

Gas Discovery At Crown In The Browse Basin

Santos recently announced a significant gas discovery at the Crown-1 exploration well in WA-274-P, located in the Browse Basin, offshore Western Australia.

Crown-1 is located approximately 500 km north of Broome, approximately 60 km west of the Ichthys field and 20 km east of the Poseidon field. The water depth at location is 440 m.

By early November wireline logging had confirmed 61 m of net gas pay in the Jurassic-aged Montara, Plover and Malita reservoirs between 4,873 and 4,998 m, and the well has not intersected a gas-water contact.

Pressure data has been acquired from multiple points indicating that gas would be expected to flow at a high rate. Multiple condensate-bearing gas samples have been recovered to surface.

Drilling is progressing to a proposed total depth of 5,200 m.

Santos' Head of Exploration Bill Ovenden described Crown-1 as an important gas discovery for the company.

"The Crown discovery is well positioned, in close proximity to existing and proposed LNG projects in the Browse Basin and other material exploration prospects," Ovenden said.

Santos holds 30% of WA-274-P and is operator. JV partners are Chevron (50%) and INPEX (20%). In addition, Santos has executed agreements to take a 30% interest in the adjoining exploration permit, WA-408-P, operated by Total (50%), subject to customary conditions.

Murphy Oil Corporation has a 20% interest in the permit. The JV has committed to an initial drilling programme in the permit, including Dufresne-1 and Bassett West-1. These wells are expected to immediately follow the Crown-1 program.

Santos VP Western Australia and Northern Territory John Anderson said the agreement with Total and Murphy substantially increased the company's exposure to exploration upside in the Browse Basin.

"The strong partnerships and the material prospectivity in this key offshore gas province positions Santos very well for the future. We look forward to the WA-408-P drilling programme," Anderson said. ■

Crown gas discovery, Browse Basin.

