

Offshore drilling facility required for Timor-Leste wells

Firm three-well commitment offered for Kuda-Tasi project

Upstream, 16 Sep 2025. By Russell Searancke



*Timor-Leste's national flag at the country's independence celebration in Dili on 20 May 2025.
Photo: AFP/SCANPIX*

Owners of mid-water depth drilling rigs are being offered a multi-well opportunity in Timor-Leste on a proposed oilfield development.

The requirement is for either a semi-submersible or drillship to work on the Kuda-Tasi and Jahal project in water depths of between 400 and 430 metres.

The 150-day assignment will cover the drilling of three production wells, all of which will be completed to facilitate near-term production, the project's joint venture partners FINDER Energy and Timor GAP said in an expression of interest document.

The start of the programme should be before the second half of 2027.

If the Kuda-Tasi project materialises, it would be the first offshore drilling campaign in Timor-Leste for several years.

The small Southeast Asian nation is desperate for new oil and gas investments given it currently has no petroleum revenue after the shutdown of the Bayu-Undan field.

Kuda-Tasi and Jahal is viewed as a project that could deliver before the planned Sunrise and Chuditch gas projects, and the operator FINDER is currently performing [**an accelerated front-end engineering and design exercise**](#).

Kuda-Tasi and Jahal have a gross best estimate contingent resource of 22 million barrels of oil while Krill and Squilla contain 23 million barrels, according to FINDER.

FINDER envisages production rates of between 25,000 and 40,000 barrels per day of oil, and 10 million barrels of total output in the first 18 months.

FINDER acquired its 76% operated interest in Block PSC 19-11 from Italian major ENI and Japan's Inpex in August 2024. Timor-Leste's national oil company Timor GAP holds the remaining 24%.

[\(Copyright\)](#)

'Heightened activity' on Timor-Leste's next offshore project

Operator aiming for FID on Kuda-Tasi project in 2026

Upstream, 8 Sep 2025. By Russell Searancke

The selection of a floating production, storage and offloading vessel is at an "advanced stage" for the proposed Kuda-Tasi and Jahal offshore oil development in Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste is desperate for new oil and gas investments given it currently has no petroleum revenue after the shutdown of the Bayu-Undan field.

Kuda-Tasi and Jahal is viewed as a project that can deliver before the planned Sunrise and Chuditch projects, and the Kuda-Tasi operator Finder Energy is currently performing an [accelerated front-end engineering and design](#) exercise.

Finder said an accelerated development is possible because previous exploration and appraisal drilling has de-risked any technical reservoir issues.

The company in its latest guidance said that the final investment decision is planned next year.

"We are currently in a period of heightened activity where critical work on project definition and decisions on equipment and infrastructure are being made," said Finder.

The development concept is based on a leased FPSO connected via a subsea production system to the Kuda-Tasi and Jahal fields; the Krill and Squilla discoveries will be exploited in a subsequent phase.

No pipeline infrastructure is required.

The FPSO will be an existing vessel that can be redeployed, and Finder said the floater selection is now at an advanced stage, although candidates names were not disclosed.

Upstream's market sources have indicated previously the Glas Dowl FPSO, owned by Bluewater, is a prime contender.

The Glas Dowl has been idle for some years; coincidentally, its last assignment was in Timor-Leste on the Kitan oilfield operated by Eni.

"During this time, significant resources are being brought to bear on the project across multiple disciplines, including subsea engineering, marine, subsurface, reservoir engineering, well construction, environmental, contracting, procurement, FPSO due diligence and FEED," said Finder in its latest guidance.

Kuda-Tasi and Jahal have a gross best estimate contingent resource of 22 million barrels of oil while Krill and Squilla contain 23 million barrels, according to Finder.

Finder envisages production rates of between 25,000 and 40,000 barrels per day of oil, and 10 million barrels of total output in the first 18 months.

Finder acquired its 76% operated interest in Block PSC 19-11 from Italian major Eni and Japan's Inpex in August 2024.

Timor-Leste's national oil company Timor GAP holds the remaining 24%.

[\(Copyright\)](#)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNIT (MODU) SERVICES

BACKGROUND

Finder Timor-Leste B.V. (**Finder**) is an oil and gas company with an office located in Dili with its operating company, Finder Operations Pty Ltd, located in Perth, Australia. Finder assumed operatorship of PSC-TL-SO-T 19-11 (**PSC 19-11**) in August 2024 and holds the PSC together with its joint venture partner TIMOR GAP PSC 11-106, Unipessoal, Limitada.

Recognising the requirements, Finder is seeking expressions of interest for reputable, capable and experienced service providers for the provision of Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (**MODU**) Services, or any rig sharing or sub-let opportunities which may exist with other operators in the region.

This EOI does not constitute a commitment, implied or otherwise, that Finder will proceed to further contracting any of the scope of work/services outlined below.

Field and Location Overview

The proposed development wells lie within the previously appraised Kuda Tasi and Jahal oil fields within PSC 19-11.

The location of PSC 19-11 and fields can be seen in Figure 1. The Kuda Tasi and Jahal oil fields fall under the jurisdiction of the Timor-Leste authorities and can be found in the north of PSC 19-11. Water depths range from 400-430m. The development project is expected to be a 3 well standalone development with the potential for future additional wells. All wells will be completed to facilitate near term production.

