

BRI in Central Asia: Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Extraction and Processing Projects

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ABSTRACT

Mineral resources is the sector that receives most Chinese investment in Central Asia. China and its Central Asian partners pursue both strategic and commercial goals by promoting projects in the minerals sector. Kazakhstan hosts the largest number of projects and receives the largest amount of Chinese investment. The second largest recipient of financing is Turkmenistan, where several big projects are implemented.

Keywords: energy and minerals, Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Background and data collection

Chinese economic activity in Central Asia includes investment in mineral and petroleum exploration, extraction and processing projects both through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and bilaterally.

This data article provides detailed information on both Chinese bilateral and BRI projects implemented in Central Asia. Data collection was carried out between September 2018 and January 2019 by one CADGAT researcher in each Central Asian country. Data were harvested from official statistics, local and international media news, government press releases, interviews and reports. These sources formed the basis for the collection of news clippings about BRI projects in the main table below.

The results do not constitute an exhaustive list of Chinese projects in the region. The article, however, covers a diverse and wide range of projects—both already implemented and those still at the planning stage.

Key findings

China is not only investing in projects aimed at linking its energy market with Central Asian suppliers but also heavily invests in the exploration and extraction of energy and mineral resources in the region. China has both technical and logistical capabilities and the financial resources needed to undertake major projects. China's contracting companies and labour force including managerial personnel are being hired for construction work, especially in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

This data article is part of a series of such articles on BRI in Central Asia. All the data are also available in a unified Excel database at the following address:

<http://osce-academy.net/en/research/cadgat/>

Number of mineral resources projects and total funding		
	Projects	Total funding (mln USD)
Kazakhstan	23	37 778.5
Kyrgyzstan	9	676.85
Turkmenistan	7	14 03
Uzbekistan	5	2 209.3
Tajikistan	3	465

Definitions

Financing – Sources of funding for each project are identified and presented.

Commercial interests – A project is classified as “commercial”, if the parties promoting it primarily pursue commercial goals.

Strategic interests – A project is classified as “strategic”, if it fits one of the broader categories, particularly strengthening connectivity.

Connection to BRI – If a project is announced publicly as part of BRI, then it is classified as a “BRI project”.

Local project – A project is classified as “local”, if the infrastructure or facility constructed and services provided, are limited to a specific country.

Regional project – A project is classified as “regional”, if it is part of the bigger regional initiative, which includes more than one country.

Bilateral – A project is classified as “bilateral”, if an agreement for project implementation is signed by the Chinese government or a Chinese company, as one party, and one of the Central Asian governments or companies as the other.

Multilateral – A project is classified as “multilateral”, if an agreement for project implementation is signed by three or more parties, including the Chinese or Central Asian governments, multilateral financial institutions (AIIB, China Development Bank, Export-Import Bank of China or New Silk Road Fund) and private enterprises.

Timing	Project	Financing	Project description (commercial vs strategic; connection to BRI)	Local vs regional	Bilateral vs multilateral
KAZAKHSTAN					
Planned	Construction, mining and metallurgical complex based on titanium magnetite (iron with vanadium content) extraction from the Masalskoye deposit in Akmola region.	Financed by Exim Bank of China.	Commercial and strategic: It is planned that the complex will include the entire chain, from the extraction of ore to the production of various grades of high-quality steel. The total exploitable reserves of ore in categories C1 and C2 at the Masalskoye deposit amount to 729 mln tonnes. Strategic for Kazakhstan in terms of economic diversification. The contractual agreement between Masalsky Mining and Processing Plant LLP and the China National Technical Import and Export Corporation (CNTIC) provides for the intention to enter into a contract for the construction of a mining and metallurgical complex. Branded as a BRI project. One of the 51 China–Kazakhstan projects.	Local	Bilateral
Planned	Geological exploration and oilfield development.	Total cost of the project: 4.8 bln USD.	Commercial. Not branded as a BRI project.	Local	Bilateral
Planned	Development of the Koksai copper deposit by KAZ Minerals PLC.	Total cost of the project: 1.083 bln USD. Source of financing: • Wanbao Mining, China Non-Ferrous Corporation.	Commercial. Branded as a BRI project. Part of the Kazakh–Chinese investment developments under the BRI–Nurly Zhol integration.	Local	Bilateral
Planned (2022)	Production of mineral fertilizers from the Chilisai deposit by Chilisai Chemicals.	Total cost of the project: 600 mln USD. Source of financing: • Wengfu Group Co., Ltd.	Commercial: By 2022, the company will reach its full capacity of 1.6 mln tonnes of products. Branded as a BRI project. Part of the Kazakh–Chinese investment developments under the BRI–Nurly Zhol integration.	Local	Bilateral
2019	Production of mineral fertilizers on the basis of the existing Kazakhstan Ltd. Kazphosphate.	Total cost of the project: 446.5 mln USD. Source of financing: • Sinochem Fertilizer.	Commercial. Branded as a BRI project. Part of Kazakh–Chinese investment developments under the BRI–Nurly Zhol integration.	Local	Bilateral
2018	Anodic copper production for KazMinerals.	Total cost of the project: 1.3 bln USD. Source of financing: • Baiyin Non-Ferrous Metal Industry Group Ltd.	Commercial. Branded as a BRI project. Part of Kazakh–Chinese investment developments under the BRI–Nurly Zhol integration.	Local	Bilateral

