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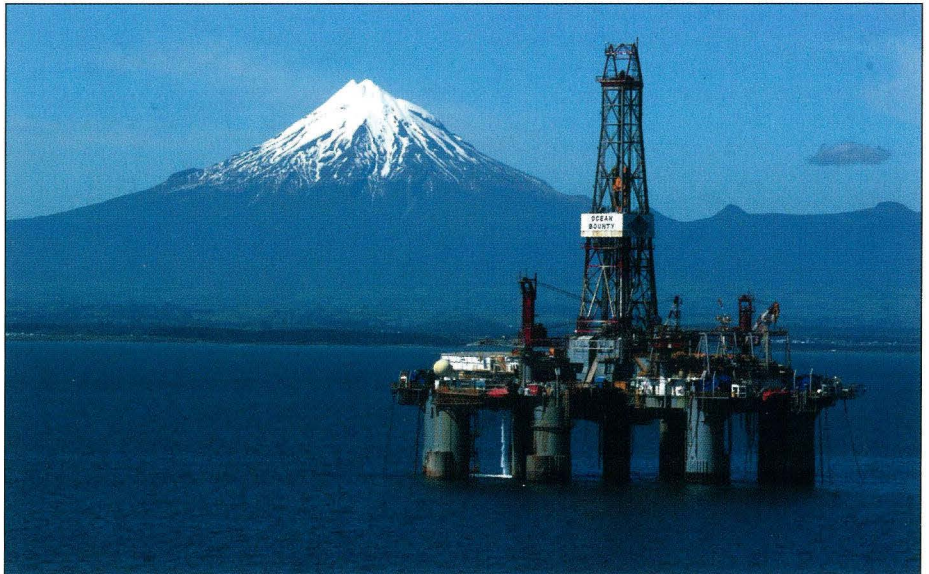
## Offshore-onshore Taranaki And Deep Water Taranaki Bidding Rounds Will Close Soon

Applications for the petroleum exploration bidding round over 17 blocks in offshore north Taranaki and onshore Taranaki will close on October 31st, 2003.

The nine offshore and eight onshore blocks on offer are located in one of the most promising exploration theatres in New Zealand for finding oil or gas accumulations.

Applications for a separate bidding round for Deep water Taranaki Basin blocks closed on September 30th, 2003.

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*More offshore wells are expected this summer in offshore Taranaki following last year's successful programme where the Ocean Bounty drilled a number of successful wells. (Photo: Shell)*