

## Flash Note: 18/03/2020

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## Oil price craters. Further declines ahead.

## Mediation between Saudi Arabia and Russia made no progress

- Saudi Arabia to increase exports amid maximum output push. Saudi Arabia plans to boost oil exports further by around 250K bpd from April to May, reaching a record according to a statement from the kingdom's Energy Ministry. The announcement came after Saudi Arabia told refiners it plans to supply a record 12.3M bpd in April. Before the price war, Saudi exports averaged just under 7M bpd between December and February.
- Meanwhile, Oman said it would increase its production to its full capacity of 1M bpd over the next few months, up from ~970K in December.
- Mizuho Securities warned of further declines in crude prices as Moscow and Riyadh flood the market with supply.
- Iraq's oil minister Ghadhban urged for an emergency meeting between OPEC and non-OPEC members to discuss immediate action to help balance the global oil market. Ghadhban asked OPEC Secretary General Barkindo to help urgently achieve extraordinary meetings of the OPEC+ to discuss all possible ways to mitigate current deteriorating conditions. The letter came as an OPEC and non-OPEC technical meeting planned for today was called off as attempts to mediate between Saudi Arabia and Russia made no progress.

## Global markets

- The world could run out of oil storage capacity in the coming months as demand continues to fall. FT noted that some estimate that onshore storage was already around 61% full, while tanker rates have soared as Saudi Arabia has worked to charter ships to get additional oil to market.
- Storage dynamic will ultimately lead to prices falling enough to motivate someone to cut production.
- In the US, more than a dozen US GOP senators wrote to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, saying it was concerning to see guidance from the Kingdom to lower crude prices and boost output capacity, which has contributed to a disruption in global oil prices on top of already hard-hit financial markets.