Timing	Project	Financing	Project description (commercial vs strategic; connection to BRI)	Local vs regional	Bilateral vs multilateral
2017	Construction of a mining, chemical and metallurgical complex as designed by TENIR Logistic.	Total cost of the project: 1.5 bln USD. Source of financing: • China Machinery Engineering Corporation and China Metallurgical Group Corporation	Commercial. Branded as a BRI project. Part of the Kazakh–Chinese investment developments under the BRI–Nurly Zhol integration.	Local	Bilateral
2017	Technical silicon manufacturing plant for the Ansa Silicon company.	Total cost of the project: 107 mln USD. Source of financing: • Xian Huaxin New Energy Co.	Commercial. Branded as a BRI project. Part of the Kazakh–Chinese investment developments under the BRI–Nurly Zhol integration.	Local	Bilateral
2017	Production of explosives by Nitrokhim.	Total cost of the project: 20 mln USD. Source of financing: • Xinjiang Scientific joint-stock company (JSC) Xuefeng.	Commercial. Branded as a BRI project. Part of the Kazakh–Chinese investment developments under the BRI–Nurly Zhol integration.	Local	Bilateral
2017	Olefin production facility for KazAzot.	Total cost of the project: 2.35 bln USD. Source of financing: • Inner Mongolia Berun Holding Group Co.	Commercial. Branded as a BRI project. Part of the Kazakh–Chinese investment developments under the BRI–Nurly Zhol integration.	Local	Bilateral
2017	Production of potash fertilizer will be built on the basis of the Satimola deposit.	Total cost of the project: 1.7 bln USD: KPCL.	Commercial. Branded as a BRI project. Part of the Kazakh–Chinese investment developments under the BRI–Nurly Zhol integration.	Local	Bilateral
2016	China–Kazakhstan Production Capacity Cooperation Fund.	Total cost of the project: 2 bln USD. Source of financing: • Silk Road Fund.	Strategic and commercial. So far, it has been used only once in 2018 for the subscription of common shares in the Astana International Exchange by the Silk Road Fund. Branded as a BRI project.	Local	Bilateral
2016	Construction of a metallurgical plant Amir-A LLP.	Total cost of the project: 50 mln USD.	Commercial. Branded as a BRI project. Part of the Kazakh–Chinese investment developments under the BRI–Nurly Zhol integration.	Local	Bilateral

