



Australian Government

**Department of Industry
Tourism and Resources**

AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM NEWS

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Award of new offshore exploration permits.

A total of six new offshore exploration permits in the Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and Northern Territory adjacent areas have recently been granted.

The work program commitments for the awarded permits are valued at over A\$126.54 million over the next six years. The permits range from small tracts close to producing oil fields, through to large, deepwater frontier areas.

These permits result from bids for offshore petroleum acreage in the bidding round that closed on 10 April 2003. All permits resulting from that close of bidding have now been awarded.

Details of the latest offshore exploration permits awarded are set out below.

<u>Permit No</u>	<u>Basin</u>	<u>Area No</u>	<u>Date Granted</u>	<u>Successful Applicant(s)</u>
T/35P	Otway	T02-2	30 July 2003	Santos Offshore Pty Ltd Unocal South Australia Pty Ltd
Vic/P56	Gippsland	V02-4	28 Aug 2003	Nexus Energy Australia NL
Vic/P55	Gippsland	V02-3	15 Sept 2003	Basin Oil Pty Ltd Santos Offshore Pty Ltd Diamond Gas Resources Pty Ltd
NT/P67	Bonaparte	NT02-5	15 Sept 2003	Santos Offshore Pty Ltd
WA-347-P	Carnarvon	W02-8	26 Sept 2003	Woodside Energy Ltd
WA-348-P	Carnarvon	W02-7	26 Sept 2003	Woodside Energy Ltd

Permit T/35P has been awarded to Santos Offshore Pty Ltd and Unocal South Australia Pty Ltd, which proposed a guaranteed program for the first three years of 1276km of 2D seismic surveying and geological and geophysical studies at an estimated cost of \$3.0m. The consortium also proposed a secondary program of 410km² of 3D seismic surveying, geological and geophysical studies and a well at an estimated cost of \$28.4m. There was one other bid for the area.

Permit Vic/P55 has been awarded to a consortium comprising Basin Oil Pty Ltd, Santos Offshore Pty Ltd and Diamond Gas Resources Pty Ltd. The consortium

proposed a guaranteed program for the first three years of seismic reprocessing, 250km of new 2D seismic surveying and geological and geophysical studies at an estimated cost of \$0.7m. The consortium also proposed a secondary program of 100km² of 3D seismic surveying, geological and geophysical studies and a well at an estimated cost of \$10.3m. There was one other bid for the area.

Permit Vic/P56 has been awarded to Nexus Energy Australia NL which proposed a guaranteed program for the first three years of seismic reprocessing, geological and geophysical studies and a well at an estimated cost of \$11.55m. The company also proposed a secondary program of 100km² of 3D seismic surveying, geological and geophysical studies and a well at an estimated cost of \$12.3m. There were no other bids for the area.

Permit NT/P67 has been awarded to Santos Offshore Pty Ltd which proposed a guaranteed program for the first three years of 80km of 2D seismic surveying, seismic reprocessing and geological and geophysical studies at an estimated cost of \$0.5m. The company has also proposed a secondary program of a well and geological and geophysical studies at an estimated cost of \$12.15m. There was one other bid for the area.

Permit WA-347-P has been awarded to Woodside Energy Ltd, which proposed a guaranteed program for the first three years of seismic data purchase, 725km of new 2D seismic surveying and geological and geophysical studies at an estimated cost of \$2.46m. The company also proposed a secondary program of seismic data reprocessing, geological and geophysical studies and a well at an estimated cost of \$21.35m. There were no other bids for the area.

Permit WA-348-P has been awarded to Woodside Energy Ltd, which proposed a guaranteed program for the first three years of seismic data purchase, 725km of new 2D seismic surveying and geological and geophysical studies at an estimated cost of \$2.48m. The company also proposed a secondary program of seismic data reprocessing, geological and geophysical studies and a well at an estimated cost of \$21.35m. 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.

25 September 2003 close of bidding round

The closing date for the first round of the 2003 acreage release closed on 25 September 2003. Bidding for re-released acreage (as announced in the June 2003 Australian Petroleum News) also closed on that date.

Bids are currently being assessed and the results will be announced progressively as and when the permits are granted.

Areas currently available for bidding

	Areas	Bid Closing Date
2003 Release areas (2nd bidding round) [17 areas]	V03-2 to 4, T03-1 to 3, S03-1 to 2, W03-1 to 6 and AC03-1 to 3	25 March 2004

The policy to re-release areas not successfully bid on was adopted to enable permit holders to maintain their good standing after a permit is cancelled. At the same time, the re-released areas are open to all interested bidders under the work program bidding system.

Further information on these areas and application requirements can be found by visiting our website (www.industry.gov.au/petexp) or requesting a free CD-ROM.

2004 Offshore Acreage Release

An indication of the areas proposed for release in the 2004 offshore acreage release will be announced through this newsletter around late November 2003. While these areas are still subject to change, it is highly unlikely that other areas will be added at that time. Details on the proposed areas will not be provided prior to the 2004 release date of 24 March 2004.

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