

# Saudi Arabia Sovereign Local Currency Debt *Primer & Update*

*Saudi Tadawul Group*



هيئة السوق المالية  
Capital Market Authority



المركز الوطني لإدارة الدين  
NATIONAL DEBT MANAGEMENT CENTER

May 21<sup>th</sup> 2026

Website Link, for further information click-through: <https://www.saudiexchange.sa/wps/portal/saudiexchange/rules-guidance/capital-market-overview/sukuk-and-bonds?locale=en>

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# 1. Saudi Arabia's Sovereign Local Currency Debt Market: Summary

# The KSA Sovereign Local Currency Debt Issuance Programme

## A Robust and Growing Domestic Fixed Income Platform for SAR-denominated Issuance

### Key Features

**Instrument Type:**

Currently, Shariah-compliant Sukuk (Islamic bonds) denominated in Saudi Riyals (SAR)  
*[Based on demand, future issuances in conventional bond format could also be possible]*

**Issuance Frequency:**

Conducted on a monthly basis, typically in the third week of each month

**Tenors:**

Structured across a wide range of maturities to establish a benchmark yield curve, including “on-the-run” tenors of 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13 and 15 years<sup>\*</sup>

**Issuing Entity:**

The National Debt Management Centre (NDMC), on behalf of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Finance

**Purpose:**

Primarily used to finance budgetary needs, refinance maturing debt, and support long-term economic projects and infrastructure development

**Investor Base:**

Accessible to both domestic and international investors, facilitated through primary dealers (both local and international), and trading infrastructure involving Euroclear/Clearstream and custodians

### Strategic Importance



Contributes to the development of a well-established SAR yield curve across maturities and stimulates private sector issuance and liquidity in the local market



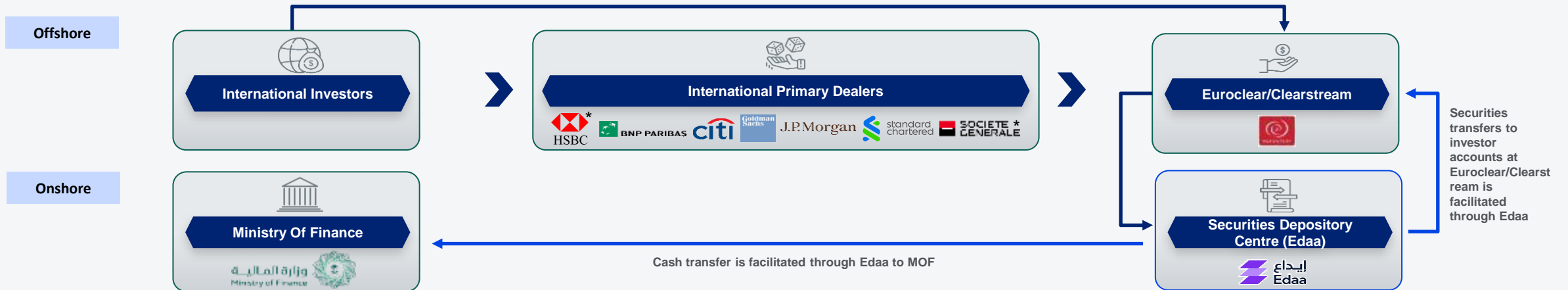
Strengthens financial resilience and supports the long-term diversification goals under Vision 2030



Enhances the debt portfolio by reducing reliance on foreign currency funding and smoothing refinancing risks

# Local Currency Sovereign Debt Primary Auction Process

## Flow diagram for Saudi Arabian Sovereign debt issuance, involving international investors



Source: NDMC

Note that above is representation for Primary Issuance for International Investors; local investors similarly access the primary auctions through local primary dealers

## Primary issuance conducted through 16 Primary Dealers (PDs) – the International PDs and Local PDs also have market-making obligations



\* HSBC and Societe Generale were appointed recently, and are expected to become operational soon

# Regulatory Evolution of the KSA Sovereign Local Currency Debt Market

<b>2017</b>	The publication of the revamp of relevant Rules clarifying the requirements and procedure of the debt offering
<b>2019</b>	Tax exemption for international investors
<b>2020</b>	Allowing foreign investors to Invest directly in debt market
<b>2021</b>	The publication of instructions for international central securities depositories
<b>2021</b>	Activation of the Linkage with the International Central Securities Depository (Clearstream)
<b>2022</b>	Activation of the Linkage with the International Central Securities Depository (Euroclear)
<b>2024</b>	The licensing of Tradeweb
<b>2024</b>	Enabling Capital Market Institutions to Open "Omnibus Accounts" for Their Clients for domestic DCM Investments
<b>2025</b>	The introduction of a market making framework in the debt market
<b>2025</b>	Extension of Trading Hours for Negotiated Deals Execution for Debt Instruments
<b>2025</b>	The introduction Over-the-Counter (OTC) Settlement System for OTC trades involving listed debt securities
<b>2025</b>	Reduction of the fail management process fee for fixed income market

*Note: Unlike the equity market, there is no registration required for international investors in the debt market, nor are they required to demonstrate any minimum size; any international investor with a Euroclear/Clearstream account or an account at a local custodian can access the local debt market*

# Secondary Market Drivers, and Initiatives for Boosting Liquidity

## Secondary Market Drivers

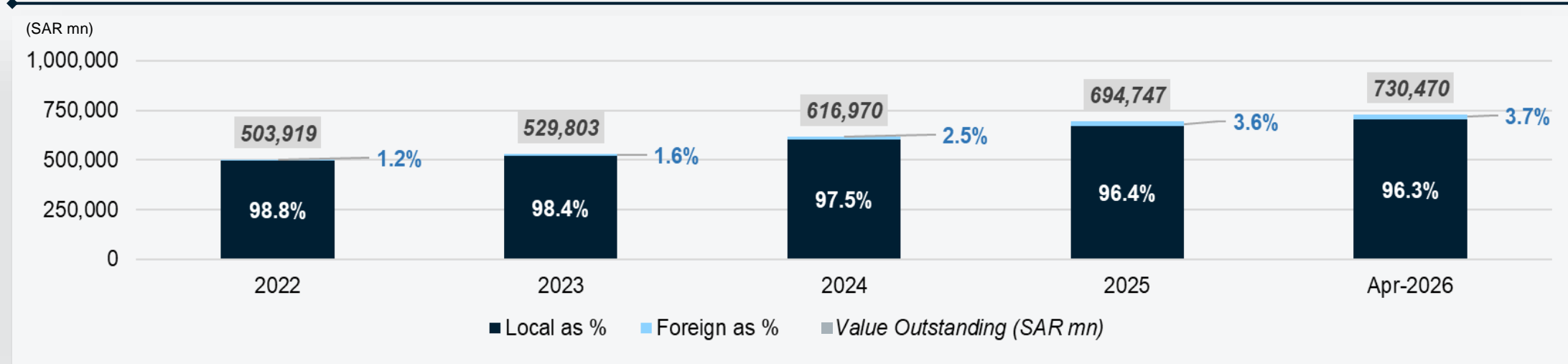
- International and Local Primary Dealers have market-making obligations, and are required to quote two-way pricing
- Sukuk are listed and actively traded on the Saudi Exchange
- Introduction of Over-the-Counter (OTC) trading with corresponding OTC settlement
  - Prior trading channels involved trading the Sukuk on the exchange through intermediary brokers
  - From 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 Edaa introduced the OTC Settlement framework that alternately allows bilateral trades between counterparties via custodians (and Euroclear/Clearstream) - eliminating the need for intermediary brokers
  - The service mechanism is a Delivery versus Payment (DvP), automates key settlement functions, and reduces transaction costs and processing times
  - Investors can now settle trades outside the exchange trading platform, improving speed and operational efficiency
  - The model is aligned with global post-trade standards facilitating greater foreign investor participation
  - This development also effectively integrates the local and international investor liquidity pools, through fungible access
- NDMC has begun focusing on 8 key On-the-Run tenors, at primary auction and through buy-backs/switches (liability management), so as to concentrate greater liquidity in these tenors
- The Securities Clearing Center Company (Muqassa) has begun offering an Interbank Repurchase Agreement (Repos), which is under refinement to suit investors' requirements
- In Sept.2025, Saudi Arabia added to J.P. Morgan's GBI-EM bond index watchlist for inclusion
- In Oct.2025, Tradeweb launched its electronic trading platform for local bonds, helping deepen access for global investors
- In Oct.2025, EDAA and Clearstream signed an MoU to develop new/more efficient post-trade services, such as collateral management, securities lending & borrowing, fund services, and digital securities

