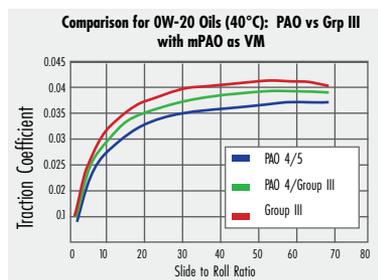




with Ken Hope, Ph.D.

Q: I like the properties of Synfluid® mPAO, can it be used like other polymers in lubricants?

A: Yes! In previous ads we highlighted the advantages of PAO over Group III in reducing friction in a 5W-30 engine oil. In our most recent investigation we replaced a typical viscosity modifier with our Synfluid® mPAO in a 0W-20 engine oil, and looked at three blends where the base oil was changed out. We adjusted all the blends to the same 100°C viscosity (8.4 cSt) by adding Synfluid® mPAO 150.



As you can see again from this data a 0W-20 engine oil made using PAO as the base oil, or even a blend of Group III and PAO, has friction benefits over a range of slide to roll ratios. This means less work for the car's moving parts which equates back to fuel efficiency.

If you are interested in making a more fuel-efficient engine oil give us a call and we can talk to you more about the advantages you can see from using our Synfluid® PAO and mPAO.



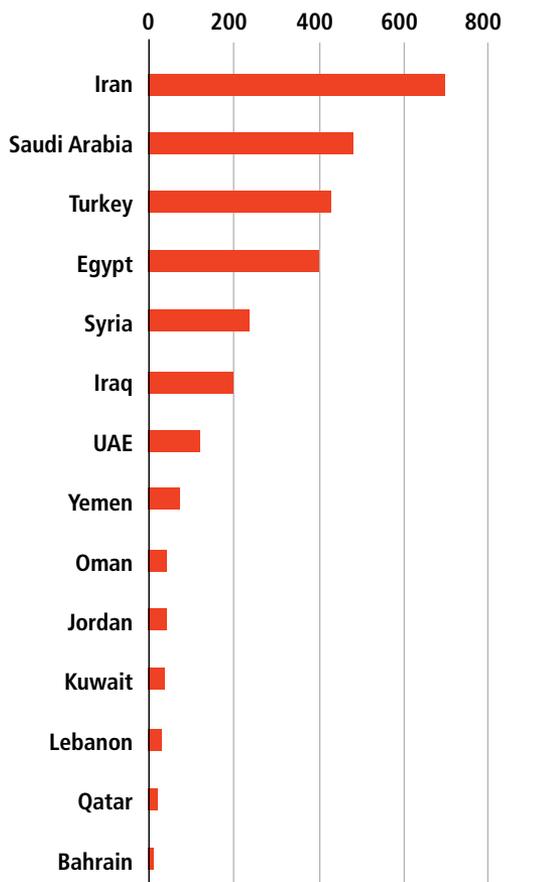
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Middle East Lubricants Demand (thousand t/y)



Source: GBI Research, IHS

about 40 percent, respectively. Iran is the largest Group I producer in the region with 56 percent market share, followed by Saudi Arabia at 28 percent, Iraq at 12 percent and Israel at 4 percent.

Supply and Sanction Scenario

Evaluating the Group I supply scenario, Safdari said there could be capacity rationalizations by Saudi Arabia going forward and some pressure on Iran amid fresh U.S. sanctions, but the region is unlikely to see closure of such refineries until 2018.

“Saudi Arabia is expected to decommission Group I plants after commissioning Group II and doubling bright stock capacity,” Safdari said. The move may result in a

minimum 250,000 t/y reduction in Group I output in the Middle East, he said, adding that the region’s production could fall by another 300,000 t/y if Iran also rationalizes its Group I capacity amid sanctions and viability factors.

Safdari also said Iranian Group I base oil refineries are under pressure because of low value distillate aromatic extract, low conversion rate, high operating expenses, low productivity and diminished demand for light grade solvent neutrals. However, Iran has no plan to close any base oil plants as it is heavily dependent on Group I for its domestic market and still exports sizable volumes to Africa and Asia, he added.

“Iran is heavily dependent on

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