



Australian Government

**Department of Industry
Tourism and Resources**

AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM NEWS

JUNE 2005

Nomination of areas for the 2006 Offshore Acreage Release

The Commonwealth and State/NT governments are now calling for nominations from interested parties for vacant offshore areas to be considered for release in 2006.

Nominations are treated as "Commercial-in-Confidence", should be in writing, and be forwarded by 31 August 2005 to the relevant State/NT Department or the General Manager, Offshore Resources Branch, at the address below.

While expressing interest does not guarantee inclusion in the release, all nominations are considered seriously and are subjected to a rigorous phase of assessment and shortlisting.

In considering which areas to release, we look at whether there is a new geoscientific story, or a new market development, that might generate the interest of potential bidders. We also look at synergies with other industry activities such as drilling programs, speculative survey proposals, the Geoscience Australia research agenda and the Australian Offshore Petroleum Strategy.

The shortlisted areas proposed for release will be advised to industry around November/December, through the *Australian Petroleum News*.

2005 Offshore Petroleum Exploration Acreage Release

New acreage for petroleum exploration off the Northern Territory, Western Australia, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and South Australia coastlines was released on 12 April 2005 by the Federal Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Ian Macfarlane.

A total of 29 areas have been made available for open bidding by the petroleum exploration industry. This is the principal release of offshore acreage this year, with 15 areas closing for bidding on 20 October 2005 and the remaining 14 closing for bidding on 20 April 2006. They will be subject to the work program bidding system and any subsequent exploration permits will be awarded for an initial term of six years, with a maximum of two renewal periods each of 5 years.

Information on the release areas and application requirements can be found by visiting our website at www.industry.gov.au/petexp or requesting a free CD-ROM by e-mailing petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au.

Amendments to 2005 Acreage Release CD Information Pack

Some of the GIS data coverage supplied on the 2005 Acreage Release CD has been incorrectly projected. The metadata states that all files are using the WGS84 datum, while some actually use the AGD66 datum. Replacement datasets can be accessed from the Geoscience Australia Acreage Release web page: www.ga.gov.au/oceans/projects/OG_SpecS_AcreageR.jsp

As previously advised in the April issue of *Australian Petroleum News*, there was also an error with the scale bar in three figures on the CD for the **Vlaming Sub-basin Release Areas** (W05-21 & W05-22).

Replacement figures can be accessed from the Geoscience Australia Acreage Release web page: www.ga.gov.au/oceans/projects/OG_SpecS_AcreageR.jsp

We apologise for any inconvenience these errors may cause.

Re-release of 2004 Areas

As advised in the last issue of *Australian Petroleum News*, the following areas from the 31 March 2005 close of bidding round have been re-released:

- T04-3, 4 and 5
- W04-1, 15 and 16
- AC04-1
- NT04-1

Summary of Areas Currently Available for Bidding

| Release/ round | Areas | Bid Closing Date |
|--|---|--|
| 2005 Acreage Release, First Closing Round [15 areas] | S05-1 W05-1, 2, 3 & 4 W05-14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20 AC05-1 NT05-1 & 2. | Thursday, 20 October 2005 |
| 2005 Acreage Release, Second Closing Round [14 areas] | S05-2, W05-5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 W05-21, 22, 23 & 24 | Thursday, 20 April 2006 |
| Re-release of 2004 areas (from second close of bidding round) [8 Areas] | W04-1, 15 & 16 AC04-1 NT04-1 T04-3, 4 & 5* | Thursday, 20 October 2005 Friday, 21 October 2005 |

* As 20 October 2005 is a public holiday in Hobart, the closing date for bids for these three areas has been put back to Friday, 21 October 2005.

All applications must be lodged by 4pm on the relevant closing date. Details of where to lodge bids can be found on the DITR Website [Guidance Notes for Applicants](#).

Further information on these areas and application requirements can be found by visiting this website: www.industry.gov.au/petexp or by requesting a free CD-ROM by e-mail: petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au. Please specify whether you are interested in the 2005 or the 2004 CD-ROM.

Exploration Opportunities in Australia – Calgary Seminar

The Australian Government is hosting a seminar on *Australian Oil & Gas Exploration Opportunities* in Calgary on Friday 17 June, 2005. Refreshments will be served.

The seminar will give insights into both onshore and offshore opportunities. It will serve as an introduction to the Australian display at this year's AAPG Annual Convention in Calgary and, on request, can be followed up with more detailed presentations to individual companies.

The seminar starts at 5.00pm with refreshments available from 4.30pm to 7pm.

The venue is the Aspen Room at the Hawthorn Hotel, 618 - 5th Ave SW Calgary.

