

AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM NEWS

DECEMBER 2002



INDUSTRY
TOURISM
RESOURCES

Award of offshore exploration permit from closing round of 24 October 2002 in the South Australian adjacent area

Details of the first offshore exploration permit awarded from the closing round of 24 October 2002 are set out below. (Further permits will be announced in the new year.)

The work program commitments for this permit are valued at more than \$A12 million over the next six years.

<u>Permit No</u>	<u>Basin</u>	<u>Area No</u>	<u>Date Granted</u>	<u>Successful Applicant(s)</u>
EPP 32	Duntroon	S01-2	13 Dec 02	Santos Offshore Pty Ltd

Permit EPP 32 (originally released as area S01-2) has been awarded to Santos Offshore Pty Ltd (100%, operator) which proposed a guaranteed program for the first three years of studies, mapping and AVO modelling, 350 line-km of long offset 2D seismic survey, and mapping and data evaluation at an estimated cost of \$A2.2m. The company also proposed a secondary program of studies and one well at an estimated cost of \$A9.8m. There were no other bids for the area.

The permits are awarded for a term of six years under the work program bidding system, and each component of the programs must be completed in the designated year or earlier.

Areas currently available for bidding

	Areas	Bid Closing Date
2002 Re-release areas (1 st bidding round)	W02-14	10 April 2003
2002 Release areas (2nd bidding round)	NT02-2 to 9, W02-1 to 11, S02-1 to 8, V02-1, V02-3 to 4, T02-1 to 4	10 April 2003

Further information on these areas and application requirements can be found by visiting website www.industry.gov.au/petexp or by requesting a free CD-ROM by e-mailing petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au.

Do you want to advertise in the 2003 Acreage Release Package?

The acreage release package on CD-ROM is now distributed to over 900 people in the industry, both domestically and internationally (including USA, Canada, Japan, Korea, China, India, Europe and the UK).

Support industries, such as seismic companies, are able to advertise their products and services that are *applicable to the areas in the release package*.

Companies interested in placing advertising in the 2003 acreage release package should register their interest (no obligation) by e-mailing: petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au. Advertising is placed on the CD-ROM, and can be hotlinked to your company internet address. Similarly, the release package on the ITR website provides hotlinks to advertising companies.

The cost for advertising in the release package is \$A2,200 (including 10% GST) for the equivalent of up to four A4 pages. Expressions of interest should be received by 6 January 2002, with pdfs of your advertising to be forwarded to the above e-mail address by 24 January 2003. The proposed 2003 release areas were advised in the November 2002 newsletter.

Promotion of Australian offshore acreage

Departmental representatives will be available to discuss Australian offshore acreage matters at the following conferences:

NAPE Houston, USA 29-31 January 2003
(North American Prospect Expo)

APPEA Melbourne, Australia 23-26 March 2003
(Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association)

SEAPEX Singapore 9-11 April 2003
(South East Asia Petroleum Exploration Society)

AAPG Salt Lake City, USA 11-14 May 2003
(American Association of Petroleum Geologists)

Seminars will also be held in Calgary directly following AAPG, as well as in Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing in April 2003 (dates not set yet).

We would be happy to organise a private meeting with your company in conjunction with these events. Please e-mail your interest to:
petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au.

National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority

Federal Resources Minister, Ian Macfarlane, announced on 15 December 2002 that the new National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority will be established in 2003 with funding of \$A6.1m.

This single Authority will regulate safety for petroleum workers in Australian waters in a uniform manner, reducing the regulatory burden on industry and simplifying the lines of accountability. The Authority will have offices in Darwin, Melbourne and Perth under its own CEO, but remain answerable to the State, Northern Territory and Federal resource Ministers.

Petroleum companies, particularly those operating in more than one jurisdiction in Australia, will benefit from simplified legislative requirements and regulatory practices to make compliance easier.

The offshore petroleum industry is key to Australia's future economic performance. A strong local industry relies on a secure, consistent petroleum supply at a competitive price. This is a step towards ensuring there are no serious disruptions to that supply and that rig workers are properly protected.

Australian Petroleum Statistics

The October issue of the Australian Petroleum Statistics is now available. The October issue contains statistics on petroleum production, refining, consumption, imports, exports and stocks. The issue also contains petrol prices and taxes in OECD countries for the June quarter. Annual subscriptions cost \$A270 or \$A27 per issue. Copies can be obtained by contacting Rae Fisher on ph: +61 2 6213 7967 or alternatively by e-mail at rae.fisher@industry.gov.au.

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