



Exploration has persisted in some of the world's remote and underexplored basins even in the face of weak oil prices at half or less than their level of a year ago.

Discoveries have also resulted as operators work to minimize the time elapsed between obtaining acreage and deriving revenue from hydrocarbons discovered, produced, and sold.

This article describes exploration projects in the Namibe basin off Namibia, the Flamingo Trough between Australia and Timor-Leste, several basins off southwestern Greenland, the Pelagian basin in the Mediterranean off Tunisia and Italy, the Mediterranean off Libya, and a remote area of the Western Canada Sedimentary basin in east-central Saskatchewan.

answer the question, but the group released the Deep Venture drillship, formerly Valentin Shushan.

Namibia's Ministry of Mines and Energy released a statement saying that the Kunene-1 exploratory well in the Namibe basin "could contain a potential gas resource of up to 14 tcf."

Sintezneftegaz of Moscow operated the well, and a Moscow subsidiary of Schlumberger Ltd. that ran the tests and analyzed the results attributed the resource to an interval at 4,698-4,748 m, the ministry said. TD is 5,052 m.

Remote, underexplored basins still objects of exploration

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Namibe basin, Namibia

At least 6 months of data integration lie ahead for a group that made what appears to be a giant gas-condensate discovery off northernmost Namibia (Fig. 1).

Reservoir quality appears to be poor at the Kunene-1 discovery, but with only a single wellbore the group hopes that formation characteristics improve beyond the local area.

More drilling will be required to

EnerGulf Resources Inc., Vancouver, BC, the only public company in the well, elected not to participate in the tests. EnerGulf, with 10% interest in 960,000-acre Block 1711, said it did not receive a copy of the Schlumberger unit's report and has not verified the potential resource. EnerGulf said the resource "may not be compliant with NI 51-101."

EnerGulf said the joint operating agreement allows it to reinstate its pro-rata rights in a commercial



The Russian-owned Deep Venture drillship handled the drilling of the Kunene-1 exploratory well for the Sinterneftegaz group on Block 1711 in the Atlantic off Namibia. Photo by Jeff Greenblum, courtesy of EnerGulf Resources Inc.

discovery in the interval that was tested by paying twice its share of the test's costs. The company had previously said the well, the first on the block, demonstrated the presence of hydrocarbons but probably will not be a commercial producer (OGJ, Aug. 18, 2008, p. 46).

The 6 months of analysis will involve integrating information from cuttings, well logs, and core samples and calibrating it to 3D seismic data,

said Jeff Greenblum, chairman and chief executive officer of EnerGulf.

Other interests in the block are Sinterneftegaz 70%, PetroSA 10%, and Namibia's state Namcor 7% carried.

Vanco Energy Co., Houston, originally shot 2,000 km of 2D seismic and 685 sq km of 3D seismic on the block before relinquishing its interests.

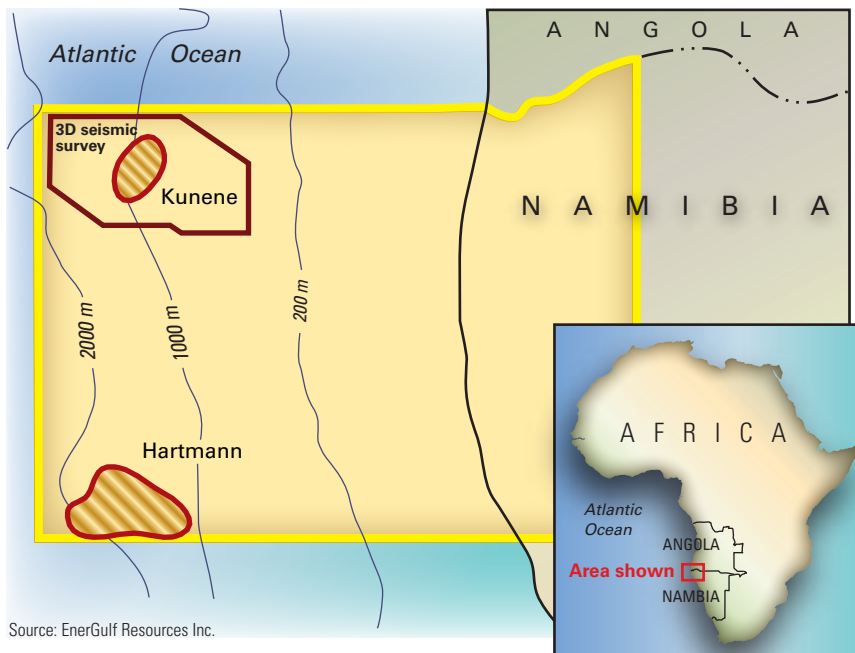
The ministry said, "Seismic reinterpretation and reprocessing over the Kunene and Hartmann prospects have demonstrated that both these structures can be correlated with the Apto-Albian sediments of the South West African margin.

"There were gas shows in the Albian and Aptian sediments, confirmed by wireline logging. It was not possible to fully evaluate the hydrocarbon potential of the penetrated section due to operational problems during testing. However, seismic interpretation suggests that alteration of the sediments by igneous activity may be localized to an area near the borehole, and therefore both the tested zones and some untested zones have great potential."

EnerGulf said it looks forward to continuing the exploration program on the remote block, 800 miles northwest of Kudu gas field and several hundred miles south of the nearest production off Angola. ♦

PROSPECTS ON NAMIBIA BLOCK 1711

Fig. 1



Source: EnerGulf Resources Inc.