

Genel Energy

An effective Leak Detection And Repair (LDAR) campaign for Genel's new Sarta field and well sites in Iraq

Genel Energy's Sarta facility in Kurdistan, Iraq is a new installation and was only brought into production in November 2020. In this case study, we share more about the Leak Detection And Repair (LDAR) campaign we executed for our new client.

"Genel is committed to limiting fugitive emissions from our operated producing portfolio in order to play a key role in the energy transition and align with the Paris Agreement" says Gordon Scott, Manager of Genel's Sarta Field in Iraq.

"As part of our efforts in this area, Genel contacted Inter - The Sniffers to conduct an LDAR (Leak Detection And repair) campaign with best available technologies to ensure near-zero methane emissions from processing facilities" adds the Field Manager.

The scope of work

"Inter - The Sniffers assessed 9000 connections across the EPF, flow lines, well heads and loading arms. They executed the survey with minimum support from the operator, identifying the at risk areas and working collaboratively to control the risks of conducting assessments at height or in confined spaces" states Gordon.

"Since it was a new facility, we made a complete inventory of all sources including location, height, equipment, number, etc. A detailed inventory really is the baseline for a structured and effective LDAR program" says Bas Hermans, Operations Director of Inter - The Sniffers.

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Dhabyan Zand from Intero - The Sniffers measuring fugitive emissions with an FID device (TVA2020)



The Sarta Field team

"After having built the inventory, we measured all accessible sources with the TVA2020, which is an FID (Flame Ionization Detector) device to detect even the smallest leaks from 9 PPM onwards. We then used the Optical Gas Imaging camera to check inaccessible sources."

"Using the OGI technique is especially interesting to find larger leaks fast. However, with an IR camera, the result is limited to a leak / no leak differentiation, while an FID device allows you to quantify the leak. We always recommend using a fit-for-purpose approach to retrieve the most accurate emission data" states Bas.

Smooth collaboration

"When I heard we had sold a project in Iraq, I was excited since I have the Iraqi nationality. I was thus looking forward to travelling there and support Genel Energy. I had a great experience working for them", says Dhabyan Zand, Senior Operator of Intero - The Sniffers.

"The site managers made sure all procedures ran smoothly. The HSE supervisors Mr. Valantin and Mr. Dusti gave me all the introductions and supported me with risk assessments."

"I was really impressed with the healthy work environment. It was a pleasure to be around everyone in Sarta, from the bus driver to the kitchen staff", he concludes.

Fugitive emissions in a new facility

According to the Operations Director of Intero - The Sniffers, *"it is encouraging to see Genel Energy's efforts to minimize fugitive emissions. Even though the Sarta field is a new facility, that does not mean fugitive emissions cannot occur. They wanted to ensure the installations were safe to operate and leak-free shortly after startup."*

Comprehensive emission report

After the measurements onsite, our reporting team processed all emission data and produced a detailed emission report.

According to Gordon Scott, the emission report met Genel's expectations. *"They produced a comprehensive report with any leaks identified clearly marked on the facility's P&ID to allow for the team to easily locate and repair the leaks and minimise rogue greenhouse gas emissions. We happily recommend them."*

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Yearly LDAR campaign as a next step

"After this first measurement round, we recommend Genel Energy to continue performing yearly LDAR campaigns to identify possible leaks above repair definition, repair them, and continue the reduction of unintended emissions."

"We want to thank our new client for their trust in The Sniffers and for the positive collaboration. We look forward to supporting them in the future." concludes Bas from Intero - The Sniffers.

More about Genel Energy in Iraq

Genel is the only multi-licence producer in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, with low-cost production from four fields, Taq Taq, Sarta, Tawke, and Peshkabir, the latter two both contained in the Tawke PSC.

Sarta was brought into production in November 2020, which has the potential to be one of the biggest fields in the KRI.

Ever-evolving solutions

Intero - The Sniffers

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