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Kunooz Oman's IPO set for first half of next year,Oman

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The company, with a paid-up capital of RO16mn, has received initial approval from the Capital Market Authority (CMA) to float 25 per cent of its shares through the IPO, Kunooz Oman chairman Salim Abdullah al Rawas said on Thursday.

“However, the percentage of shares on offer could change or remain the same. We are hopeful of the IPO during the first half of next year,” Rawas said.

Rawas was talking to reporters on the sidelines of an agreement-signing ceremony with the Oman Investment Fund (OIF).

Under the agreement, OIF will pick a 20 per cent stake in Kunooz Oman and will have two members on the company board.

The inclusion of OIF as a shareholder is set to increase investor confidence, lend credibility and strengthen Kunooz Oman's transformation into a public company, company officials said.

The company hopes that a successful IPO can improve its access

to capital, new mining opportunities both in Oman and internationally and at the same time contributing to the sultanate's strategy to reduce its dependence on oil.

Commenting on the new Mining Law, which is yet to be announced, Rawas said he expects the new law to serve the sector better. He said there are lots of companies that have received licences but are yet to start operations and he hoped that the new law will look into this issue.

The new Mining Law, drafted by the Public Authority for Mining (PAM), is currently being reviewed by the government and is expected to be enacted this year. The new law is expected to give a major boost to the sector and attract investments.

Kunooz Oman is one of the sultanate's largest mining companies and comprises Al Rawas Mining, Mihwar Al Wifaq, Al Rawas Marble and Granite, Salalah Readymix and Al Rawas Transport, and two associate companies Majan Mining and Carmeuse Majan.