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Timing	Project	Financing	Project description (commercial vs strategic; connection to BRI)	Local vs regional	Bilateral vs multilateral
2015	Kazakhstan Infrastructure Fund.	Total cost of the project: 600 mln USD. Source of financing: • CITIC Group and Baiterek Holding.	Strategic: At least one project has already been financed by that Fund. Not branded as a BRI project. However, the agreement was signed in 2015 during the meeting of the heads of China and Kazakhstan when the other agreements under BRI were signed.	Regional	Bilateral
2015	Production of powder polypropylene by Neftekhim Ltd. LLP, Xinjiang Sanbao.	Total cost of the project: 12 mln USD.	Commercial: The project is one of 51 China–Kazakhstan industrial projects. During the 2017 meeting of the Kazakhstan–China Business Council, the United Chemical Company LLP and the China Development Bank reached an agreement on the implementation of investment projects for the production of methanol and ammonia in the territory of the special economic zone the National Industrial Petrochemical Technopark in the Atyrau region, as well as on the launch of caustic soda production in the territory of the Taraz Chemical Park in the Zhambyl region. Branded as a BRI project.	Local	Bilateral
2014	Modernization of the Shymkent refinery. Phase 1 and phase 2.	Total cost of the project: 1.6 bln USD. Source of financing: • China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC); • Exim Bank of China – 1 bln USD.	Commercial. Branded as a BRI project. Part of the Kazakh–Chinese investment developments under the BRI–Nurly Zhol integration.	Local	Bilateral
2013	Buying shares in the development of the Kashagan deposit.	Total cost of the project: 5 bln USD.	Commercial: Kazakhstan sold 8.33% of its offshore oilfield in the Caspian Sea to China for about 5 bln USD. The sale and purchase agreement was signed by the heads of the Kazakh state oil and gas company, KazMunayGaz, and the China National Petroleum Corp CNPET.UL (CNPC) in the presence of the heads of China and Kazakhstan. Not branded as a BRI project. However, the agreement was signed just when the BRI programme was launched, during the visit of Xi Jinping to Kazakhstan.	Local	Bilateral
2014	Loan to JSC the Development Bank of Kazakhstan.	Total cost of the project: 500 mln USD. Source of financing: • Exim Bank of China.	Commercial. Not branded as a BRI project. The China Development Bank will provide 500 mln USD to JSC the Development Bank of Kazakhstan under the Interbank Association of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. These funds will be used for non-oil sector projects in Kazakhstan’s economy.	Local	Bilateral
2009		Total cost of the project: 5 bln USD. Source of financing:	Commercial.	Local	Bilateral

Timing	Project	Financing	Project description (commercial vs strategic; connection to BRI)	Local vs regional	Bilateral vs multilateral
	Loan to JSC the Development Bank of Kazakhstan.	• Exim Bank of China.	Not branded as a BRI project. The agreements were signed in April 2009, including a loan for 5 bln USD from the Exim Bank of China to the Development Bank of Kazakhstan for infrastructure and modernization in the energy sector to diversify the economy.		
2008	Irkol underground leaching mine with a production capacity of 750 tonnes of uranium per year.	Financed jointly by Kazakhstan and China.	Commercial: Joint stock company between Kazatomprom and its subsidiary Mining Company LLP (51%) and the Chinese company Beijing Sino-Kaz Uranium Resources Investment Company Limited (49%). Not branded as a BRI project. The project is being implemented under the strategic partnership agreement between Kazatomprom and China Guangdong Nuclear Power Co. (CGNPC), signed in Astana in October 2008.	Local	Bilateral
2007	JSC KaraZhanBasMunaiGaz.	Total cost of the project: 930 mln USD.	Commercial and strategic: Strategic, since the development of the oilfield is increasing the development of the oil industry, including its infrastructure and technology. Exploration Mining KazMunayGaz (KMG EP, an oil-producing subsidiary of the national company KazMunayGaz) and CITIC Group signed an agreement on the purchase and sale of a 50% stake in CITIC Canada Petroleum. Not branded as a BRI project.	Local	Bilateral
2005	Investment in PetroKazakhstan, Inc.	Total cost of the project: 4.18 bln USD.	Commercial and strategic: China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) agreed to buy the company for 4.18 bln USD via CNPC International Ltd. (CNPCI). In 2006–2007, CNPC sold 50% of its shares to KazMunayGaz, allowing the Kazakh government to regain an equal share of the nation's most modern oil refinery. The realization of the project allowed Kazakhstan to attract investment to modernize its equipment and perform geological surveys. Not branded as a BRI project.	Local	Bilateral
1997	CNPC–AktobeMunaiGaz.	Total cost of the project: 4 bln USD.	Commercial and strategic: CNPC acquired a 66.7% stake in Kazakhstan's oil- and gas-producing JSC AktobeMunaiGaz for 325 mln USD and pledged to invest 4 bln USD in the development of the company for 20 years, including 585 mln USD in the first five years after signing the agreement. Strategic, since Kazakhstan imposes obligations on its Chinese partners to invest in infrastructure in oil and non-oil sectors. Not branded as a BRI project.	Local	Bilateral

