

JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration Corporation discovered gas in Australia and oil in Papua New Guinea

April 14, 2011

PRESS RELEASE

JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration Corporation ("NOEX")(Makoto Koseki, President and CEO) have made a gas discovery in Australia WA-290-P and oil discovery in Papua New Guinea PPL-219. The joint venture plans to implement further evaluation programs to commercialize both projects.

1. Natural Gas Discovery in WA-290-P, North West Shelf, West Australia.

Nippon Oil Exploration (Dampier) Pty Ltd, 100% subsidiary of NOEX, observed approximately 125m of net gas pay in three Triassic Mungaroo sands with excellent reservoir characteristics through drilling of the Zola-1 exploration well in WA-290-P (located in 97 km north-northwest of Onslow, Western Australia with a water depth at 280 meters). NOEX will be working with partners to appraise this discovery and to commence discussions on development options for this resource.

2. Oil Discovery in PPL-219, Papua New Guinea

Merlin Petroleum Company, 36.4% subsidiary of NOEX, and Nippon Oil Exploration (Niugini) Pty Ltd, 25% subsidiary of NOEX, observed oil in three separate sandstone layers of Lower Cretaceous Toro formation through drilling of Mananda-5 exploration well in PPL-219 (located in PNG highlands area). The flow test implemented after the discovery showed good result. NOEX will be working with partners to appraise this discovery and to commence discussions on development options for this resource.

NOEX is actively proceeding with the upstream business in Oceania region such as Mutineer-Exeter oil production in North West Shelf, Australia, oil production and participating LNG project in Papua New Guinea. NOEX will continue to do oil/gas exploration and production in this region for the establishment of integrated business model of JX group and energy security for Japan.

1 . Corporation Information of Nippon Oil Exploration (Dampier) Pty Ltd

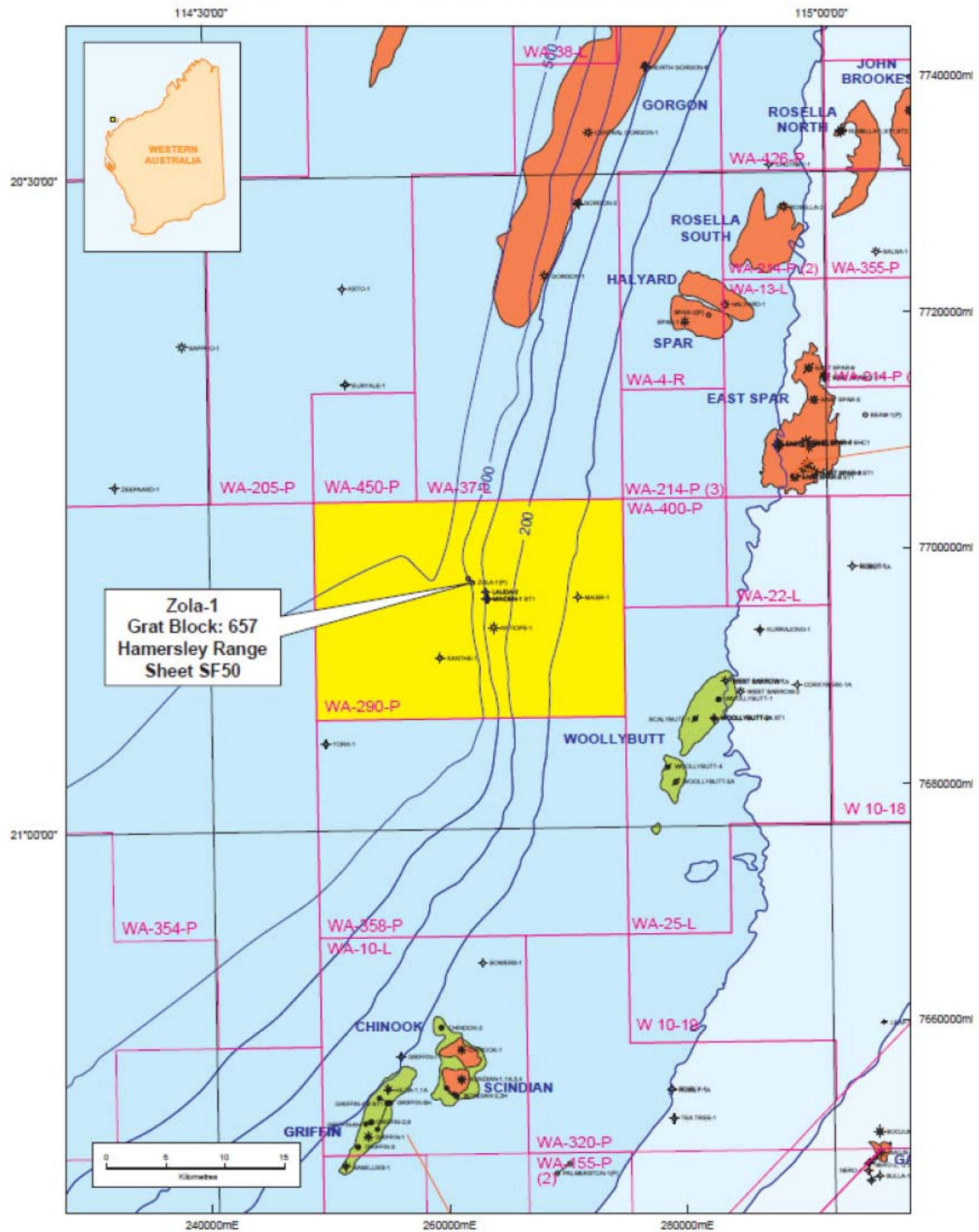
- (1) Registered Corporate Office: Perth, Australia
- (2) Director: Makoto Koseki
- (3) Paid-in Capital: A\$34,809M (as of March, 2011)
- (4) Date of Establishment: April, 1997