Admission is by invitation only. To obtain your FREE invitation, contact Jenny Maher: Jenny.maher@ga.gov.au by 10th June.

Promotion of 2005 Australian Offshore Acreage

Representatives from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources and Geoscience Australia will be available to discuss the 2005 Australian offshore acreage at the following meetings and conferences:

| | | |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Australian Opportunities Seminar (for further details, see above) | Calgary Canada, | 5pm 17 June 2005 |
| AAPG (American Association of Petroleum Geologists) | Calgary, Canada | 19-22 June 2005 |
| AAPG (international) | Paris, France | 11-14 September 2005 |

Please visit the Australian booths at the two AAPG events.

Other seminars and meetings will be held in Calgary, Alberta (20-24 June) and Houston, Texas (27-28 June) and possibly other cities in conjunction with our attendance at AAPG.

A delegation also intends to visit Europe in conjunction with AAPG international in Paris in mid September this year.

We would be happy to organise private meetings with companies in conjunction with all of these events. E-mail: petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au .

Geoscience Australia News

Replacement GIS Files

As noted above, some of the GIS data coverage supplied on the 2005 Acreage Release CD have been incorrectly projected. The metadata states that all files are using the WGS84 datum, while some actually use the AGD66 datum. Replacement datasets can be accessed from the Geoscience Australia Acreage Release web page: www.ga.gov.au/oceans/projects/OG_SpecS_AcreageR.jsp

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Geophysical Data supporting the Bremer & Vlaming 2005 Acreage Areas now available

In November 2004, under the new acquisition program, Geoscience Australia acquired 2700km of 2D industry standard seismic data in South Western Australia. This data supports the 2005 offshore acreage release areas in the Bremer & Vlaming sub-basins, and includes 12 lines in the Bremer Sub-basin, 7 lines in the Mentelle Basin, and 3 lines in the Vlaming Sub-basin. It is the first seismic data to be acquired in the Mentelle Basin and Bremer Sub-basin in 30 years and from the Vlaming Sub-basin in over a decade.

The data was acquired at a cost of \$3.6 million and is now available to the industry at the cost of transfer. It can be obtained through Geoscience Australia's Geophysical and Geological Repository, phone +61 2 6249 9222, e-mail: ausgeodata@ga.gov.au.

Geoscience Australia Frontiers Workshop, 13th & 14th October 2005

Geoscience Australia is holding a Frontiers Basins Workshop on the 13th & 14th October in Canberra. Data acquired through the new petroleum initiative will be made available at this workshop, including interpretation results of the new seismic data acquired from the South West margin and results from the hydrocarbon seeps studies. For more information on this workshop contact Jenny Maher, at Geoscience Australia, +61 2 6249 9896 or jenny.maher@ga.gov.au

Discussion forum on the post-rewrite petroleum act: what needs to be done to improve it?

A discussion forum is proposed to be held in Sydney on Wednesday 24 August 2005 on priorities for possible future amendments to the Commonwealth's offshore petroleum legislation.

Members of a panel will present their views on major policy issues that will need to be addressed post-rewrite and will then be seeking input from the floor.

The panel will consist of:

- Mr John Griffiths, General Manager, Offshore Resources Branch, Resources Division, Department of Industry Tourism and Resources;
- Professor Michael Crommelin, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Head of the Department of Law, the University of Melbourne, Zelman Cowen Professor of Law, the University of Melbourne; and
- Mr Stuart Barrymore, a partner in Freehills and long time adviser to many major upstream oil companies operating in Australia.

The forum is planned to be held from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm at the Sofitel Wentworth Hotel, 61-101 Phillip Street, Sydney, immediately in advance of the AMPLA Annual Conference.

Industry members interested in attending the discussion are invited to keep an eye on the 2005 Conference details on the AMPLA website at www.ampla.org in order to register.

Australian Petroleum Statistics

The March 2005 issue of *Australian Petroleum Statistics* is now available, containing statistics on petroleum production, refining, consumption and stocks. This issue also contains the comparison of OECD petrol and diesel prices for the December quarter. Subscriptions cost \$270/year or \$27 per issue. Copies can be obtained by contacting Ms Rae Fisher on +61 2 6213 7967, or E-mail at rae.fisher@industry.gov.au. Archived issues are now also available electronically.

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.

This occasional newsletter was prepared by the Resources Division, Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, Canberra, Australia.

Postal Address: GPO Box 9839, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

E-mail: petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au

Website: www.industry.gov.au/petexp

Phone inquiries: +61 2 6213 7920 (Bill Layer)

Facsimile: +61 2 6213 7955

ITR 2005/065