Timing	Project	Financing	Project description (commercial vs strategic; connection to BRI)	Local vs regional	Bilateral vs multilateral
KYRGYZSTAN					
Planned	Modernization of the state laboratory (“Central Laboratory”) under the State Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources under the Government of Kyrgyzstan.	Total cost of the project: 30 mln yuan (4.5 mln USD).	Strategic: Investments in the laboratory modernization project are supposed to be carried out in three stages, which includes the construction of a new building for the Central Laboratory in Bishkek and the complete replacement of obsolete equipment. Branded as a BRI project. There is a plan to create an ISO 17025-compliant Laboratory Research Centre in Bishkek through the BRI. Project initiator/contractor: Central Asian Mining Company Sikan LLC.	Local	Bilateral
Planned	Agreement of intent for a joint geological study.	Information not available.	Strategic. Not branded as a BRI project. Project initiator/contractor: Central Asian Mining Company Sikan LLC.	Local	Bilateral
Planned	Carrying out fieldwork on a selection of geochemical samples with a scale of 1:1000000 in the territory of Kyrgyzstan from 2017–2018.	Information not available.	Strategic. Not branded as a BRI project. Project initiator/contractor: Xi’an Centre of the China Geological Survey.	Local	Bilateral
2018–2023	Setting up an industrial park (“Silk Way”).	Information not available.	Commercial: More than 35,000 people will be involved in the park’s industrial processes. In the territory of the park, there will be 112 profile factories for the production of clothing, textiles and footwear products with a total area of 327,000 m ² , where large enterprises as well as individual entrepreneurs working on a patent basis will operate. The total volume of production of the industrial park enterprises is expected to amount to about 5.8 bln KGS a year. Not branded as a BRI project. Construction of the industrial park is included in the Action Plan for the implementation of the Concept of the Regional Policy of Kyrgyzstan for the period 2018–2022, which was approved by order of the Government of Kyrgyzstan on 29 March 2018.	Local	Bilateral
2015	Construction of an oil refinery in Tokmok (Tokmok Oil Refinery LLP).	Total cost of the project: 60 mln USD.	Commercial: Tokmok Oil Refinery has the capacity to process 450,000 tonnes of crude oil per year with the possibility of bringing the volumes up to 800,000 tonnes. The plant is focused on the production of motor gasoline, light diesel and heating oil, liquefied gas, dry gas and paraffin oil. Positive factors:	Local	Bilateral

Timing	Project	Financing	Project description (commercial vs strategic; connection to BRI)	Local vs regional	Bilateral vs multilateral
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of a domestic market with domestic petroleum products; • creation of new jobs. <p>Not branded as a BRI project. Project initiator/contractor: Open Joint-Stock Company Xinjiang (OJSC) International Business.</p>		
2013	Opening up of a gold mining site in Issyk-Kul Oblast (“Togolok”).	Information not available.	<p>Commercial: The Togolok gold deposit is located in the Zheti-Oguz district of the Issyk-Kul region, the size of which is 600 hectares. The involved Chinese company engages in the construction of roads and bridges and in the procurement of training materials in local schools. This factory is going to achieve the creation of new jobs for 1,500 local people.</p> <p>Not branded as a BRI project. Project initiator/contractor: China Global Company for the Import and Export of New Technologies in Kyrgyzstan LLC. The licence expires on 27 March 2024.</p>	Local	Bilateral
2011–2016	Gold mining site Taldy-Bulak Levoberezhny in Chui Oblast.	Total cost of the project: 200 mln USD.	<p>Commercial: Gold reserves are estimated at 78 tonnes. The company employs about 1,000 people, 96% of whom are local residents and 4% are Chinese specialists. In 2016, 2.7 tonnes of gold were produced; in 2017, 2.017 tonnes were produced and 3 tonnes of gold were anticipated for 2018.</p> <p>Not branded as a BRI project. The field is developed by OJSC Alтынken, which is 40% owned by Kyrgyzaltyn (which is 100% owned by the Government of Kyrgyzstan) and 60% by the Chinese company Superb Pacific Limited, which is a subsidiary of Zijin Mining, which is the largest mineral developer in China.</p>	Local	Bilateral
2009–2013	Construction of an oil refinery by China Petrol Company LLC Junda in Kara-Balta.	Total cost of the project: 300 mln USD.	<p>Commercial: The Junda oil refinery has the capacity to process 800,000 tonnes of crude oil to produce about 750,000 m³ per year of finished products in the form of gasoline, diesel fuel and engine oils.</p> <p>Positive factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of a domestic market with domestic petroleum products; • creation of new jobs. <p>Not branded as a BRI project. Project initiator/contractor: China Petrol Company Junda.</p>	Local	Bilateral
2008–2016	Gold mining site Ishtamberdy in Jalal-Abad Oblast.	Total cost of the project: 112.35 mln USD.	<p>Commercial: Gold reserves are estimated at 79.5 tonnes. The company employs about 400 people. 90% of workers are residents of the Ala-Buka and Chatkal districts of Jalal-Abad Oblast. Total taxes paid into the budget of Kyrgyzstan amounted to 333,233,000 KGS.</p>	Local	Bilateral

