



The IRGC Wins Multibillion Dollar Economic Projects

OE Watch Commentary: Khatam al-Anbiya, the economic and engineering wing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), was founded in 1979, but emerged as an economic power a decade later. Loathe to lose its privileged position in society at the conclusion of the Iran-Iraq War, the IRGC directed Khatam al-Anbiya to invest and compete in civilian enterprises. In the accompanying excerpted article from *Tasnim News Agency*, an agency associated with the IRGC, the head of the Khatam al-Anbiya's construction wing promises to completed about 40 large projects with \$28 billion worth of investment by the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution on 1 February 2019. That more than 80 percent of those projects by value involve the oil and gas industries (and, specifically, the South Pars field), illustrates how oil continues to skew Iranian industry despite years of official rhetoric about economic diversification. The scale of the water projects described also illustrate the reach of Khatam al-Anbiya, especially in dam construction. More importantly, however, the official figures announced by General Abdollahi represent a figure more than four times the official budget of the IRGC, and more than double Iran's official defense budget. This, in turn, illustrates first, the degree to which the IRGC distorts the Iranian economy and, second, how the IRGC has become independent of the official budget as passed by Iran's parliament. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**

Source: "Behrebardari Abr-e Piruzhi Abi Gharb-e Kehavarz bar Hamat Sepah ta Payan-e Sal (Executing Large Water Projects in the West of the Country with the effort of the IRGC by the end of the year)," *Tasnim News Agency*, 12 June 2018. <https://goo.gl/FCRmDC>

The commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Khatam al-Anbiya Construction Headquarters, announced, "The largest water project of the country, entitled 'Waters of the West,' will be operational by the end of this year. According to Tasnim, General Ebadollah Abdollahi, on the sidelines of a meeting with the resistance economy chiefs, said, "The project has been implemented over 1460 km and includes 17 dams, 150 km tunnels and 700 km out of a total of 2400 km of transmission lines, which will be operational by the end of the year.

He said, "In the area of supplying water to the central and eastern plains of the country, Khatam al-Anbiya's headquarters has submitted its proposals to the Ministry of Energy, and among the projects are desalinization from the Sea of Oman and its transfer, and the implementation of these projects requires approval from the country, and the Ministry of Energy is considered the main custodian of water in the country. Abdollahi added, "Khatam al-Anbiya's headquarters has already completed major water supply projects...."

This year, by year's end, 40 projects will be implemented in different fields of oil, gas, water and rail, road and port infrastructure with an investment of \$28 billion from Khatam al-Anbiya Headquarters.

"By year's end, 40 projects will be implemented...with an investment of \$28 billion."

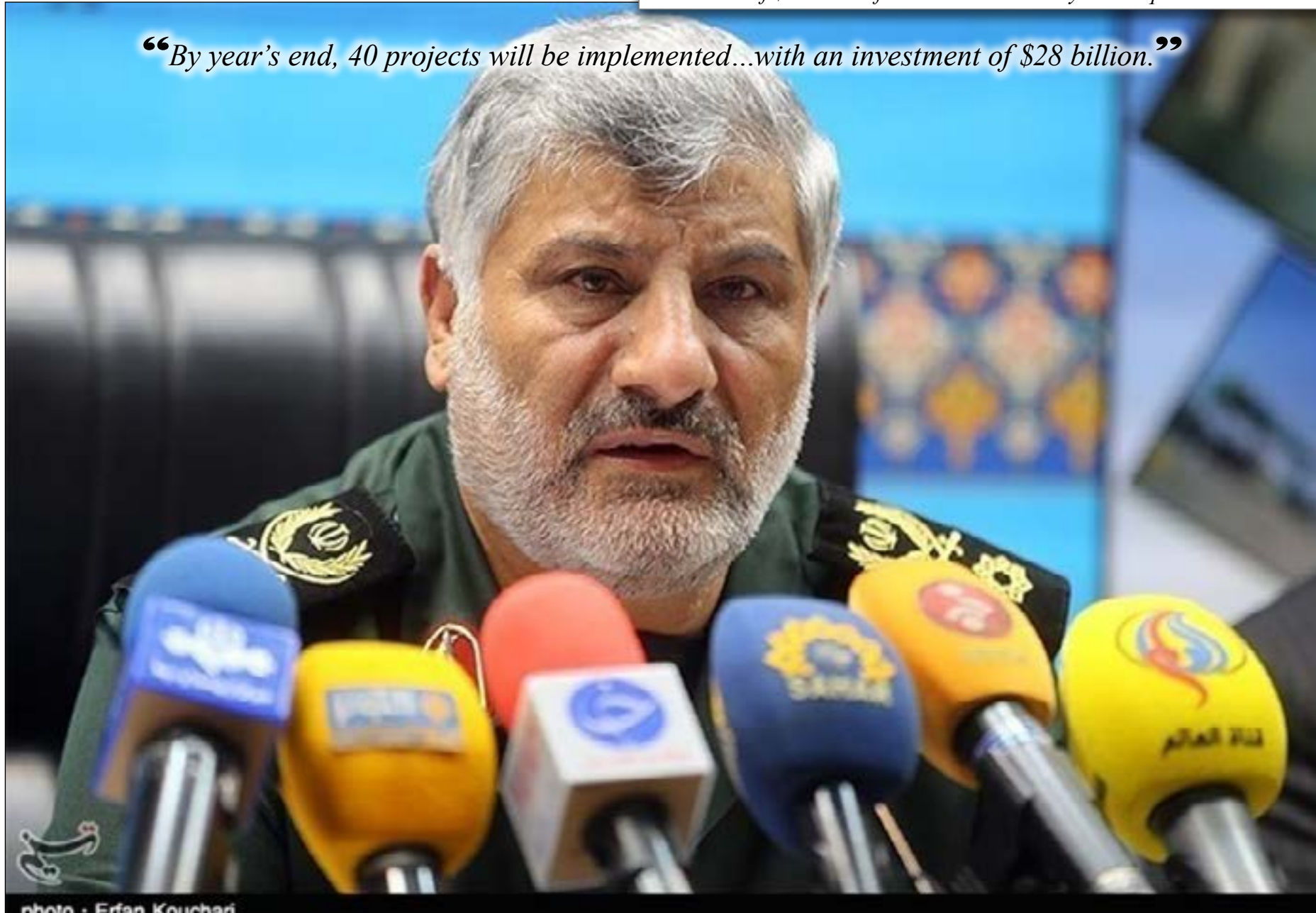


photo : Erfan Kouchari

Khatam al-Anbiya Commander Ebadollah Abdollahi.
Source: Tasnim News Agency, goo.gl/oFs8c8, CC 4.0.