

***Polar Duke* Acquiring Maui Field Seismic**

The *Polar Duke* seismic vessel is carrying out a 1,800 km 2D seismic survey in the Western Platform acreage of the Maui field for Shell Todd Oil Services (STOS).

STOS Senior Geophysicist, Karl-Heinz Zelt, said the company believed there was potential for significant oil and gas prospects in the area. "If we are successful, we could use existing Maui facilities for production", Zelt said.

JV parties in the acreage, Shell Petroleum Mining, Todd Petroleum Mining and OMV(NZ), have committed to a three-year work programme. To meet requirements, they must acquire a minimum of 1,600 km of two-dimensional seismic data this year, drill an exploration well next year, and study well results the following year.

Zelt said favourable weather conditions were vital to the survey's success. "Adverse weather conditions can mean wind and wave conditions that create too much noise, which results in reflections that cannot be clearly detected", he said. "It is important that STOS obtains high quality seismic data to enable our geoscientists to build up an understanding of the geology beneath the seabed to help identify any potential oil and gas traps."

Exploration Asset Holder, Simon Eaton, said STOS would be evaluating 'kitchen' areas where source rocks generated hydrocarbons to determine whether they were buried to a sufficient depth to receive and expel oil and gas.

The Ministry of Economic Development awarded STOS and joint venture partners,



MV Polar Duke.

Shell Exploration NZ Ltd, Todd Petroleum Mining company Ltd and OMV (NZ) Ltd the right to develop offshore permits PEP38481 and PEP38482, known as the Western Platform acreage, in August 2002.

The Multigeophysical Company was contracted by STOS to acquire the survey.