Timing	Project	Financing	Project description (commercial vs strategic; connection to BRI)	Local vs regional	Bilateral vs multilateral
			Not branded as a BRI project. Project initiator/contractor: Full Gold Mining LLC, which is a gold mining company founded by the Chinese state-owned corporation Linbao Gold.		
TURKMENISTAN					
2018	Framework agreement for a partnership in the implementation of a project constructing a mining and processing plant at the Tybegatan potassium salts deposit in the Lebap region.	Total cost of the project: 600 mln USD.	Strategic: Development of Turkmenistan's industrial infrastructure. Diversification of industrial production. Investment provided by the Chinese engineering corporation SAMS. Not branded as a BRI project.	Local	Bilateral
2016	Protocol of intent for the production and maintenance of the equipment for the oil and gas complex.	Information not available.	Strategic: The project aims to maintain and produce the gas equipment for the China–Turkmenistan gas pipeline. Commercial: Investment into Turkmen industry by the Sancuan Sencyuri Teknoloji Ko. Ltd. and Merdana Turkmen. Not branded as a BRI project. However, the project is under the BRI, as the equipment will also service the China–Turkmenistan gas pipeline.	Local	Bilateral
2016	Agreement on a cashmere production facility in Ashgabat.	Information not available.	Strategic: To develop a new manufacturing sector, the Turkmen side will need new investments and specialized equipment from the Chinese side. These conditions may foster the dependence of Turkmenistan on China. Investments will be provided by the Qinghai Cashmere Industry Group and Turkmen Oguzabat company. Not branded as a BRI project.	Local	Bilateral
2014	Construction of gas infrastructure and a gas plant in Galkynysh (Yujnyi Iolotan-Osman).	Information not available.	Strategic: China asserted its monopoly by developing Galkynysh. Financed and realized by CNPC, the sole service contractor implementing the second phase of development at Galkynysh. Branded as a BRI project. Some experts link Galkynysh to BRI.	Local: Built in Turkmenistan. Regional: The processed gas will be supplied to China.	Bilateral
2013	Construction of the gas processing infrastructure/exploitation of gas fields in Galkynysh (Yujnyi Iolotan).	Total cost of the project: 8.5 bln USD (according to some sources 9.7 bln USD).	Commercial: The project will increase the efficiency of the gas field and assures 30 bln cubic metres of gas per year to China. The project was carried out by contractors from China, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates. Turkmenistan received a 7.1-bln USD loan from the China Development Bank to develop Galkynysh.	Local: Built in Turkmenistan. Regional: The processed gas will be	Bilateral

