
More Wells To Spud

The pace of drilling activity in New Zealand is stepping up with a number of wells proposed or scheduled to be drilled during October.

Westech Energy New Zealand's Surrey-1, in PEP 38732 near Inglewood in the onshore Taranaki Basin, is scheduled to spud in October. Surrey-1 will test the shallow Miocene Mount Messenger sandstones at about 2000 m. The well is adjacent to both the Kaimiro and Ngatoro oil and gas fields.

The Ngatoro partners are also hoping to spud their Tabla-1 exploration well in PMP 38148 by early October. Tabla-1 will also target the shallow Miocene Mount Messenger sandstones.

The Ocean Bounty will head to New Zealand once its current well in Bass Strait is complete, to take part in at least two offshore wells. Pohokura operator, Shell Todd Oil Services Ltd (STOS), will use the Ocean Bounty to drill the Pohokura North appraisal well in PEP 38459 by early October. Pohokura North will determine the northern extent of the gas-condensate field and further evaluate its geological and petrophysical properties.

STOS is also about to start an onshore well, the Pohokura South-1, near the Methanex Motunui

complex. The well will test the southern limit of the field.

ConocoPhillips has also contracted the Ocean Bounty to drill the company's second well in PEP 38602 at the southern end of the offshore Northland permit, which extends into the northern part of the Taranaki Basin.

There have also been reports that the rig will drill at least one Maari appraisal well in permit PEP 38413 after the ConocoPhillips well, as there is an option in the Ocean Bounty contract to allow the rig to be used in the Maari prospect south of the Maui field.