

November 30, 2015

Analysis From OPEC's Upcoming Meeting in Vienna

Even before members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries convene in Vienna, Austria, on Dec. 4, Dow Jones reporters will be filing Market Talk articles to share their insights about the gathering.

How to Find OPEC Market Talk Items

Subscribers can find this analysis either by searching for a combination of codes—**N/ALMT** and **N/OPC**—or with the “OPEC Market Talk” label, which will be at the end of all OPEC-related headlines. Watch for the items starting on Monday, Nov. 30. The peak oil Market Talk period will be reached on Dec. 4, the day of the meeting.

The Latest Scoop on OPEC

The meeting comes at a challenging time for OPEC, which is [moving to rein in costs internally](#) as members struggle to pay their dues while coping with an extended oil-price slump. The group's members, who rarely speak in one voice, are looking particularly fractious in these tough times. One sign of the discord is that they were unable to agree on an [internal strategy report](#) ahead of the December meeting. The state of OPEC is such that companies in member countries are [delaying projects and squeezing contractors](#), a situation that could have long-term effects on the production capacity of big Middle Eastern producers.

What to Look for in Vienna

The contentious issue for all OPEC members in Vienna will be whether or not to change its high-production strategy aimed at ridding the oil market of high-cost producers. Expect highly charged debate around this controversial topic. Depending on the outcome, other issues are certain to include...

- Iran's strategy to ramp up production when international sanctions are lifted
- Will Saudi Arabia make room for its regional rivals and lower production?
- What is the 2016 OPEC supply outlook?
- The investment crunch—can the industry survive without major investment?