## Future Boosting Liquidity Initiatives

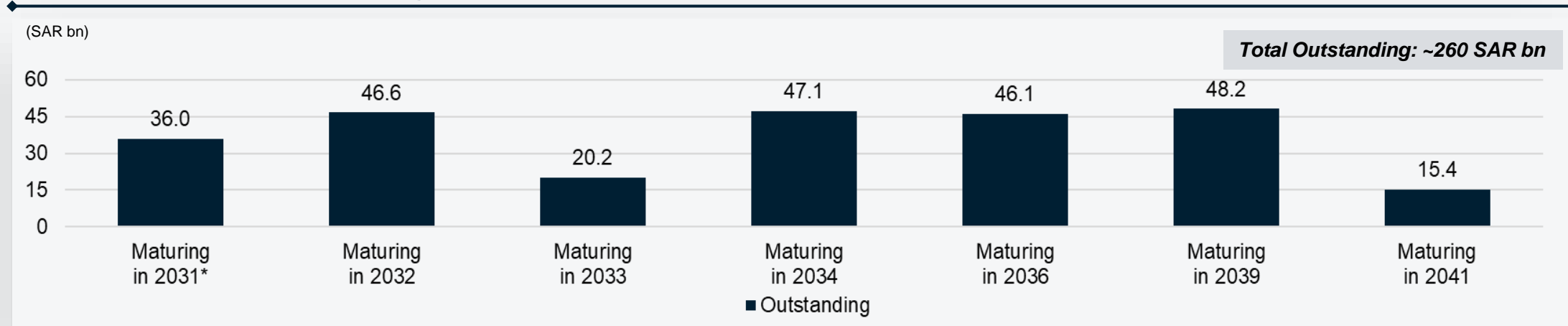
- Saudi Arabia's sovereign local currency debt is already included in relevant FTSE and iBoxx indices; formal inclusion in J.P. Morgan's GBI-EM and Bloomberg's EM Local Currency Government Index was formally announced in April 2026, with phased implementation starting in early 2027.
- Given investor feedback, future initiatives will also consider introduction of Debt Futures Market

# Sovereign Local Currency Sukuk - Outstanding Amounts & Ownership

## Amounts Outstanding and Ownership Breakdown for Sovereign Local Currency Bonds



## PD Bonds Amounts Outstanding in the 8 OTR Tenors – as of April 2026

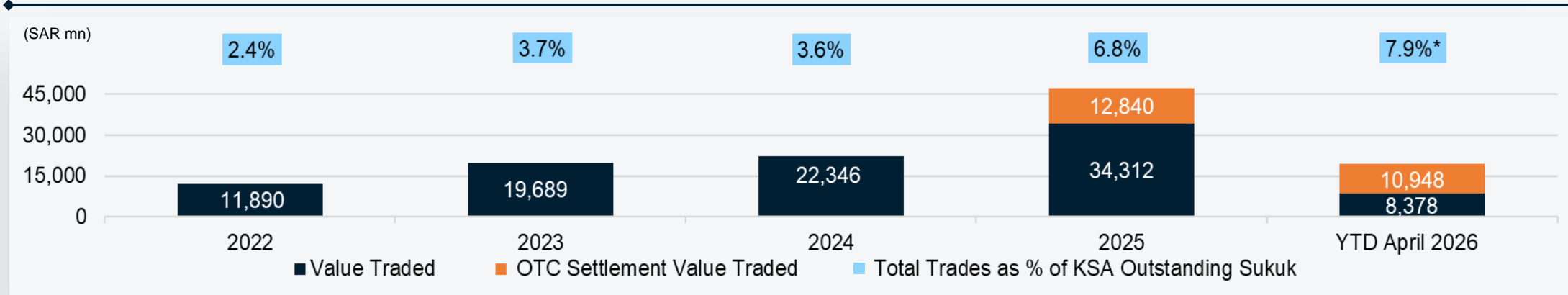


\* Includes two PD Bonds with the same maturity  
Source: Saudi Exchange, and NDMC

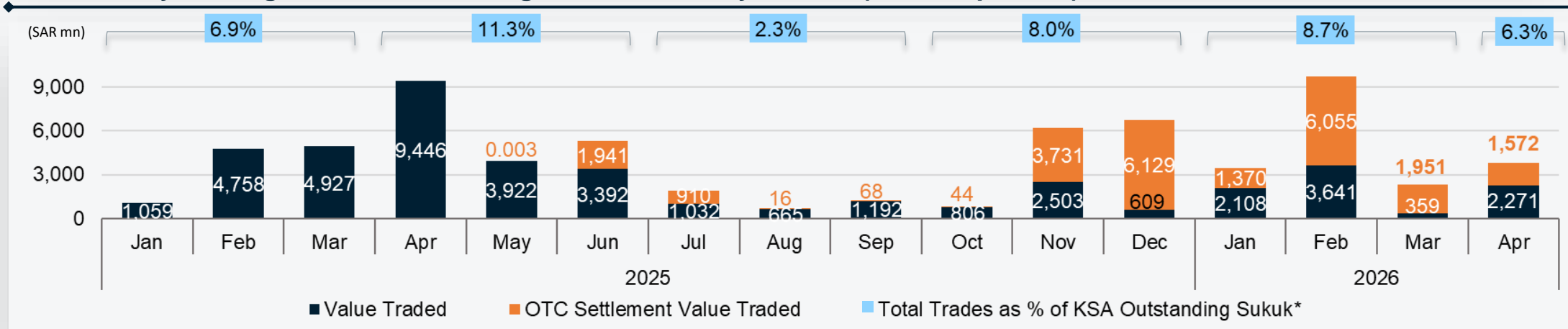
# Liquidity in the Sovereign Local Currency Bond Market

2025 trading volumes have surged past 2024 levels, driven by a sharp uptake in OTC settlements and improved market turnover

