

Drillsearch, ExxonMobil To Drill Marina Prospect

Drillsearch Energy Limited has reached agreement with Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd, to drill the offshore Marina-1 well in the Bonaparte Gulf, Western Australia.

The new Premium Wilcraft jack up rig is scheduled to test the Marina prospect located in WA-318P starting mid-September 2007, Drillsearch Managing Director, Philip Kelso, said.

“This farmout to ExxonMobil is the first major milestone for our Bonaparte Gulf projects”, he said. “ExxonMobil’s involvement is a vote of confidence in the geoscientific work undertaken by our technical team in the Bonaparte Gulf and on this prospect.” He said the Marina prospect was identified on seismic surveys undertaken by Drillsearch followed by extensive geoscience work by its technical team.

The material terms of Drillsearch’s agreement with ExxonMobil are:

- ExxonMobil has agreed to pay 85% of the Marina-1 well costs to earn a 65% working interest in the permit. At that point ExxonMobil will become the operator of the permit.
- Drillsearch will contribute 15% of the well costs and retain a 35% interest.
- ExxonMobil and Drillsearch will co-operate in regional geoscience studies.

Kelso said success with Marina-1 will catapult Drillsearch into the middle rank of Australian petroleum companies. ■