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WHL ENERGY WELCOMES REPORTS ON PALTA WELL DRILLING PROGRESS

Highlights:

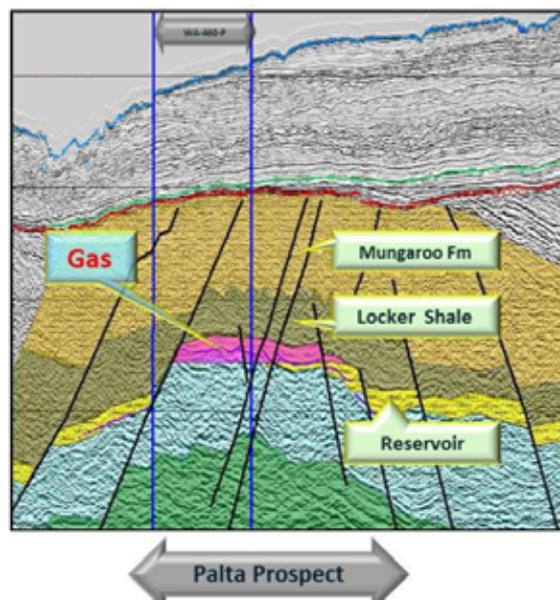
- Palta-1 exploration well reported to have re-commenced activities;
- WHL Energy holds 33.33% interest in the neighbouring offshore permit WA-460-P;
- An estimated 2.5 tcf of the Palta prospected is mapped to lie in WA-460-P.

Australian oil and gas company WHL Energy Ltd (ASX: **WHN**) (WHL Energy or the Company) welcomes media reports that drilling activities have re-commenced on the Palta-1 well in offshore Western Australian permit WA-384-P.

According to an article in The West Australian today, the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) "Noble Clyde Boudreaux", which has been contracted to drill Palta-1, has been successfully repaired after a problem was identified with its blow out preventer (BOP), reportedly leading to activities being halted for 54 days.

WHL Energy holds a 33.33% interest in the WA-460-P permit, which is located adjacent to the WA-384-P licence in which Palta-1 is being drilled.

Schematic Dip Section



Palta-1, operated by Royal Dutch Shell, is targeting the very large Palta prospect – estimated to contain upwards of 13.5 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas if hydrocarbons are in place.

An estimated 2.5 tcf of the potential Palta gas is mapped to be located within the WA-460-P permit, which was awarded to a consortium of WHL Energy, Strike Energy Limited and Cottesloe Oil & Gas Pty Ltd in November 2011.

“We will continue to closely monitor activities at Palta as it potentially offers significant upside to our company and its shareholders, at no cost,” WHL Energy Managing Director, Steve Noske, said.

Ends...

FURTHER INFORMATION

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About WHL Energy Limited

ASX-listed WHL Energy Ltd (ASX: WHN) is an oil and gas exploration Company focussed on East Africa.

The Company’s “flagship” project is its 17,345 km² exploration area offshore Seychelles, owned 100% by WHL Energy. A highly material exploration portfolio and new exploration concepts are being matured in the acreage based on new seismic data. The Company is progressing a farmin proposal from a Global Fortune 500 Company before reviewing the timing of the planned exploration drilling program

WHL Energy also holds 100% equity in Exploration Permit VIC/P67 in the offshore Otway Basin, approximately 200 km WSW of Melbourne off the Victorian coastline. VIC/P67 contains the undeveloped La Bella gas field in proximity to the Victorian gas market, and several nearby exploration prospects.

The Company in addition holds 33.33% equity in exploration permit WA-460-P, in the offshore Southern Carnarvon Basin, which contains an extension of the very large Palta Prospect. A Shell led Joint Venture has commenced drilling the Palta-1 well in the adjacent block, with an expected completion in Q1 2013.

The Company is also actively investigating growth opportunities in the wider East African region.