

Basker Manta Full Field Production Expected By Mid-December

First oil from the Basker Manta full field development was expected in the second week of December following the return of the recently upgraded Crystal Ocean FPSO to the Bass Strait location, operator Anzon Australia Limited announced.

Anzon Chief Operating Officer, Andrew Young, said the FPSO arrived on location on 23 November and was reconnected to the subsea production system. "The arrival of the Crystal Ocean is the culmination of six months of major development activities both in the field and in Singapore shipyards", Young said.

"These activities will allow the full capacity of the original planned facilities to be brought into production, estimated at oil rates of up to 25,000 bopd and gas injection rates of up to 35 MMcfd," Young said.

The offshore subsea installation vessel, CSO Venturer, departed from the Gippsland Basin two weeks ago. Young said the installation work, in 160 m water depth, included the setting of a production manifold and the connection of five wells, four producers (Manta-2A, Basker 2, 3, and 5), and one tandem gas injector/oil producer (Basker 4).



The upgraded Crystal Ocean FPSO departed Port Melbourne on Tuesday 21 November, bound for the Basker Manta fields in Bass Strait.

The upgrade of the two production vessels completed in Singapore, involved the installation of gas handling facilities, including a 7500 HP centrifugal compressor on the Crystal Ocean and the upgrade of the bow loading system and vessel recertification of the Basker Spirit shuttle tanker.

Young said both vessels will be hooked up and undergo commissioning tests prior to first oil from the full field development. "This will complete a significant two year oil development project for the joint venture companies and their shareholders", he said. The participants in the Basker-Manta JV are Anzon Australia Limited (operator and 50%) and Beach Petroleum Limited (50%). ■