## KSA Yearly Trading Values for Sovereign Local Currency Bonds<sup>1</sup>



## KSA Monthly Trading Values for Sovereign Local Currency Bonds<sup>1</sup> (2025 – Apr 2026)



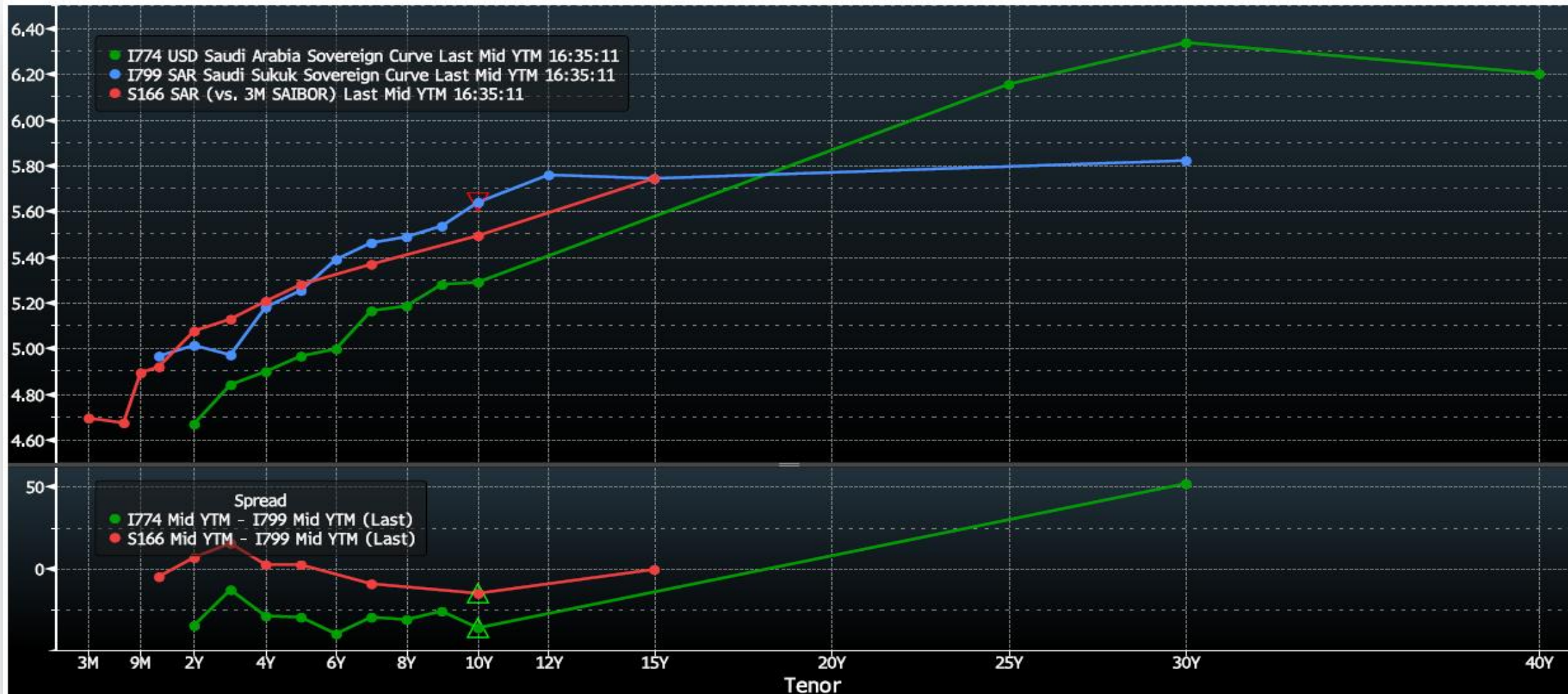
Source: Saudi Exchange

Note: 1. Intra-ICSD trading values are included in trading values from 2023 onwards, in addition to the Saudi Exchange reported figures. OTC settlements were first introduced on 1st of May 2025 and the first trade happened on the 14th of May 2025.

\* Outstanding KSA Gov't Sukuk Annualized

# Comparative Yields

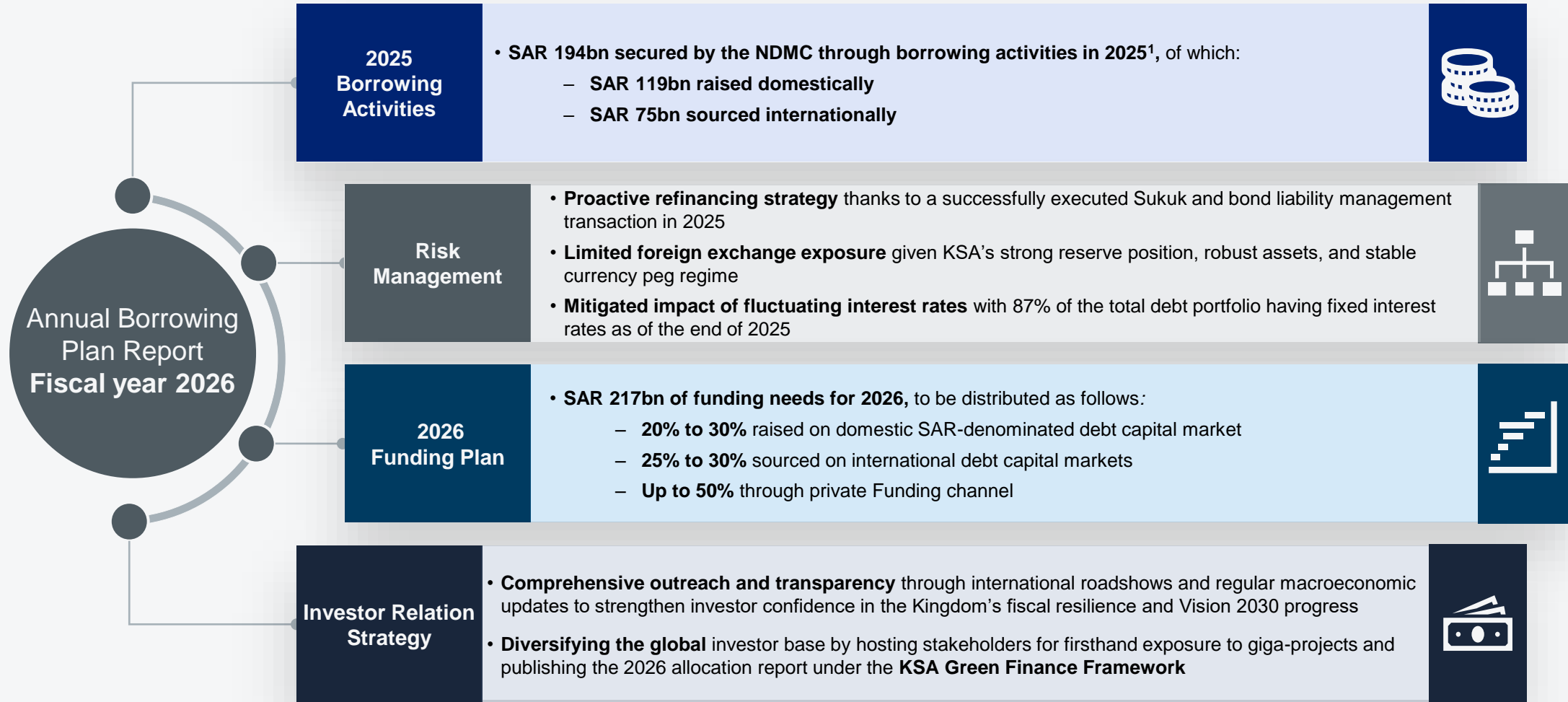
Sovereign SAR yields through the 10-year tenor exhibit notable pickup over both USD sovereign and the SAR swap curves



Source: Bloomberg as of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026

## 2. Saudi Arabia's Sovereign Local Currency Debt Market: Issuance Process and Trading Updates

# The Annual Borrowing Plan as a Driver for Issuance Activities



Sources: NDMC 2026 Annual Borrowing Plan

Note: 1. Includes liability management transactions during the year

# Issuance Calendar and Market Access

## A transparent and accessible structure supporting investor participation

The National Debt Management Center (NDMC) maintains a structured and transparent issuance calendar for the Saudi Riyal-denominated Sukuk Program. This calendar outlines the schedule for domestic sukuk issuances, providing clarity and predictability for market participants.

### Monthly Issuance Framework

- **Issuance Frequency:** Monthly, typically during the third week of each month.
- **Tenor Structure:** NDMC has designated specific benchmark tenors as “on-the-run” issues to ensure liquidity and pricing transparency.
- **Publication:** The issuance calendar is published annually and is accessible on the NDMC website.
- **Access:** Investors can view the detailed calendar here: [NDMC Issuance Calendar](#)

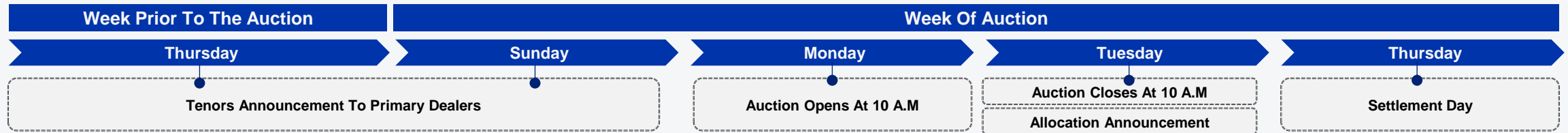
### Recent Issuance Highlights

- **April 2026 Issuance:** Total allocation of SAR 19.946Bn across five tranches with maturities in 2031, 2033, 2036, 2039, 2041.
- **March 2026 Issuance:** Total allocation of SAR 15.436Bn across five tranches with maturities in 2029, 2031, 2033, 2036, 2039, 2041.
- **February 2026 Issuance:** Total allocation of SAR 7.868Bn across five tranches with maturities in 2031, 2033, 2036, 2039, 2041.
- **January 2026 Issuance:** Total allocation of SAR 2.269Bn across five tranches with maturities in 2031, 2033, 2036, 2039, 2041.
- **December 2025 Issuance:** Total allocation of SAR 7.016Bn across five tranches with maturities in 2027, 2029, 2032, 2036, 2039.
- **November 2025 Issuance:** Total allocation of SAR 5.832Bn across five tranches with maturities in 2027, 2029, 2032, 2036, 2039.

