

## Hibiscus edges closer to gaining Kitan stake



Australia gives the thumbs up: Hibiscus is a step closer to gaining a stake in the Kitan field after Australia's FIRB showed no objection to the deal

AFP/SCANPIX

Josh Lewis 25 August 2014 07:10 GMT

### Malaysia's Hibiscus Petroleum is a step closer to gaining a stake in the producing Kitan oilfield in the Australia-Timor Leste joint petroleum development area.

The Australian Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) said it had no objections to the deal which will see Hibiscus take Talisman Energy's 25% stake in the field.

Hibiscus executed a share sale agreement in June to acquire 100% of the shares in Talisman Energy's wholly-owned subsidiary Talisman Resources, which holds the Kitan stake, in exchange for US\$18 million.

While Australia's FIRB has given the nod for the deal to go ahead, it is still subject to the approval from the relevant authorities of Timor-Leste.

The Kitan field lies in the Bonaparte basin, roughly 550 kilometres north-west of Darwin, Australia, and, as of 1 January, was estimated to hold 17 million barrels of oil.

Wood Mackenzie has also estimated the field will produce an average of about 10,000 barrels per day from three subsea wells in 2014.

The field was discovered in 2008 and started production in 2011, with output tied back to the Glas Dowr floating production, storage and offloading vessel.

Italian giant Eni operates the field with a 40% stake, Talisman currently holds a 25% interest and Japan's Inpex holds the remaining 35% equity.

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