

Paper 7**The Cusiana Field in Colombia****NICK DE'ATH**

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In geology the present is the key to the past — but the discovery history of the Cusiana Field is the key to future, 'frontier', exploration.

The Cusiana Field in Colombia is the largest discovery in the Western Hemisphere in the past 20 years and the largest in the 80 year old history of the Colombian oil industry. The area attracted exploration attention in the 60's and 70's and the Cusiana and Cupiagua accumulations were actually penetrated — so why were they not discovered? When Triton acquired the acreage in 1982, potential farminees were not attracted by the Cusiana feature and 2 farmin wells were drilled on different play types in the Licence. In the late 80's, on two separate occasions, over 120 companies declined the opportunity to drill a Cusiana farmin well; on the 2nd occasion, even after the Cusiana 1 discovery well had been drilled.

The critical technological and commercial factors influencing the discovery history will be presented, as will perceptions on the political/economic climate and exploration prospectivity. A summary of the petroleum geology will be described and development activities will be brought up-to-date.