For detailed results of each issuance, including tranche sizes and maturities, please refer to the NDMC's [Media Center](#)

# Local Currency Debt – Primary Auction Process & Calendar

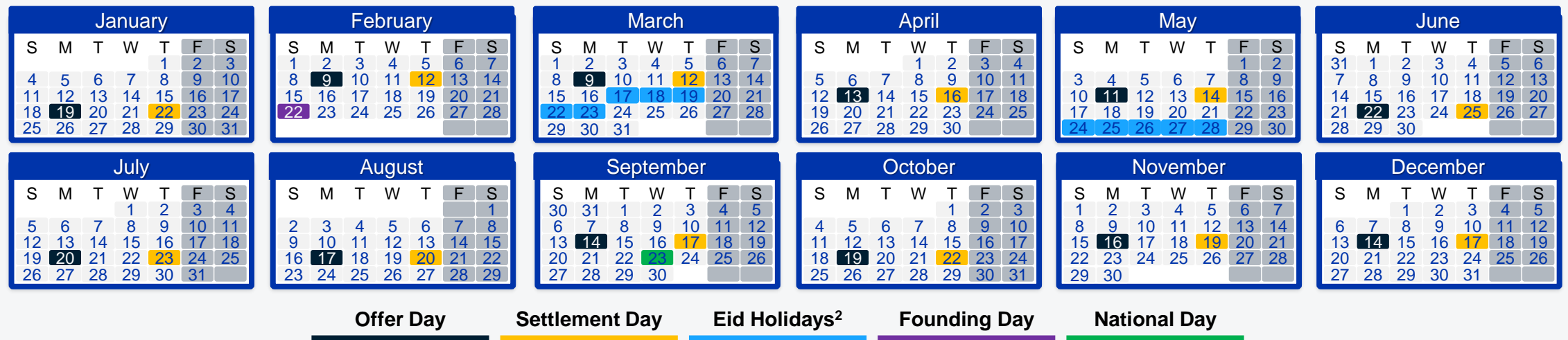
## Local Monthly Auction Process



- Auction opens on Monday, third week of every month (subject to official holidays) at 10 A.M KSA time and lasts for 24 hours
- Once auction is closed the following day, allocation takes place based on issuance size via a Uniform Dutch Auction Process
- SAR Sukuks settle through Euroclear and are listed on the Saudi Exchange (Tadawul)

- SAR Sukuks are issued with tenors of up to 30-years and are also exempt from withholding tax
- International investors can participate in the monthly auction through the five primary dealers, who also provide daily quotes / runs on Bloomberg
- Auction results, statistics and key related indicators are regularly published on the NDMC website

## 2026 Local Sukuk Issuances Calendar<sup>1</sup>

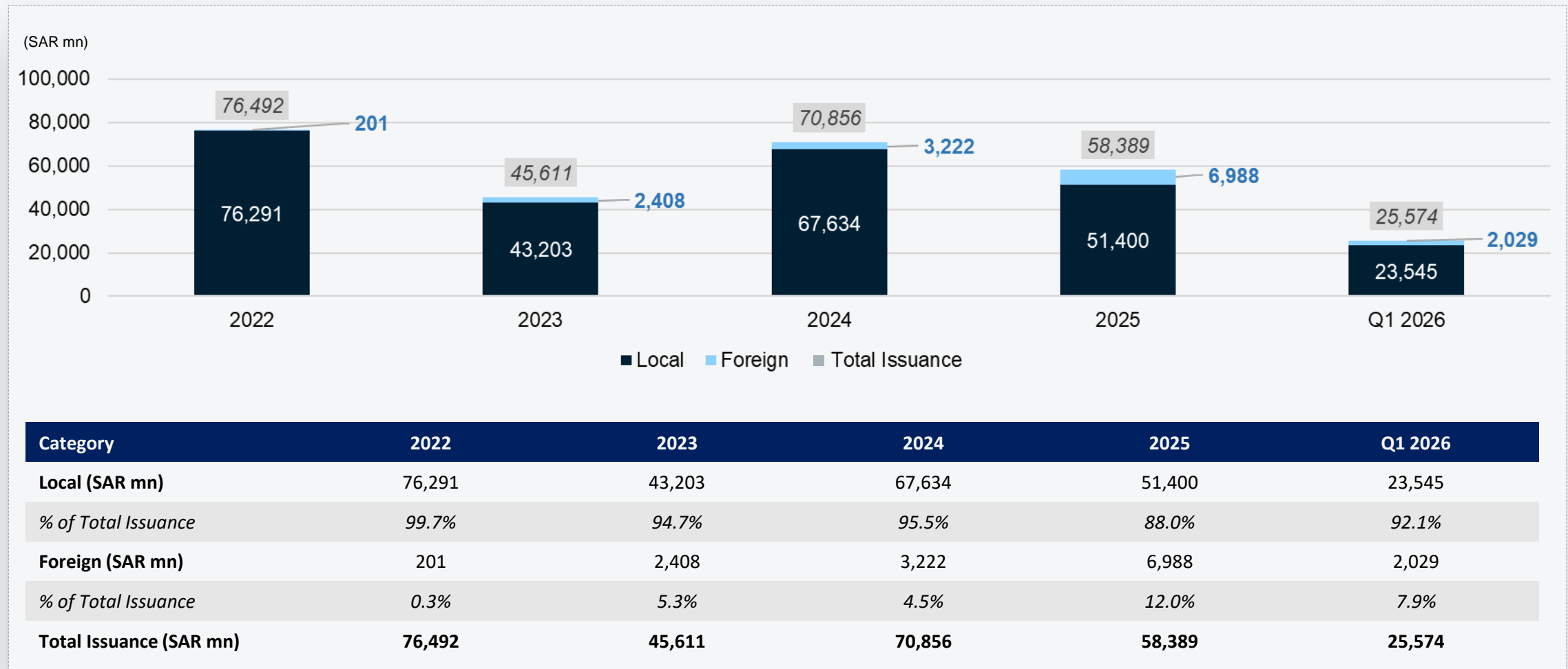


Sources: NDMC

Notes: 1. Calendar is subject to change due to official holidays, 2. Tentative Holiday

# Local Currency Sovereign Debt Issuance Data

Breakdown between local vs foreign investors allocated in sovereign local currency issuance at primary issuance. As of Q1 2026.

