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## Kitan well gives Eni a boost

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**ITALIAN major Eni has drilled a successful sidetrack well at the Kitan oilfield in Timor-Leste that has given a significant boost in production, writes Russell Searancke.**

Sources said the result of the Kitan-3 sidetrack well was “as expected” and had enabled Eni to lift field production to in excess of 10,000 barrels per day of oil.

Prior to drilling Kitan-3, production is understood to have dipped well below the 10,000 bpd mark.

Kitan-3 is one of three producing wells at the field, and the objective of the sidetrack was to access attic oil that would help with production rate assurance, said sources.

It was drilled in late 2014 and early 2015 using the Transocean semi-submersible Jack Bates.

Malaysia’s Hibiscus Petroleum, which has a conditional agreement to acquire Talisman Energy’s 25% interest in Kitan, said recently that converting Kitan-3 from a vertical to a horizontal well was “expected to significantly increase the production rate from the well and accelerate the recovery of the remaining reserves”.

“The acceleration allows the field to remain above the economic production rate for longer, thus extending the field life and deferring field abandonment.”

Sources said despite the success of Kitan-3, the current low oil price is posing serious challenges to Eni and its joint venture partners.

The hope is that a solution to reduce the Kitan operating costs can be found in order “to maintain the production from the field at an economic level”, said a well-placed source.

One source said an option for alleviating the effect of lower-than-expected revenues from the field is to expedite the tie-in of any nearby discoveries.

Satellite discoveries close to Kitan including the Kuda-Tasi and Jahal oil pools, which will be drilled this year, while two wells are planned to be drilled in nearby Block 11-106.

Bluewater’s Glas Dowl floating production, storage and offloading vessel is on contract at Kitan until October 2016.