

Eni plans wells in Timor Sea

By Russell Searancke 22 August 2014 00:00 GMT

Italian oil giant Eni intends to drill four new exploration and appraisal wells in the Timor Sea north of Australia in the near future, writes Russell Searancke.

Two exploration wells are planned in a block that adjoins Eni's producing Kitan oilfield, while one well is planned for Kitan itself, and the fourth probe is a satellite target near its Vesta oil discovery, said Ernie Delfos, Eni Australia's managing director.

It is not known which drilling rig has been hired for the programme.

The initial two wells are commitments in Block JPDA 11-106 which is in fact the relinquished parts of the former Kitan exploration area.

Water depths in the permit are between 100 metres and 500 metres, and the block is owned by operator Eni with 40.53%, Inpex on 35.47% and Timor-Leste national oil company Timor Gap with 24%.

Delfos said the well to be drilled at Kitan will be a sidetrack to hopefully access an attic oil compartment.

The Kitan field is owned by Eni with 40%, Inpex on 35% and Talisman Energy with 25%.

The fourth well to be drilled will be an exploration well near Eni's Vesta discovery.

The exploration well is understood to be called Numisia-1 and is located in about 105 metres of water in Block AC/P21.

The Vesta oil and gas discovery was made in AC/P21 in 2005. It was tested and flowed a mixture of oil and gas although at unstable levels.

Delfos added that Eni is currently producing a net 30,000 barrels per day of oil equivalent in Australia at its various fields.

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