Mantle8 commences Ras Al Khaimah's (and the UAE)'s first dedicated natural hydrogen exploration programme

French company begins 24-month exploration programme in Ras Al Khaimah's Hajar Mountains, including the deployment of more than 1,000 passive seismic sensors to assess the potential for naturally occurring hydrogen.

Ras Al Khaimah, UAE - 2 November 2026 - Mantle8, a French natural hydrogen exploration company, has secured an exclusive right to negotiate an exploration contract for **Block 7 in the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah** under an agreement with the **Ras Al Khaimah Department of Energy (DOE)**. Fieldwork is now underway, with an initial phase of sensor deployment to delineate the survey area ahead of the installation of more than 1,000 passive seismic sensors. The exploration programme is expected to run for up to 24 months.

The project represents Ras Al Khaimah's first dedicated geophysical survey specifically for natural hydrogen exploration, allowing the emirate to assess whether its geology could support domestic hydrogen production and contribute to regional energy diversification. Natural hydrogen, which is generated by geological processes within the Earth's crust, could offer a route to lower-cost supply without the energy-intensive production processes required for manufactured hydrogen.

Mantle8 is funding the exploration programme directly and has established a permanent office in Dubai to support operations across the Middle East. The appointment of Jean-Valery Garcia as Regional Director, Middle East, in September 2026 signals the company's long-term commitment to the region and reflects the scale of opportunity it sees in the UAE and neighbouring markets.

Ras Al Khaimah's geology makes it a promising location for natural hydrogen exploration. The emirate lies at the northern end of the Semail Ophiolite, one of the world's largest and most exposed sections of oceanic crust. Its ultrabasic rocks, active fault systems and observed hydrogen seeps provide geological indicators that warrant further investigation into the potential for hydrogen generation and accumulation beneath the surface.

To assess that potential, Mantle8 will deploy its proprietary exploration technology, including HOREX 4D passive seismic imaging, GeoLogix and APoGeH, with field sampling of gas, water and rock and analysis of existing subsurface datasets. The approach is designed to build a detailed picture of the subsurface and identify areas warranting further investigation. The initial exploration phase is non-invasive and does not require drilling.

Emmanuel Masini, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Mantle8, said: "*Ras Al Khaimah offers an exceptional geological setting for natural hydrogen exploration. Beyond its exposed ultramafic rocks, our geological work points to additional mantle formations at depth that could further enhance the region's hydrogen potential. By combining geology, geophysics and geochemistry through our integrated exploration technology, we aim to understand where hydrogen is generated and accumulated before committing to drilling. Our presence in the region reflects our confidence in its potential and our long-term commitment to the Middle East.*"

Jean-Valery Garcia, Regional Director, Middle East at Mantle8, said: "*Securing exclusive exploration rights in Block 7 gives us the opportunity to assess Ras Al Khaimah's natural hydrogen potential systematically, using a combination of field data and subsurface imaging. With fieldwork underway and a dedicated team on the ground, our immediate priority is to build a robust multiphysics model that can guide the next stage of exploration.*"

The agreement provides a framework for progressing from initial data acquisition to a potential commercial agreement covering exploratory drilling and development, subject to the findings of the programme and further agreement between the parties.

Natural hydrogen, also known as geological hydrogen, is produced through naturally occurring reactions in the Earth's crust. If found in commercially viable quantities and accessible reservoirs, it could provide a baseload source of hydrogen with significantly lower production costs and emissions than conventional, manufactured alternatives.

The Ras Al Khaimah project forms part of Mantle8's growing international exploration portfolio across Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. In 2026, the company completed a €31 million Series A financing round to accelerate the deployment of its exploration technology across its projects.

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About Mantle8

Mantle8 is a company of field scientists exploring the next energy frontier: natural hydrogen. Until now, every discovery has been an accident. Instead, Mantle8 looks for the live subsurface reaction where hydrogen is being made right now. Using advanced geological processing techniques it then identifies where the hydrogen is trapped and will flow in commercial volumes - before drilling. The company is backed by investors in frontier science and energy, including Sandwater, Breakthrough Energy Ventures, Bpifrance Green Ventures, IP Group, Wind Capital and Calderion. With their support, Mantle8 is now testing its method in the field across a growing portfolio of projects to prove that hydrogen can be found on purpose, again and again. The biggest leaps in how people live and work have come from cheap, reliable energy. Natural hydrogen could bring the next one.

Mantle8 was founded in 2019 and is headquartered in Grenoble, France. For more information, visit www.mantle8.com.

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