

NEWS RELEASE

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JOGMEC provides equity financing for an oil exploration project of Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd. off the West Coast of British Territorial Shetland

Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (President: Hirobumi Kawano) decided on 3rd April 2009 to provide equity capital finance of 75% for Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd. (President: Akihiko Tembo) for proportionate cost sharing of an oil exploration project off the West Coast of British Territorial Shetland.

Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd. entered into an agreement concerning acquisition of a 10% share of the 204/13 block in the region from Faroe Petroleum (U.K.) Limited in May 2007. Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd. will establish a subsidiary in the UK for the project.

In the region, oil and gas fields have been recently discovered, and exploration activities have been continuing, focusing on the deep sea area. This project is expected to enhance Japan's E&P activities.

Supplemental remarks (Project profile):

(1) Corporate data

- * Company Name: Idemitsu E&P Shetland Ltd.
- * Date of Establishment: May 2009 (scheduled)
- * Head Office: UK
- * President: Mr. Mitsuki Matsubara (to be confirmed)
- * Shareholders: Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd. (Voting right: 51%)
/ Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (Voting right: 49%)

(2) Block (refer to attachment)

Block 204/13

(3) Participating Interest

License holder	Ratio
OMV (U.K.) Ltd.	50% (Operator)
Dana Petroleum (E&P) Ltd.	30%
Faroe Petroleum (U.K.) Ltd.	10%
Idemitsu E&P Shetland Ltd.	10%

(4) Adoption as an eligible project for equity financing

- * Adoption date: 3rd April 2009
- * Estimated amount of equity financing (2009-2012 Approx. JPY 1,029MM)

(5) Reasons for adoption

- * This project fulfills JOGMEC's technical, economical, political and business related criteria
- * It is expected to build up advanced technology on deep water drilling and to contribute to the competitiveness of Japanese upstream companies
- * Eligible for 75% equity financing because of large expected reserve and technical difficulties

