

TECHNOLOGY

Concentrix expands in Egypt with \$1bn investment and creation of 16,000 new jobs



Concentrix, a global technology and services leader, has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) to invest around \$1 billion in Egypt.

Under the MoU, Concentrix seeks to expand its operations in the Egyptian market, creating 16,000 new job opportunities. This will bring the company's total number of employees to 35,000 by the end of 2028.

The signing was attended by Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, President and CEO at Concentrix Chris Caldwell, and Minister of Communications and Information Technology Amr Talaat.

“Our efforts to provide a competitive environment for global companies, along with investments in digital skills and multi-lingual capabilities, continue to bear fruit, positioning Egypt as a destination of choice for outsourcing

services,” the PM explained.

Talaat highlighted that this expansion is the largest of its kind in the history of Egypt's outsourcing industry, adding that it enhances the competitiveness of the state's outsourcing sector globally.

He added that the outsourcing industry contributed to driving economic development in Egypt, as it secured diverse and intensive jobs for youth, while increasing revenues from digital exports. On his part, Caldwell indicated that the investments align with the company's commitment to developing Egyptian talent and anchoring its position in the global outsourcing market.

Amr Sobhy, Vice President of Concentrix Egypt, said the company has 11 centers in Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, and Hurgada. The global firm plans to widen its footprint in these centers, while expanding in Mansoura to boost its exports of outsourcing services, Sobhy mentioned.

REFORMS

PM forms advisory committees to strengthen government collaboration with private sector



Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly formed advisory committees to enhance communication between the government and the private sector.

The committees are part of a broader approach to establishing permanent channels for exchanging views and proposals supporting effective policy-making.

The decision outlines the creation of six specialized committees, each tasked with advising the government on key sectors, including macroeconomics, export development, digital economy, entrepreneurship, tourism development, political affairs, urban development, and real estate exports.

Each committee will provide expert advices and suggestions to support the government's efforts in sector reform and advance private sector involvement in policy-making. The committees will submit regular reports to the Prime Minister detailing challenges within each sector and proposing practical solutions.

The committees will meet regularly under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, with the participation of relevant ministers and heads of authorities. These meetings will address different sectors challenges and propose solutions for government adoption.

MANUFACTURING

India's Everest Kanto Cylinder to establish Egypt's first CNG manufacturing plant



Egypt eyes CNG Cylinders' local production and export with new facility: The Egyptian arm of India's Everest Kanto Cylinder is working on establishing the country's and Africa's first factory producing compressed natural gas (CNG) cylinders, according to a statement from financial backer National Bank of Egypt (NBE).

The project is being backed by a EGP 954 mn loan from the National Bank of Egypt, which says that the project will help support nation-wide localization efforts, cut down imports, and bolster energy security

Production at the facility is set to kick off at the end of the year, with 40% of the facility's products earmarked for exports and the remaining 60% pegged to meet local market demand, according to the statement. The factory is planned to be located in the Suez Canal Economic Zone and will produce a range of cylinders, including those for vehicles, medical uses, and various industrial and energy uses.

The project will help support nationwide localization efforts, cut down on imports, and bolster energy security.

FX

Remittances from Egyptians abroad leap 65.4% YoY in November 2024



The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) announced that November 2024 saw a substantial 65.4% year-over-year increase in remittances, which reached approximately \$2.6 billion compared to \$1.6 billion in November 2023.

The bank announced that there has been a remarkable rise in remittances, with Egyptians working abroad sending home \$26.3 billion during the first 11 months of 2024—up from \$17.9 billion in the same period of 2023. This marks a growth rate of 47.1%.

For the period from July to November 2024, remittances rose by 77 percent, totaling approximately \$13.8 billion, compared to about \$7.8 billion during the same months in 2023.

Remittances have become one of Egypt's most important sources of foreign currency, contributing significantly to financial stability alongside revenues from tourism and the Suez Canal.

BUSINESS

MPs greenlight draft laws to simplify SME tax regime



MPs gave their final approval to three tax-focused draft laws aimed at expanding tax breaks for SMEs, simplifying tax procedures, and settling disputes.

