mergers and acquisitions, Islamic finance, corporate finance, debt and equity syndication and arrangement, family business solutions, project finance advisory and arrangement and restructuring advice.

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Notes to the Editor:

Gulf One Investment Bank B.S.C. (c) (“Gulf One”)

Gulf One is a leading knowledge based investment bank focused on providing professional and high-quality infrastructure related investments and opportunities for the MENA region. Opportunities are identified and developed through an independent approach based on knowledge, expert insight and innovative thought, which produces secured, ethical and profitable results for all stakeholders and brings meaningful contributions to society. Gulf One was jointly founded in 2006 by Dr. Nahed Taher, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Mr. Ziyad Omar, Chief Investment Officer (CIO).

Gulf One’s primary focus is on vital economic sectors including water, power, mining, transport and down-stream petrochemicals. Guided by Islamic principles, Gulf One’s products and services offer unique financial solutions custom tailored to meet and build regional capacity. The Bank’s financial model is based on a complete alignment of interests with clients, demonstrating a transparent, long-term commitment to them.

Gulf One is an independent investment bank and exclusively focuses its core products and services on large scale energy-related and infrastructure development projects. The aim of the bank is to facilitate sustainable economic development and create wealth and prosperity.

Headquartered in Bahrain, Gulf One operates under a conventional wholesale banking license granted by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), CR 62199, with a paid-up capital of USD 113,888,889. www.gulf1bank.com

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST)

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) was established in 2002 and is the first and the largest private university in Kuwait. The university currently serves around 3300 students with plans to expand its campus to increase student capacity from 4000 to 5500 in the near future.

GUST offers a range of undergraduate courses through its three colleges: Business Administration, Arts and Science and Journalism. GUST also provides General Masters of Business Administration (MBA) and has been accredited by AACSB*. It currently has 161 faculty members including 85 PhD holders. GUST is affiliated with University of Missouri Saint Louis (UMSL).

GUST is a subsidiary of EYAS for Higher and Technical Education Company, an investment company listed on the Kuwaiti Stock Exchange involved in tertiary education and training.

*** Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business**

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