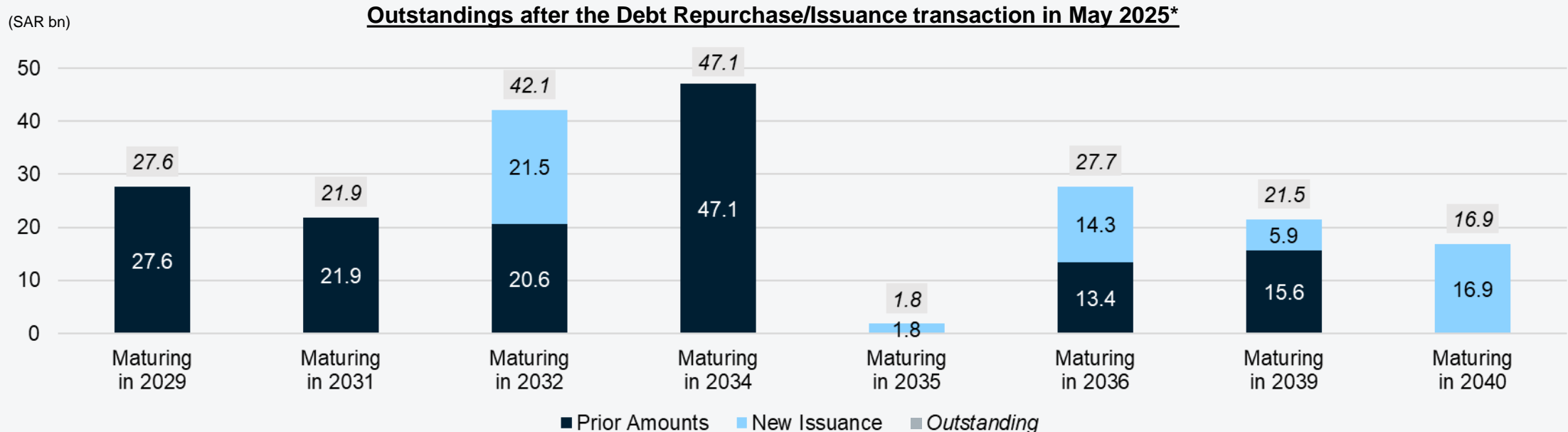


# Liability Management Update: Consolidating Into OTR Tenors

## KSA Sovereign Local Currency Debt Repurchasing/Issuance

In 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2025, NDMC completed its sixth early **repurchasing** (redemption) transaction of previously issued sukuk maturing between 2025 and 2029 - a total value around **SAR 60.4 bn**.

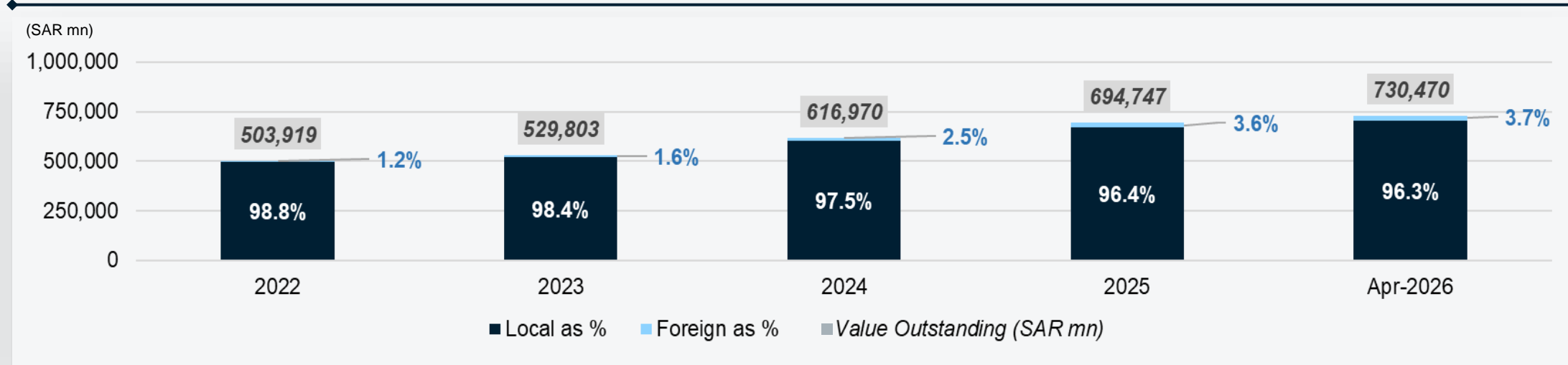
Simultaneously, NDMC **Issuance** of new sukuk totaling **SAR 60.3 bn**, divided into five tranches maturing between 2032 and 2040:



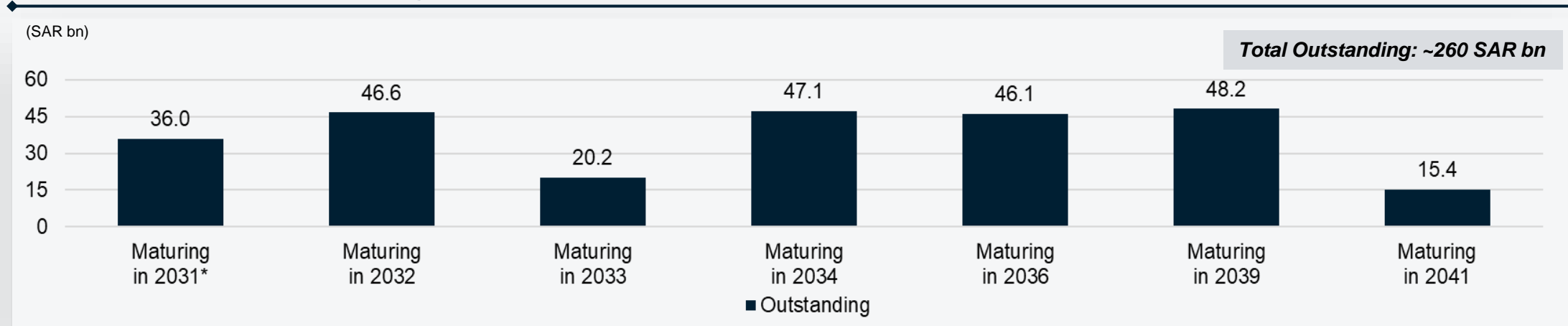
\* Tenors shown above are only those that represent the six PD bond/on-the-run tenors, and others where new amounts were issued into. Tenors with no changes to the outstanding amounts have not been reflected

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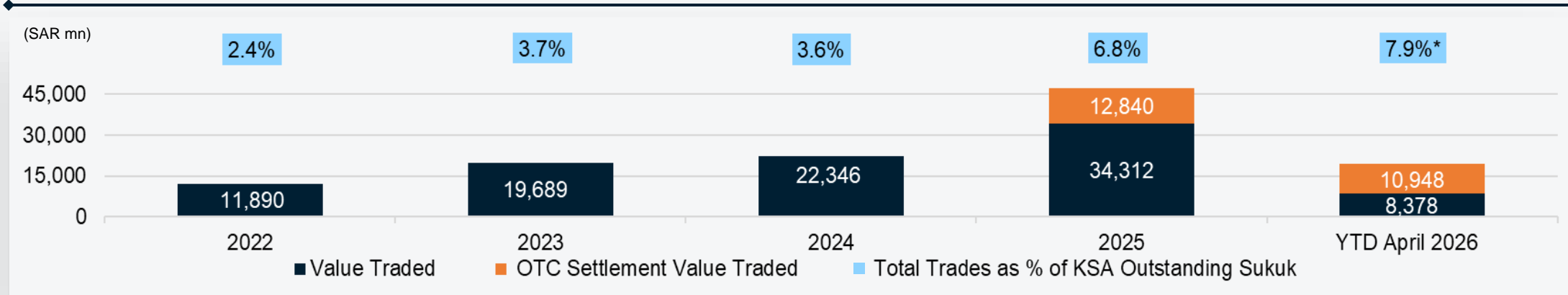


\* Includes two PD Bonds with the same maturity  
Source: Saudi Exchange, and NDMC

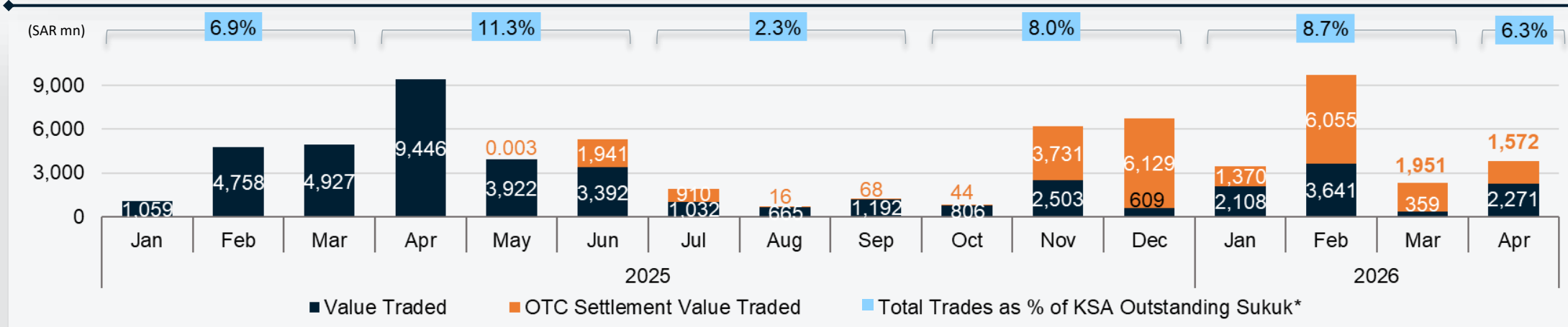
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Source: Saudi Exchange

