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Libyan Firm May Buy French Refinery

3rd April 2013 in Oil & Gas



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Libyan firm **Murzuq Oil** is reported to be one of two bidders short-listed by administrators to buy the troubled Petit-Couronne refinery in Normandy, France.

The fate of the 154,000-barrel-a-day refinery has been uncertain since Swiss-based **Petroplus** filed for insolvency in January 2012.

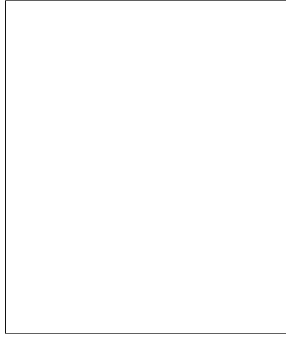
The offers from Murzuq Oil and Dubai-based **Netoil**, will be sent to the commercial court of Rouen on Wednesday, and a decision is expected within days. Offers from both companies were rejected in the past.

Murzuq Oil was founded by 35-year old Libyan Mabrouck Jomode Elie Getty in 2011, according to Reuters.

Shell, which operated the refinery since it was opened in 1929, sold it in 2009 to Swiss refiner Petroplus, which filed for bankruptcy in

(Sources: Reuters, Bloomberg)

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UK Minister in Libya to Boost Military Sales

3rd April 2013 in [Industry & Trade](#), [Security](#)

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The British Defence Minister Philip Hammond arrived in Tripoli on Tuesday to meet Libyan defense and security officials, and to open a security and arms fair on the Royal Navy warship HMS Kent (pictured).

The arms fair is organized by the **UK Trade and Investment (UKTI)** and it has been in planning for a number of months.

According to The Guardian, the UK is trying to boost military sales in Libya as it competes with other European countries such as France and Italy.

Libya Herald reports that other countries including the US and Russia are also trying to sell military equipment to Libya.

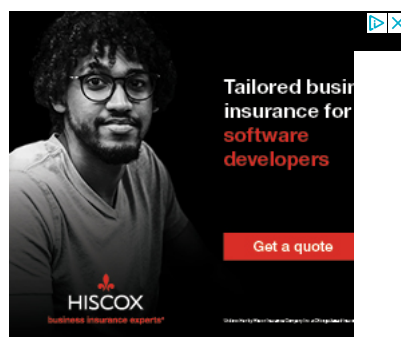
The British delegation reportedly includes former senior officer of the British Royal Air Force, General Nigel Maddox and member of the British Ministry of National Security, Dr. Andrew Murrison.

Speaking at a ceremony to welcome the British vessel to Tripoli, Ms. Gill Frazer, Deputy Head of UK Mission in Tripoli, said the visit by HMS Kent is a strong symbol over military cooperation between Libya and Britain.

"The UK remains steadfast in its support of the Libyan people and government to keep going on the direction of rebuilding the country after forty years of dictatorship," Ms. Frazer said.

(Sources: Libya Herald, Libya TV, Tripoli Post, Ambassador Michael Aron)

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