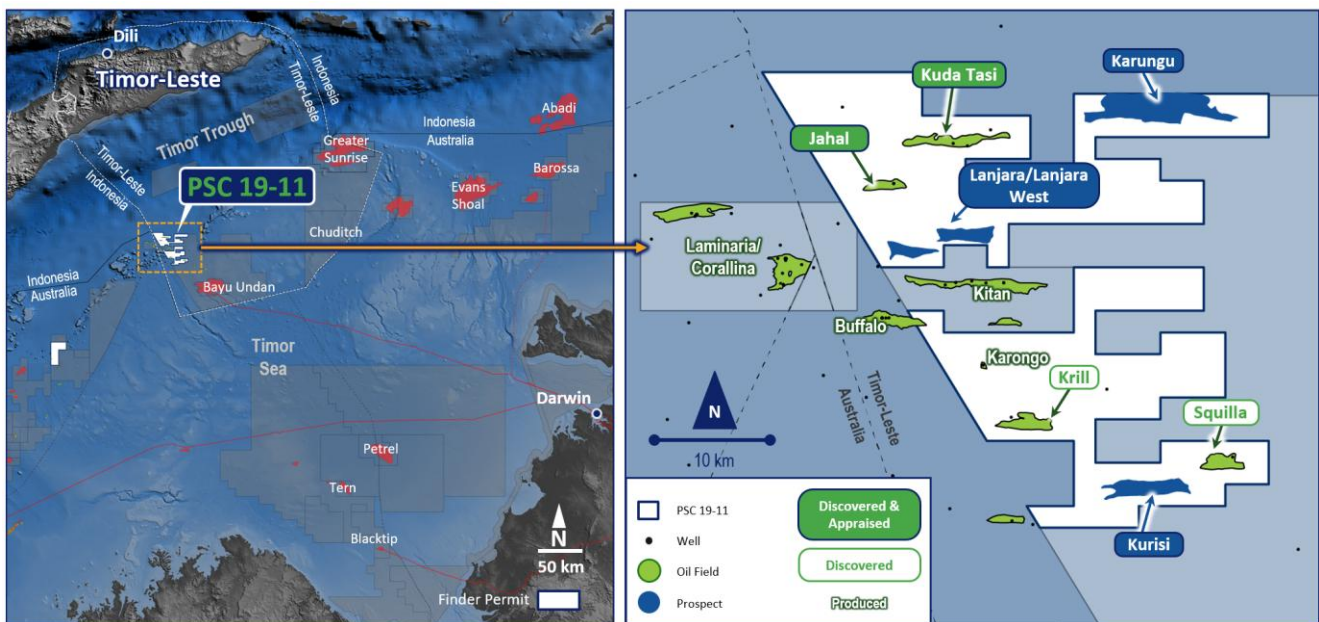


Figure 1: Location of Kuda Tasi and Jahal Oil Fields

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The MODU to be used shall ideally be able to meet the following minimum and generic specifications:

Criteria	Minimum Specification
Offshore campaign	Three (3) firm development wells
Estimated Duration	150 days
Drilling unit	Semi Sub or Drill ship
Water depth (m)	400 – 430m
Max Drill Depth (m)	4,000 m BRT
Drill pipe	5-1/2"
Marine Riser System	18-3/4" ID
BOP	10,000 psi
Well Control System	Choke and Kill lines running along the riser Surface diverter system
Mud system & handling	WBM & SBM High-capacity mud pumps (minimum of four (4) pumps) Mud pits and solid control (shakers, desanders, desilters)
Other	Well clean up Helicopter Refuelling
POB	+150
Offline Capability	Offline stand build ability (preferred)
Positioning	Mooring system or DP
Crane	80 tons (minimum of three (3) cranes)
Support Facilities	Power, accommodation, helideck, deck space

EOI Response Requirement

You are invited to response to the EOI with following information for each MODU proposed:

- **Availability**
 - Form of Contract – direct contract, rig sharing or sublet
 - Current status – actively working / warm stacked / cold stacked
 - Existing contractual commitments – firm work / options / ongoing negotiations
 - Availability Window (mm/yr) – earliest to latest commencement prior to 2H 2027
- **Technical Specifications:**
 - MODU Summary sheet (include Name, Type, Design, Year built)
 - IADC Equipment List (IADC standard format and up to date)
- **HSE:**
 - Safety cases (current & previous – jurisdiction / validity)
- **Indicative Commercial Proposal:**
 - Operating Rate (US\$/day)
 - Daily Operating Rate / DOR (US\$/day)
 - Standby Rate (US\$/day or % DOR)
 - Repair Rate (US\$/day or % DOR)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNIT (MODU) SERVICES

- Mobilisation
 - Moving Rate (US\$/day) or Lump Sum (US\$)
 - Point of Origin (POO)
- Demobilisation
 - Moving Rate (US\$/day) or Lump Sum (US\$)
 - Point of Return (POR)
- Meals & Accommodations
 - Full board supplement (US\$/day)
 - Meals only (US\$/meal)
 - Free of Charge (FOC) allowance (# personnel)
- Subcontracted Services (if any)
 - 3rd Party Service Provider Equipment (US\$/day)
- Crew List
 - Standard Crew List
 - Additional Crew (recommended for optimal operating efficiency)
 - Pricing Schedule (US\$/day)

CONSULTATION

Should your company require further technical details, please kindly contact Luis Pereira, our Timor-Leste Country Representative, at email EOI@finderenergy.com.

Submission of Application

Interested service providers should submit their EOI for the specified services by email to EOI@finderenergy.com, **by no later than 30/09/2025**.