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\* Outstanding KSA Gov't Sukuk Annualized

### 3. Trading and Post-Trade Developments: Direct OTC Settlement System

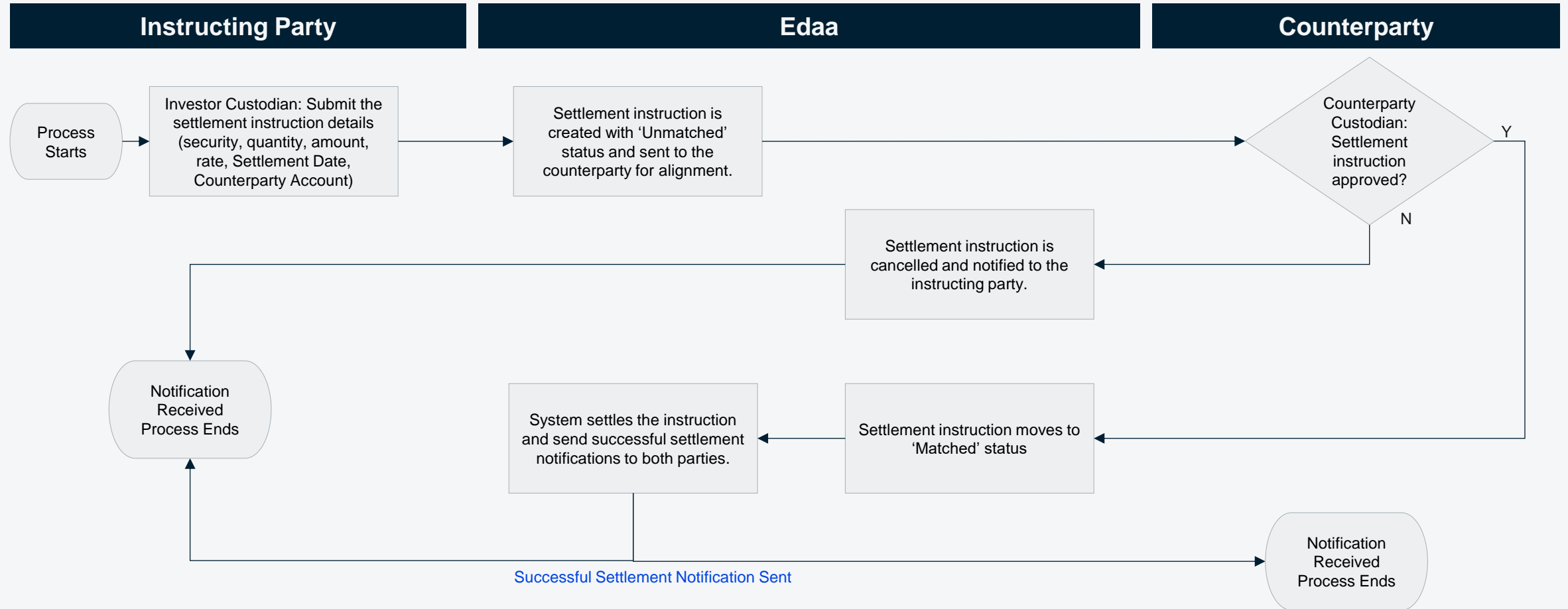
# 2025 KSA Sovereign Local Currency Debt Market Update

## Trading and Post-trade Infrastructure Update

- **Introduction of Over-the-Counter (OTC) trading with corresponding OTC settlement**
  - Prior trading channels involved trading the Sukuk on the exchange through intermediary brokers
  - From 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 Edaa introduced the OTC Settlement framework that alternately allows bilateral trades between counterparties via custodians (and Euroclear/Clearstream) - eliminating the need for intermediary brokers
  - The service mechanism is a Delivery versus Payment (DvP), automates key settlement functions, and reduces transaction costs and processing times
  - Investors can now settle trades outside the exchange trading platform, improving speed and operational efficiency
  - The model is aligned with global post-trade standards facilitating greater foreign investor participation
  - This development also effectively integrates the local and international investor liquidity pools, through fungible and efficient access across both pools

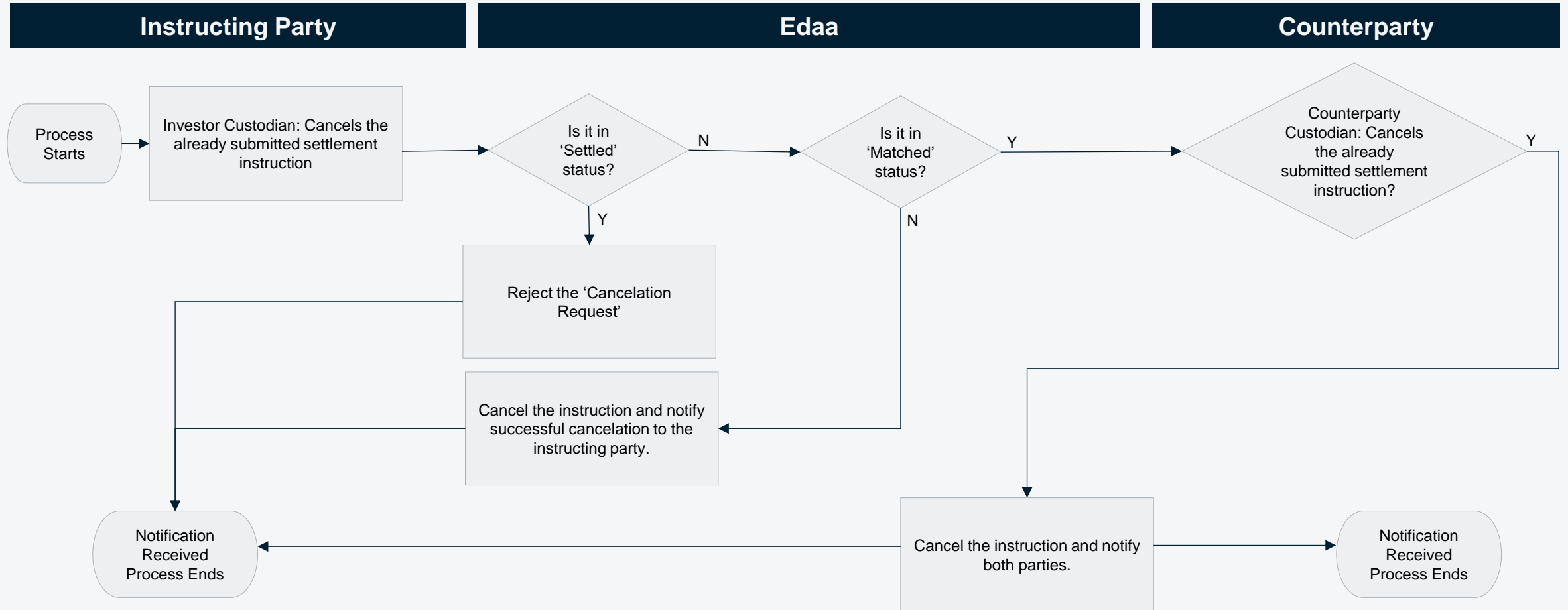
# OTC Settlement for Listed Debt Instruments (1 of 5)

