



AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM NEWS

JANUARY 2004

Award of offshore exploration permits from the 25 September 2003 closing round

A total of five new offshore exploration permits in the Western Australia, Tasmania and South Australian adjacent areas have recently been granted.

The work program commitments for the awarded permits are valued at nearly A\$90 million over the next six years.

All permits were awarded under the work program bidding system and result from bids for offshore petroleum acreage in the bidding round that closed on 25 September 2003.

Three of the five permits results from the 2003 acreage release with the remaining two resulting from 2002 re-release.

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

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Basin</u>	<u>Area No</u>	<u>Date Granted</u>	<u>Successful Applicant(s)</u>
T/36P	Sorell	T03-4	27 Nov 03	Santos Offshore Pty Ltd & Unocal South Australia Pty Ltd
EPP33	Otway	S02-6	19 Dec 03	Kerr-McGee NW Shelf Australia Energy Pty Ltd and Kerr-McGee Australia Exploration and Production Pty Ltd
WA-349-P	Perth	W03-14	6 Jan 04	Chimelle Petroleum Ltd
WA-350-P	Carnarvon	W03-7	23 Dec 03	Woodside Energy Ltd
WA-351-P	Carnarvon	W02-10	6 Jan 04	BHPBilliton Petroleum (North West Shelf) Pty Ltd

Permit T/36P 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 reprocessing 1100km of existing 2D seismic data, acquisition of 576km of new 2D seismic data and geological and geophysical studies at an estimated cost of \$2.10m. The consortium also proposed a secondary program of geological and geophysical studies, 210km² of 3D seismic surveying and a well at an estimated cost of \$15.3m. The permit was awarded on 27 November 2003. There were no other bids for the area.

Permit EPP 33 has been awarded to Kerr-McGee NW Shelf Australia Energy Pty Ltd and Kerr-McGee Australia Exploration and Production Pty Ltd which proposed a guaranteed program for the first three years of geological and geophysical studies and acquisition of 1125km of new 2D seismic data at an estimated cost of \$2.7m. The consortium also proposed a secondary program of geological and geophysical studies and 1000km of new 2D seismic data at an estimated cost of \$2.45m. The permit was awarded on 19 December 2003. There were no other bids for the area.

Permit WA-349-P has been awarded to Chimelle Petroleum Ltd, which proposed a guaranteed program for the first three years of geological and geophysical studies and acquisition of 360km of new 2D seismic data at an estimated cost of \$0.7m. The company also proposed a secondary program of 150km² of 3D seismic surveying, a well and geological and geophysical studies at an estimated cost of \$6.6m. The permit was awarded on 6 January 2004. There were no other bids for the area.

Permit WA-350-P has been awarded to Woodside Energy Ltd which proposed a guaranteed program for the first three years of 406km² of 3D seismic surveying, a well and geological and geophysical studies at an estimated cost of \$21.6m. The company also proposed a secondary program of geological and geophysical studies and reprocessing 330km of 2D seismic data at an estimated cost of \$1.05m. The permit was awarded on 23 December 2003. There were no other bids for the area.

Permit WA-351-P has been awarded to BHPBilliton Petroleum (North West Shelf) Pty Ltd, which proposed a guaranteed program for the first three years of geological and geophysical studies and 500km of 2D seismic data at an estimated cost of \$1.4m. The company also proposed a secondary program of a well and geological and geophysical studies at an estimated cost of \$16m. The permit was awarded on 6 January 2004. There was one other bid for the area.

All permits were awarded for an initial term of six years with a maximum of two renewals each of five years. Each component of the work program must be completed in the designated year or earlier.

Areas currently available for bidding

	Areas	Bid Closing Date
2003 Re-release areas (1 st bidding round)	W02-12, 13 &15 NT03-1, 2, 4 to 7	25 March 2004
2003 Release areas (2nd bidding round)	AC03-1 to 3, W03-1 to 6, S03-1 to 2, V03-2 to 4, T03-1 to 3	25 March 2004

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.

Promotion of 2004 Australian offshore acreage

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

***NAPE Houston, USA 4-6 February 2004**
(North American Prospect Expo)

APPEA Canberra, Australia 28-31 March 2004
(Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association)

AAPG Dallas Texas, USA 18-21 April 2004
(American Association of Petroleum Geologists)

Seminars are also being considered for Beijing, Tokyo, Seoul, Taiwan and London in April/May 2003 (dates not set yet). We would be happy to try and organise private meetings with companies in conjunction with these events. E-mail:

petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au.