Timing	Project	Financing	Project description (commercial vs strategic; connection to BRI)	Local vs regional	Bilateral vs multilateral
			Branded as a BRI project. Some experts link Galkynysh to BRI.	supplied to China.	
2013	Engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) contract for the treatment plant in Galkynysh.	Total cost of the project: 3.13 bln USD.	Strategic: Deepens cooperation with Turkmenistan. The Turkmen gas industry becomes more dependent on China. Branded as a BRI project. Some experts link Galkynysh to BRI.	Local: Built in Turkmenistan. Regional: The processed gas will be supplied to China.	Bilateral
2011–2014	Construction of the second gas processing plant in Bagtyarlyk in Hojambaz province.	Total cost of the project: 600 mln USD. Source of financing: • CNPC.	Strategic: China cemented its position as the top importer of Turkmen gas, ahead of Russia. Both plants in Samandepo and in Hojambaz supply gas flowing into the China–Turkmenistan gas pipeline. The first processing plant was commissioned on the Samandepo field in 2009. Both plants are built to supply high-quality natural gas to the China–Turkmenistan gas pipeline. Joint venture between the State Agency for the Control and Use of Hydrocarbons under the President of Turkmenistan and CNPC. Not branded as a BRI project. However, the project is under BRI, since this plant will serve the China–Turkmenistan pipeline.	Local: Built in Turkmenistan. Regional: The processed gas will be supplied to China.	Bilateral
UZBEKISTAN					
2017	Pre-exploration and development of the Mingbulak oilfield in Namangan.	Total cost of the project: 211.7 mln USD. Source of financing: • China National Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Corporation (CNODC); • Chinese Development Bank.	Strategic: CNODC, together with CNPC, attempted to reopen the Mingbulak oilfield, which was deliberately blinded after being unable to tame in 1992. Uzbek authorities aim to gain access to the previously opened reservoir. However, the Chinese partners had to step away from the deal in the fourth quarter of 2018 after being unable to find the reserve, despite explorations of up to 6,000 m in the Mingbulak district and surrounding areas. Not branded as a BRI project.	Local	Bilateral
2017	Purchase of high-tech exploration and prospecting equipment for UzbekNefteGaz.	Total cost of the project: 30.0 mln USD. Source of financing: • Chinese Development Bank.	Strategic: National oil and gas company UzbekNefteGaz looks to CNPC and its affiliates for the supply of equipment and machinery. UzbekNefteGaz aims to improve its currently available proven reserves map and define the geographic areas with high potential for further development. The deal is signed within the framework of the state's requirement that UzbekNefteGaz doubles domestic oil extraction.	Local	Unilateral

Timing	Project	Financing	Project description (commercial vs strategic; connection to BRI)	Local vs regional	Bilateral vs multilateral
			Not branded as a BRI project.		
2017–2020	Construction of the Jjzakh oil refinery complex (5 mln tonnes/year).	Total cost of the project: 1.7 bln USD. Source of financing: • Russian GazPromBank; • Chinese Development Bank.	Strategic: The plant will produce 3.1 mln tonnes of motor fuel complying with the Euro-5 standard, more than 1 mln tonnes of aviation kerosene, as well as liquefied gas, fuel oil, bitumen and other products. With the commissioning of the Jjzakh refinery, more than 2,000 jobs will be created. The blueprints of the complex are developed by Wood–Amec Foster Wheeler. To date, framework agreements have been concluded on participation in financing the project with leading banks, such as Korea Exim Bank, Chinese Development Bank, GazPromBank and Credit Suisse. Not branded as a BRI project.	Regional	Multilateral
2017–2020	Modernization of the SC Shargunkumir and upgrading the production capacity to 900,000 tonnes/year.	Total cost of the project: 89.9 mln USD. Source of financing: • Chinese Development Bank; • Exim Bank of China.	Strategic: Starting from 7 September 2017, the specialists of the Chinese company China Railway Tunnel Group began an investment project to modernize the enterprises of Shargunkumir JSC. The task consists of cleaning the 10 old mines with a total length of 1,500 m and drilling an additional 2,227 m of the tunnel for the extraction of additional volumes of coal. The total project cost is 105.5 mln USD, of which 89.9 mln USD is a Chinese investment. Completion of the preparatory and improvement works, as well as the start of coal mining, is planned for the first quarter of 2020. New technologies will be introduced; in particular, the most advanced high-performance coal-mining equipment will be imported. More than 450–500 new jobs will be created when the company starts to operate at its full capacity. Branded as a BRI project.	Local	Bilateral
2014–2020	Arrangement of the gas condensate fields (GCF) Khodjisayat, Dengizkul, Khodjidavlat and Sharkiy Alat (extraction of 869.6 mln cubic metres/year of gas and 6.400 ton/year of condensate).	Total cost of the project: 177.7 mln USD. Source of financing: • Chinese CNPC.	Strategic: Chinese investors fought to obtain licences for geological exploration, prospecting and oil and gas production in Uzbekistan for many years, which they obtained in 2016. According to various sources, four gas fields were handed to CNPC. Uzbekistan aims to more than double its oil production by 2025. CNPC is one of Uzbekistan’s largest oilfield partners. Not branded as a BRI project.	Local	Bilateral
TAJIKISTAN					
2015	Northern Zarnizor new mining and processing factory in the	Total cost of the project: 200 mln USD.	Commercial: Tajik authorities earned 1.3 bln TJS from taxes between 2014 and 2017. There are 2,354 local employees and 1,264 Chinese employees working at the facility. Along with a mining factory with a capacity of 1 mln tonnes per year, which was put into operation in 2016,	Local	Bilateral