2 . Summary of WA-290-P

- (1) Permit location: North West Shelf, Australia
- (2) Permit Name: WA -290-P
- (3) Permit Dimension: approximately 479km²
- (4) Participating interest:
 - Apache Northwest Pty Ltd (30.25%)
 - OMV Australia Pty Ltd (20.00%)
 - Tap (Shelfal) Pty Ltd (10.00%)
 - Santos Offshore Pty Ltd (24.75%)
 - Nippon Oil Exploration (Dampier) Pty Ltd (15.00%)
- (5) Operator: Apache Northwest Pty Ltd

WA-290-P Location Map

Zola-1 Well Location Map



1. Corporation Information of Nippon Oil Exploration (Niugini) Pty Ltd

- (1) Registered Corporate Office: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
- (2) Director: Makoto Koseki
- (3) Paid-in Capital: A\$ 40,819M (as of March 31, 2011)
- (4) Shareholders: Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation 75%
JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration Corporation 25%
- (5) Date of establishment: January, 2009

2. Corporation Information of Merlin Petroleum Company

- (1) Registered Corporate Office: State of California, U.S.A.
- (2) Director: Makoto Koseki
- (3) Paid-in Capital: US\$ 865,549M (as of March 31, 2011)
- (4) Shareholders: Japan Papua New Guinea Petroleum Company, Limited (*1) 100%
- (*1) Shareholders: Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry 62.0%
JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration Corporation 36.4%
Mitsubishi Corporation 1.6%
- (5) Date of establishment: January, 1983

3. Summary of PPL219

- (1) Location: Onshore, Papua New Guinea
- (2) License Name: PPL219
- (3) License Dimension: approximately 1,458km²
- (4) Participating Interest: Oil Search (PNG) Limited (71.25%)
Nippon Oil Exploration (Niugini) Pty Ltd (20.00%)
Merlin Petroleum Company (8.75%)
- (5) Operator: Oil Search (PNG) Limited

PPL219 Location Map