## OTC Settlement Instructions Creation Process Flow



# OTC Settlement for Listed Debt Instruments (2 of 5)

## OTC Settlement Instructions Cancellation Process Flow



# OTC Settlement for Listed Debt Instruments (3 of 5)

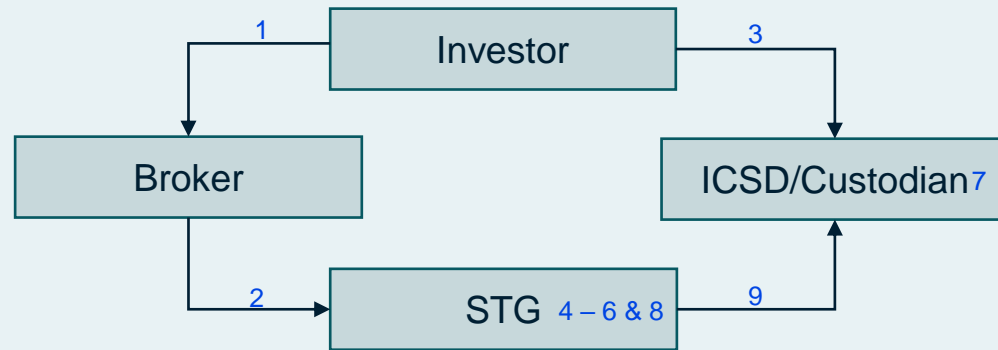
## Exchange Trading vs. Negotiated Deals vs. Edaa OTC Settlement

Service	Exchange Trading	Negotiated Deals	Edaa OTC Settlement (Listed Debt Instrument)
Exchange Trading Platform	✓	✓	✗
Muqassa Clearing Service	✓	✓	✗
Edaa Settlement Service	✓	✓	✓
Instruments	All Securities	All Securities	Listed Debt Instruments
Instruction Placement	Broker	Broker	Custodian
Settlement Cycle	T+2	T+0 – T+5	T+0 – T+5
Reporting	Exchange	Exchange	Exchange

# OTC Settlement for Listed Debt Instruments (4 of 5)

## Investor Journey: Exchange Trading vs OTC Settlement

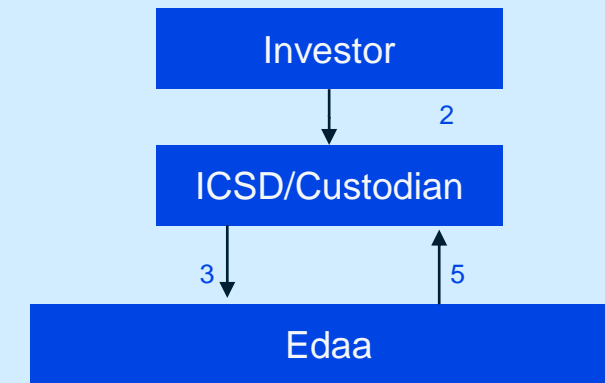
### Exchange Trading



1. The ICSD client or local investor establishes a relationship with a local broker, who then connects to the exchange to execute the investor's trade instructions.
2. The Exchange Member (broker) submits the orders directly to the Saudi Exchange for matching and execution.
3. Investors provide their Custodian or ICSD with the necessary trade details for matching purposes\*.
4. The Saudi Exchange facilitates the matching of orders.
5. The Saudi Exchange transmits the matched trades to Muqassa for clearing.
6. Muqassa generates the settlement instructions and transmits them to Edaa for processing.
7. The ICSD or Custodian receives the settlement instructions generated by Edaa and completes the settlement in Edaa system.
8. On the intended settlement date, Edaa processes the matched settlement instructions.
9. Edaa sends settlement confirmations to custodians.

\* The details required by the ICSD in the trade ticket are: Broker details, broker fee and trade reference.

### OTC Settlement



1. The ICSD client or local investor bilaterally agree on the trade details, including price, quantity, and settlement terms with the counterparty.\*
2. The investor submits the necessary details to the custodian or ICSD.
3. The ICSD or custodian submits the settlement instruction into Edaa system, generating a settlement instructions for the counterparty's custodian. The counterparty's custodian then confirms the instruction within Edaa for matching, based on the bilaterally agreed settlement terms.
4. Edaa settles the instructions on the intended settlement date.
5. Edaa sends settlement confirmations to both custodians.

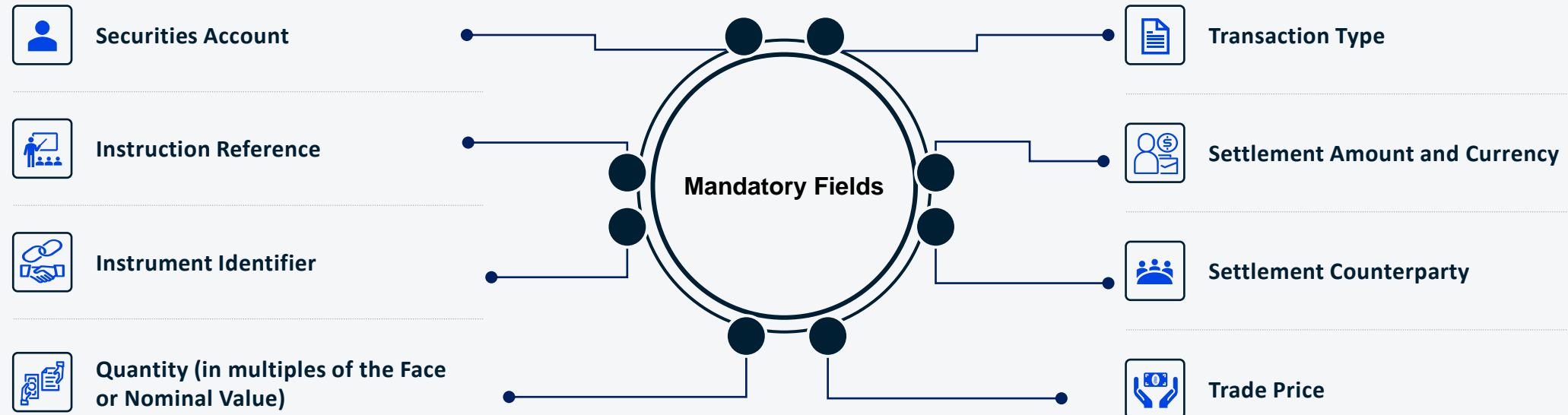
\*Trade matching remain outside of Edaa scope and can be facilitated through Trading platforms or Direct relationships. Edaa is providing only the settlement service.

# OTC Settlement for Listed Debt Instruments (5 of 5)

## Key Considerations

### Key Considerations When Entering OTC Settlement Instructions

- Investors must adhere to the following requirements when submitting OTC settlement instructions through their custodians in the Edaa system:
  - **Settlement Cycle:** Must be agreed bilaterally between counterparties and fall within a T+0 to T+5 range