Timing	Project	Financing	Project description (commercial vs strategic; connection to BRI)	Local vs regional	Bilateral vs multilateral
	Matchinsky district of the Sughd region.		<p>this project implied the construction of a metallurgical processing plant with the capacity to process 50,000 tonnes of minerals per year in the city of Istiklol in 2017.</p> <p>Branded as a BRI project. An investment agreement was made between the Government of Tajikistan and the Chinese Industrialist Company in China LLC. Since the company entered into operation, 375 mln USD has been invested in Northern Zarnizor.</p>		
2012–2018	Pakrut gold mining in Vahdat city.	Total cost of the project: 180 mln USD.	<p>Commercial: By the end of 2018, the company plans to produce 207 kg of gold. With the full operation of the factory, gold production is expected to reach 1–1.5 tonnes per year. Since it started operating, the company has transferred 230 mln TJS to the country's budget in the form of tax payments. The company is also actively engaging in the construction of road infrastructure, recreational facilities and power transmission lines. This factory will create new jobs for 2,000 people: 80% Tajik and 20% Chinese employees.</p> <p>Not branded as a BRI project. The Government of Tajikistan and Kryso Resources Ltd. Co.'s development of the Pakrut field began in 2012. Currently, China enjoys 100% ownership over the company. It is expected that after 2030, gold extraction in this field will be controlled by Tajik authorities.</p>	Local	Bilateral
2012	Zarnizor minerals processing facility.	<p>Total cost of the project: 85 mln USD.</p> <p>The Chinese machine manufacturer Sinomach invested 85 mln USD.</p>	<p>Commercial: Investment in facilities in the northern town of Zarnizor to produce lead or zinc (ongoing since 2012).</p> <p>Not branded as a BRI project.</p>	Local	Bilateral

About CADGAT and the Central Asia Regional Data Review

The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and the OSCE Academy established the Central Asia Data-Gathering and Analysis Team (CADGAT) in 2009. The purpose of CADGAT is to produce new cross-regional data on Central Asia that can be freely used by researchers, journalists, NGOs, government employees and students inside and outside the region. Comments and questions can be sent to: ino@nupi.no. The datasets can be found at: <http://osce-academy.net/en/research/cadgat/>

The following datasets have been published previously:

1. Hydroelectric dams and conflict in Central Asia
2. Narcotics trade and related issues in Central Asia
3. Language use and language policy in Central Asia
4. The transport sector in Central Asia
5. Road transportation in Central Asia
6. Gender and politics in Central Asia
7. Political relations in Central Asia
8. Trade policies and major export items in Central Asia
9. Intra-regional trade in Central Asia
10. Trade barriers and tariffs in Central Asia
11. Holidays in Central Asia. Part I: Laws and official holidays
12. Holidays in Central Asia. Part II: Professional and working holidays
13. Media in Central Asia: Print Media
14. Media in Central Asia: TV
15. Radio in Central Asia
16. Renewable energy policies of the Central Asian countries
17. Wind power potential of the Central Asian countries
18. Solar power potential of the Central Asian countries
19. Hydropower potential of the Central Asian countries
20. BRI in Central Asia: Overview of Chinese projects
21. BRI in Central Asia: Rail and road connectivity projects
22. BRI in Central Asia: Energy connectivity projects
23. BRI in Central Asia: Mineral and petroleum exploration, extraction and processing projects

CADGAT has also produced a database on “Elites in Central Asia”, which can be found at <http://osce-academy.net/dbelite/>



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