



Australian Government

**Department of Industry
Tourism and Resources**

AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM NEWS

NOVEMBER 2003

Offshore exploration acreage proposed for release in 2004

A map is attached indicating the areas currently proposed for release in 2004.

This preliminary advice is provided to allow industry greater lead time to assess areas and to facilitate acquisition of speculative seismic data. It should be noted that while the proposed areas have not been finalised and are still subject to change, it is highly unlikely that any additional areas will be added at this stage of the process.

Re-release of areas from 2003 1st bidding round

Areas W03-12, 13 and 15 and NT03-1, 2, 4 to 7 have been re-released and are available for bidding until 25 March 2004. It is expected that these will be the only areas to be re-released from the first bidding round.

The above-mentioned areas did not attract a bid in the 25 September 2003 bidding round and have been re-released at the discretion of the relevant Joint Authorities. The policy of re-release areas was adopted to enable companies to maintain their good standing after the cancellation of an exploration permit. However, the re-released areas are open to all interested bidders under the work program bidding system.

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.

Do you want to advertise in the 2004 Acreage Release Package?

The acreage release package on CD-ROM is now distributed to around 1,100 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 advertising in the 2004 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. The release package on the ITR website will also include the hotlinks.

The cost will be A\$2,200 (incl 10% GST), for the equivalent of up to 4 x A4 pages. Expressions of interest should be received by 20 December 2003, with PDFs of the material to be forwarded to the above e-mail address by 24 January 2004.

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 will also be held in Beijing, Tokyo, Seoul and Taiwan 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 .

CNOOC Equity in the Gorgon Project

On 24 October 2003, the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) and the Gorgon Joint Venture signed a non-binding agreement whereby CNOOC will buy into the Gorgon project, invest around \$A1 billion in Australia as a Gorgon participant and

help place up to 100 million tonnes of Gorgon LNG into the Chinese gas market. The deal, which is subject to final contracts, could add another \$A20 to \$A30 billion in Australian LNG exports, commencing in 2008. The agreement also provides, subject to the finalisation of terms and conditions, that CNOOC will purchase equity in the Gorgon project. The agreement was signed in the presence of the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, the Hon Ian Macfarlane MP, the WA Premier, the Hon Dr Geoff Gallop MLA and the WA Minister for State Development, the Hon Clive Brown MLA.

Australia-China Natural Gas Technology Partnership Fund

On 24 October 2003, the Memorandum of Understanding on the Management And Implementation Of The Australia - China Natural Gas Technology Partnership Fund was signed in the presence of the President of China, His Excellency Hu Jintao and the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon John Howard MP. The MOU establishes the management structure and financial arrangements for the Fund.

Geoscience Australia News

New Products

Recently published reports by Geoscience Australia are now available for explorers interested in Australia's eastern and southern margin basins. These reports highlight the results of petroleum-related studies in the Gower, Bight, Perth, Mentelle, Otway and Bass basins.

- Geoscience Australia Record 2002/11 - Geological framework of the central Lord Howe Rise (Gower Basin).
- Geoscience Australia Record 2003/01 - Geological framework of the northern Lord Howe Rise and adjacent areas.
- Geoscience Australia Record 2003/03 – A revised structural framework for frontier basins on the southern and south-western Australian continental margin.
- Geoscience Australia Record 2003/21 – An audit of selected offshore petroleum exploration wells in the Otway Basin, southeastern Australia.

New Products from the Western Tasmanian Regional Minerals Program

- Geoscience Australia Record 2003/11 – An audit of petroleum exploration wells in the Bass Basin, 1965-1999.
- Geoscience Australia Record 2003/17 – Bass Basin basic data compilation.
- Geoscience Australia Record 2003/18 – Bass Basin GIS project.
- Geoscience Australia Record 2003/19 – Petroleum geology of the Bass Basin – interpretation report.

These reports are available through the Sales Centre, Geoscience Australia, +61 2 6249 9519 (phone), +61 2 6249 9982 (fax), or via the internet: sales@ga.gov.au.

Remote Sensing Educational Workshop - Natural Oil Seep Detection For Off Shore Petroleum Exploration

From 24 to 26 November 2003, Geoscience Australia's Seeps & Signatures Project is hosting a workshop on remote sensing techniques used to detect natural oil seepage. This is an output under the new Government funded petroleum initiative, announced in May 2003. The workshop is for Geoscience Australia staff and for industry personnel. It will be run by the NPA Group and includes information on Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), Landsat and Hyperspectral techniques and applications to detect oil on the sea surface. The aim of the workshop is to inform participants about the benefits of the various sensors, how they can be employed, and how to set up surveys for petroleum exploration purposes. For more information please contact Dr. Graham Logan, Project Leader, Seeps & Signatures Project, Geoscience Australia on +61 2 6249 9460 (phone), +61 2 6249 9961 (fax) or Graham.Logan@ga.gov.au (email).

Petroleum Open Day – 1st April 2004.

Following the 2004 APPEA Conference, Geoscience Australia will be hosting a Petroleum Open Day. 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 petroleum initiative. 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).

Are you on our distribution list?

If you or your colleagues would like to receive future annual Offshore Petroleum Exploration Acreage Releases on CD-ROM and/or be notified when new editions of this Newsletter are issued, simply forward your address, phone/fax and e-mail details to the e-mail address below.

There is no charge for this service or the CD-ROM. This distribution list is not used for purposes other than notifying registered parties of relevant petroleum issues, as indicated above.

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