

## OCTAL AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY JOIN EFFORTS TO FOSTER FUTURE OMANI TALENT

**Muscat, July 2019** – As part of its efforts to empower the next generation of Omanis, OCTAL, collaborated with Oman’s Information Technology Authority (ITA) for this year’s IT Kids Innovation Theatre (IT KIT). The programme, which is in its fourth year, is designed to encourage children to develop their IT skills. This year’s cycle is held between the 14<sup>th</sup> of July and the 1<sup>st</sup> of August at the Innovation & Robot Center, Salalah.

Offered to 40 students between the ages of 9 and 12, the initiative is part of a long-term partnership between the ITA and OCTAL. Led by specialists in the field, it offers an opportunity for children to develop their creativity, knowledge, and IT skills in an active environment. Over the course of three weeks, the children attend workshops in coding, electronics and robotics. The highest performing children are then be nominated for participation in a further specialized program in association with the Ministry of Education.

“It’s a pleasure to once again be lending our support to the ITA for this fun and educational programme, as part of our commitment to give back to our local community and generate future leaders of the manufacturing industry,” said Nicholas Barakat, CEO of OCTAL. “The IT KIT Innovation Theatre programme is a great way to engage children, build on their digital capabilities, and encourage in them an entrepreneur spirit. It perfectly embodies OCTAL’s forward-thinking strategy to invest in initiatives that enhance the skills of the next generation of Omanis.”

OCTAL’s community-focused CSR strategy includes various training and leadership development initiatives focused on equipping community members with vocational knowledge and skills. Pioneering the growth of the manufacturing industry in Oman, OCTAL presents its team of professionals with rewarding and challenging career opportunities, while remaining committed to developing training initiatives to enhance skillsets and create capable Omani business leaders across its operations.

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## **About OCTAL**

Oman-based OCTAL has emerged as the largest PET sheet producer and integrated packaging company in the world. Operating from the Salalah Free Zone, the company has successfully harnessed its strategic location with access to East-West shipping lanes and favorable trading regulations coupled with its unique-to-the-world manufacturing capabilities to meet the breadth and depth of customer demand.

Manufacturing PET resin and the first and only direct-to-sheet polyester sheet in the world, DPET™, the company's state-of-the-art plant was purposely designed and built to yield superior quality products with waste and cost reduction benefits, increased productivity for thermoformers and unmatched environmental advantages.

Today, OCTAL is the world's largest PET resin and sheet producer on a single site.

For more information, please visit: [www.octal.com](http://www.octal.com)

### **For press inquiries, please contact:**

Merlyn Rodrigues  
Head – Corporate Communications & Investor Relations  
OCTAL SAOC FZC  
Office: +968 22030731  
E-mail: [mrodrigues@octal.com](mailto:mrodrigues@octal.com)