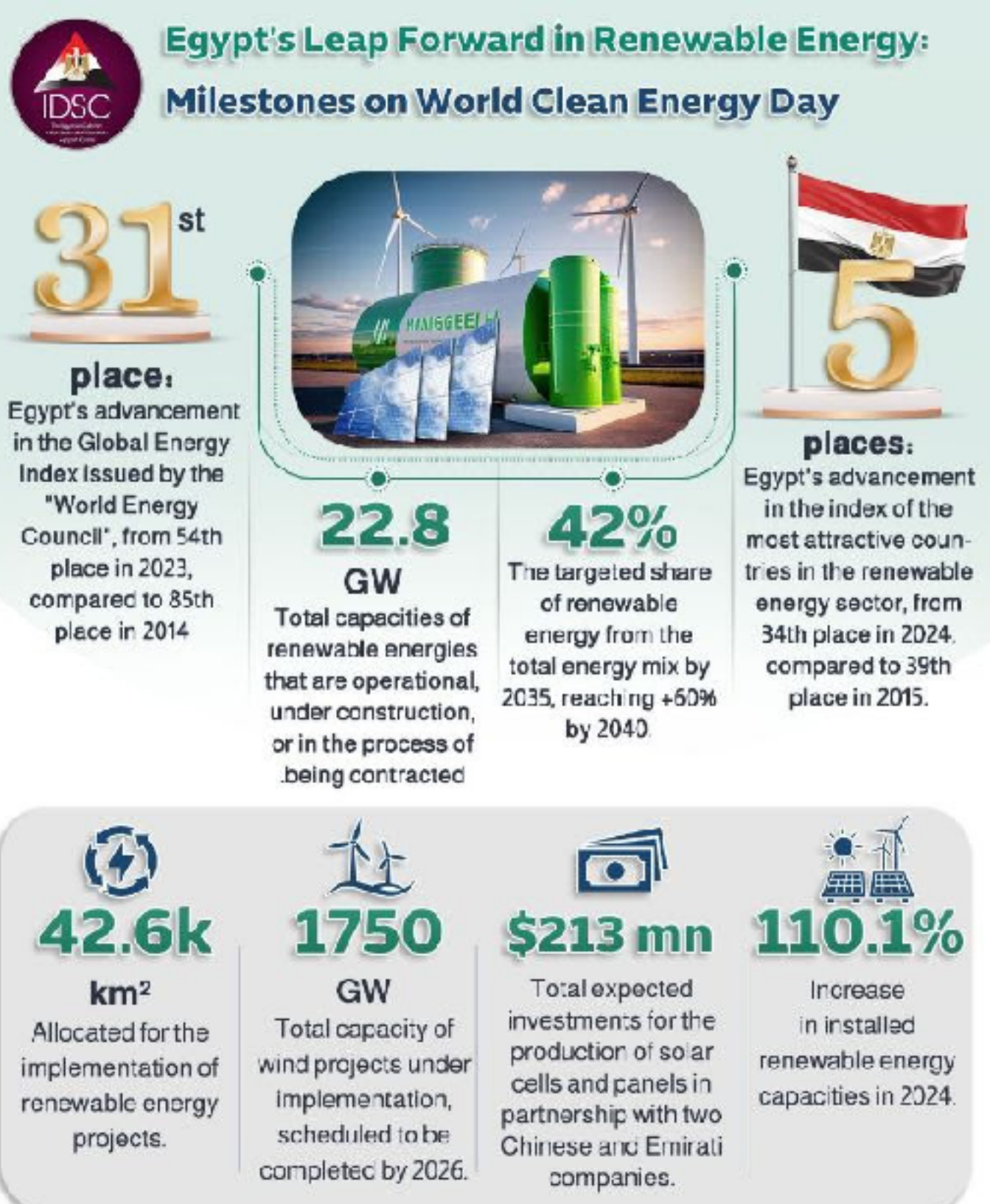
The House of Representatives approved a new tax system for SMEs that proposed that businesses with an annual revenue up to EGP 20 mn will pay a tax

rate — ranging from 0.4-1.5% depending on how much they are making — that covers income tax, value-added tax, duty tax, and others.

Lawmakers also raised the revenue threshold for tax breaks from the proposed EGP 15 mn to EGP 20 mn to better account for inflation and the depreciation of the pound. The stated purpose of the draft bill is to support the SME sector, while also expanding the tax base and integrating the informal economy.

Incentives for businesses that fall under the income bracket include exemption from the development fee tax, stamp tax, company registration fees, land registration fees and tax, and fees from inking credit facility and mortgage contracts for five years. These companies will also be able to sell fixed assets and not have to pay tax on any of the capital gains, along with paying out with dividends from the profits of the company.

ENERGY



INDUSTRY

BP signs deal to restart operations of Egyptian Anode Blocks



British Petroleum (bp) signed an agreement to resume the operations of the Egyptian Anode Blocks Company at the Ain Sokhna Free Zone.

The Egyptian Anode Blocks is 75% owned by Metallurgical Industries Holding Company and its affiliates under the Ministry of Public Business Sector.

Under the five-year agreement, bp will provide \$20 million in financing to resume maintenance work at the anode blocks factory, which has been non-operational for two years. The signing ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly and Minister of Public Business Sector Mohamed Shimi.

Shimi highlighted that the contract aligns with the ministry's efforts to enhance the capacity of affiliated companies, increase production and operation rates, and achieve the highest levels of productivity.

It will also meet market needs, replace imports, and support the national economy, the minister added. Once operational, the anode blocks plant will contribute to reducing the import bill of its final product consumed by industrial companies, especially in the aluminum industry.

The facility is expected to produce 250,000 tons of anode blocks annually following the supply and installation of a second coke cooler, generating revenue of \$97 per ton of calcined petroleum coke.

The minister also noted that the agreement guarantees a minimum output equivalent to calcining 200,000 tons annually.