* At NAPE, preliminary information on the proposed 2004 offshore acreage release areas will be available from the Australian booth (booths 2041 and 2043 in the international area). Representatives of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, Geoscience Australia, the Victorian Department of Primary Industries and the Western Australia Department of Industry and Resources will be available at the booth to discuss the release areas as well as technical or policy issues. The team also has a limited amount of time to make presentations to Houston-based companies early in the week following the Expo. Please discuss your requirements at the booth.

Geoscience Australia News

Petroleum Open Day – Thursday 1st April 2004.

Following the 2004 APPEA Conference, Geoscience Australia will be hosting a Petroleum Open Day commencing at 9am at the Geoscience Australia building in Symonston, ACT. Participants at the Open Day will have an opportunity to see and discuss the new 2003-2007 work program, resulting from the Australian Government's 2003 Budget decision and allocation of \$61 million for Geoscience Australia's new and continuing petroleum initiatives. Representatives from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources; and the Department of Environment and Heritage will also be present to discuss and answer any questions you may have. If you are interested in registering for this open day or would like further information please contact Jenny Maher, Acting Project Leader, Petroleum Promotion and Prospectivity Assessment Project, Geoscience Australia on +61 2 6249 9896 (phone), 61 2 6249 9980 (fax) or Jenny.Maher@ga.gov.au (email). Registration details and proposed program are also available from the Geoscience Australia website: http://www.ga.gov.au/oceans/projects/pet_openday.jsp

New Phase of Pre-competitive Data Acquisition

The first surveys in Geoscience Australia's new phase of data acquisition to provide pre-competitive information for the petroleum industry will commence over the next two months. Industry consultation and assessment of regional geology by Geoscience Australia, has been used to determine the acquisition program. The R/V *Southern Surveyor* leaves Fremantle on 8th February for a geophysical and sampling survey of the deep-water frontier **Bremer and Denmark Sub-basins** (contact Jane Blevin, jane.blevin@ga.gov.au) The survey will conclude in Hobart on 9th March. Any recovered dredged rock sample, which would represent the first from these undrilled and potentially prospective basins, will be on display at Geoscience Australia's Open Day on Thursday, 1 April, in Canberra.

Australian Geological Provinces Database

This important initiative goes online from 6th February 2004, through the Geoscience Australia website using an interactive mapping system (try www.ga.gov.au/oracle/provinces/provmaps.html after 6th February). It contains interpretive data on Australia's sedimentary, igneous, metallogenic, structural and metamorphic provinces. The database provides the mapped extent of Australia's geological provinces, and includes attributes such as size, water depth, tectonic setting, age, sediment thickness, main rock types, depositional environments, main resources, key references, and relations to other geological provinces. It also includes an overview of the geology, exploration status, and petroleum system elements of each province (contacts: Barry Bradshaw, barry.bradshaw@ga.gov.au or Ollie Raymond, oliver.raymond@ga.gov.au).

New Seeps & Signatures Project

The first survey in the new Seeps & Signatures Project leaves Darwin on 1st March to investigate natural hydrocarbon seepage on the **Ashmore Platform and Yampi Shelf** (contact Graham Logan, graham.logan@ga.gov.au). Our current knowledge of the region coupled with its shallow water and the potential impact of finding a new petroleum system make it an attractive location to begin the survey program. Areas of potential seepage have been identified using a combination of Synthetic Aperture Radar and Landsat imagery. Interpreted seismic lines and sub-bottom profiles have revealed features, such as faults to sea bed, hydrocarbon related diagenetic zones, pockmarks and mounds. During both surveys we will be collecting swath, sub-bottom profiles and side scan sonar data to help locate sites for sample collection.

Australian Petroleum Statistics

The *Australian Petroleum Statistics* monthly publication is now available via e-mail in Microsoft Excel format, with the December 2003 edition out shortly. The publication contains statistics on petroleum production, refining, consumption, and stocks. Also available in the December issue are petrol prices and taxes in OECD Countries for the June quarter. Subscriptions cost \$270 annually or \$27 per issue. Copies can be obtained by contacting Ms Rae Fisher on +61 2 6213 7967, or alternatively by e-mail at rae.fisher@industry.gov.au. Archived issues are now also available electronically.

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