

## Maari-2 Likely To Be Commercially Viable

The Maari-2 appraisal well is likely to be commercially viable, after it was successfully evaluated in mid-January, according to operator OMV New Zealand Limited.

Preliminary wireline log results indicated the presence of a net 17 m of mobile oil within three sands of the M2A zone, a secondary objective of the well, totalling 28 m. Preliminary petrophysical analysis indicated a net of 41 m of mobile oil was present 1303 m below rotary table (mRT) in the Moki Formation.

OMV's Australian and New Zealand Managing Director, Wolfgang Zimmer, said a development scheme based on the use of a Floating Production Storage and Offtake vessel (FPSO) was currently envisaged, with horizontal producers supported by gas lift and horizontal water injectors.

He said the partners needed to decide if they would refurbish an existing FPSO or have a new vessel built. "So that will be the main factor in terms of timing, how quickly we will

have access to one", Zimmer said. "We should have a clear understanding of the development concept by mid-year."

The Maari-2 (PEP 38413) appraisal well was spudded on January 10th in a water depth of 103 m by the Ocean Bounty semi-submersible drilling rig to evaluate the Maari Field which is located in the Taranaki Basin, about 35 km south of the Maui gas field.

The well was drilled to a depth of 1495 mRT with two 24 m cores cut and wireline logs run prior to plugging and abandoning the well as planned. OMV said production testing of Maari-2 was not required as the Maari-1 well, drilled in 1998, had adequately production tested the Moki oil sand interval.

The Maari oil field is the largest undeveloped oil field in New Zealand. It is largely contained in Miocene Moki sandstones at about 1300 m subsea first discovered by the Moki-1 well in 1983. Appraisal wells were drilled in 1985 (Moki-2A) and 1998 (Maari-1) confirming the existence of a significant oil pool.