## 4. FAQ's, Info/Data Sources, and Key Contacts

# Top FAQs from Investors

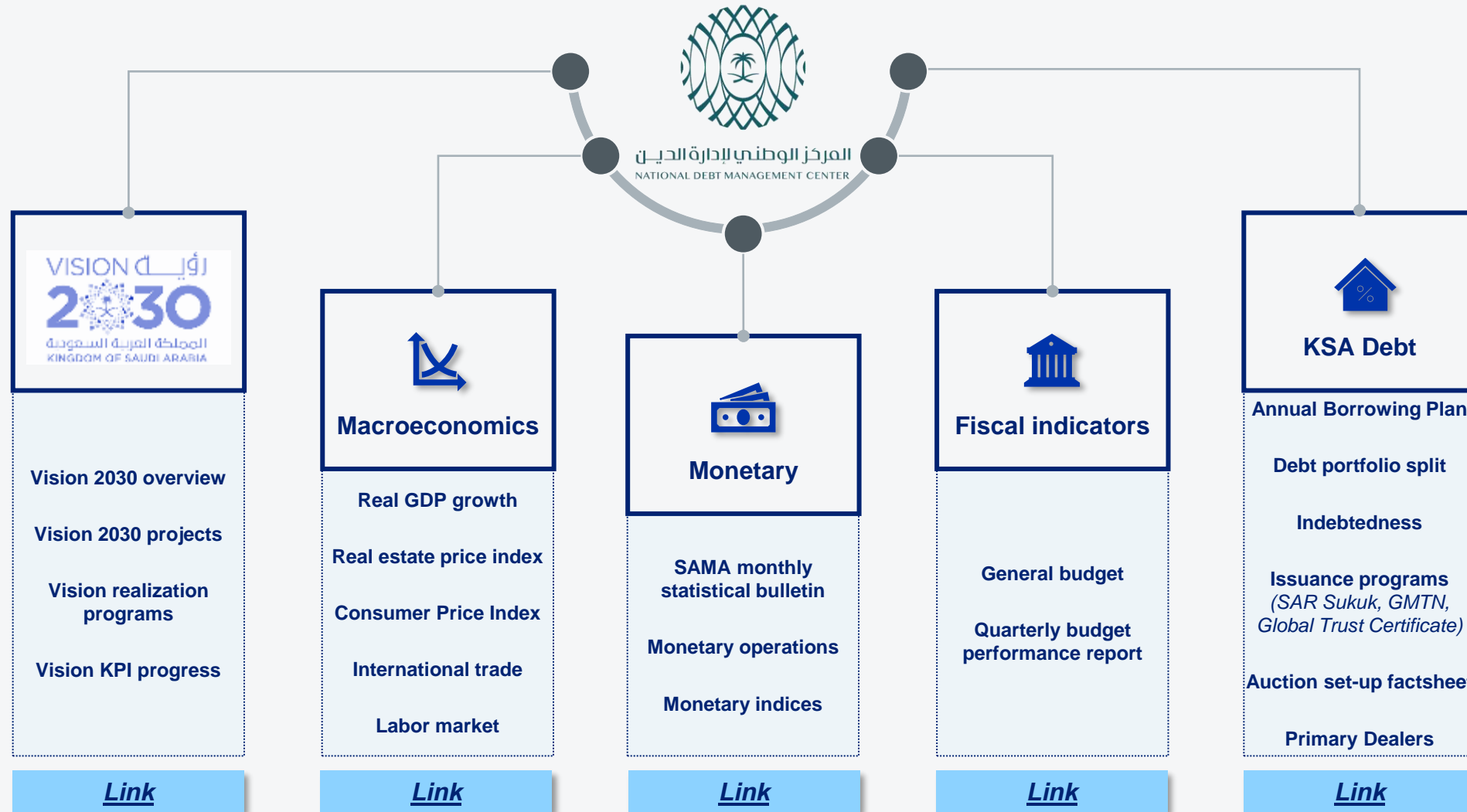
## Addressing key queries from current and prospective SAR Sukuk participants

<b>A.</b>	<b>Why is the Kingdom prioritizing a local currency sukuk program alongside its USD issuances?</b>	The local currency sukuk program is a central pillar in the Kingdom’s funding strategy. It supports the development of a domestic yield curve, enhances market liquidity, and reduces dependency on foreign currency borrowing. By cultivating a robust riyal-denominated debt market, the Kingdom strengthens local financial market infrastructure while maintaining diversification and flexibility in its funding approach
<b>B.</b>	<b>Are these issuances only in Sukuk format, and can a conventional Bond not be issued?</b>	There are no restrictions in format for the local SAR programme. The Saudi Sovereign itself in USD format has issued several Bonds and Sukuk. If demand for a specific issuance or tenor is robust enough, the Sovereign would be pleased to consider issuing local currency debt for that tenor in the conventional Bond format
<b>C.</b>	<b>What is the issuance frequency of the SAR sukuk program?</b>	Sukuk are typically issued on a monthly basis, often during the third week of each month, according to a pre-defined schedule. This provides predictability and transparency to investors. The current issuance calendar can be accessed here: <a href="#">NDMC Issuance Calendar</a>
<b>D.</b>	<b>How does secondary trading settlement work for international investors?</b>	With the launch of the OTC settlement service for all listed debt instruments, global investors can now engage in direct bilateral settlement of trades agreed with counterparties via their custodians without intermediary broker involvement. Further, both Euroclear and Clearstream are recognized as custodians for this purpose, ensuring internationally recognized settlement standards and ease of access for non-resident participants

# Top FAQs from Investors

## Addressing key queries from current and prospective SAR Sukuk participants

<b>F.</b>	<b>Are there withholding taxes applicable to foreign investors who participate in SAR issuances?</b>	International investors are not exposed to withholding taxes on interest paid on Saudi sovereign local currency Sukuk (the Ministry of Finance absorbs these taxes, through a permanent decree)
<b>G.</b>	<b>Are there active primary dealers supporting access to the SAR sovereign Sukuk market, and is there an active secondary market?</b>	Yes, there are currently five international primary dealers and five local primary dealers appointed by NDMC, who support the primary auction process and also have market-making obligations. Secondary trading is supported either through brokers on the exchange or otherwise directly through the OTC settlement offered by Edaa.
<b>H.</b>	<b>Is there a forward calendar of upcoming issuances?</b>	Yes. NDMC publishes a forward-looking issuance calendar that outlines the anticipated timing of monthly sukuk auctions. While final size and tenor announcements may come closer to auction date, the calendar allows investors to prepare and position accordingly. <a href="#">NDMC Issuance Calendar</a>
<b>I.</b>	<b>Who are the typical participants in the SAR sukuk market?</b>	The investor base is primarily comprised of domestic banks, which are the key participants across both the primary and secondary markets, and that ensures a strong domestic bid.



# KSA Local Links and Data Reference

## Links and References

- Edaa OTC Settlement Announcement ([Click here](#))
- Sukuk/Bonds liquidity stats for Q1 2025 ([Click here](#))
- Sukuk/Bonds liquidity stats as of May ([Click here](#))
- Appointed primary dealers ([Click here](#))
- Local Saudi Sukuk Issuance Program in Saudi Riyal inc. and auction results ([Click here](#))
- NDMC Reports & Statistics ([Click here](#))
- NDMC Annual Borrowing Plans ([Click here](#))
- KSA Budget Statement ([Click here](#))
- Budget performance reports for 2025 ([Click here](#))
- Saudi Exchange's Monthly/Yearly Reports ([Click here](#))
- Reduction of the fail management process fee announcement ([Click here](#))
- Societe Generale to be appointed as a primary dealer in the government's local debt instruments ([Click here](#))
- Saudi Arabia added to J.P. Morgan's GBI-EM bond index watchlist for inclusion ([Click here](#))
- Tradeweb launched its electronic trading platform for local bonds, helping deepen access for global investors ([Click here](#))
- EDAA and Clearstream signed an MoU to develop new/more efficient post-trade services ([Click here](#))

# Key Market Contacts

## Essential Engagement Points for Market Participants

Below is a reference guide of the key institutions supporting access to the Saudi Riyal Sukuk market. Investors can reach out to these entities for inquiries related to issuances, trading, regulation, or settlement, or engage through one of the Primary Dealers or Custodians or Euroclear/Clearstream

### National Debt Management Center (NDMC)

Lead entity managing the Saudi sovereign debt programme

#### General Inquiries Contact

**Name:** Investor Relations Department

**Email:** [IRRA@ndmc.gov.sa](mailto:IRRA@ndmc.gov.sa)

**Notes:** Primary point for information on local currency programme, auction calendar, investor onboarding

### Saudi Exchange (Tadawul)

Market operator responsible for listing and trading Sukuk

#### Market Operations / Fixed Income Desk

**Name:** Fixed Income Desk

**Email:** [FI@saudiexchange.sa](mailto:FI@saudiexchange.sa)

**Notes:** Trading access, market data, and OTC settlement infrastructure

### Capital Market Authority (CMA)

Regulatory authority overseeing securities markets in Saudi Arabia

#### Sukuk & Debt Instruments Division

**Name:** Sukuk & Debt Instruments Issuance Dept

**Email:** [SDII@cma.org.sa](mailto:SDII@cma.org.sa)

**Notes:** Regulatory queries, disclosures, market rules

# Thank You

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