

Source : BANGKOK POST

61038876

Date : 2 FEB 2018 Page : 03

No :

ENERGY

PTTEP wins Mexico licence for oil and gas exploration

YUTHANA PRAIWAN 03

SET-listed upstream oil and gas drilling firm PTT Exploration and Production Plc (PTTEP) won a licence to explore two blocks in the Gulf of Mexico.

PTTEP subsidiary PTTEP Mexico E&P (PTTEP MEP) and its consortium were awarded the licences of Blocks 12 and 29 on Jan 31 following bidding.

PTTEP MEP will own 20% of the Block 12 (Mexican Ridges) project. Its partners PC Carigali Mexico Operations (the project's operator), and Ophir Mexico Co will own 60% and 20%, respectively.

PTTEP MEP will own 16.67% of the Block 29 (Campeche) project, located in the southern Gulf of Mexico. Its partners Repsol Exploracion Mexico (the project's operator) will own 30%, PC Carigali Mexico Operations (28.33%) and Sierra Nevada E&P (25%).

PC Carigali Mexico Operations, S.A., is a subsidiary of Malaysia's national oil and gas firm Petronas.

The concession agreement will be signed and finalised in May 2018.

PTTEP chief executive Somporn Vongvuthipornchai said the investment in the Gulf of Mexico exploration blocks is in line with PTTEP's strategy to expand exploration activities to prolific areas by partnering with experienced operators.

Mexico is PTTEP's third business operation in the Americas, after Canada and Brazil.

All projects in the region are in the exploration phase, including Canada's Mariana Oil Sands Project. PTTEP has revised its development plan and is seeking to develop an appropriate approach for the project.

The firm is studying how to cut the costs of an oil sands project in order to produce oil at appropriate prices.

Thailand's national oil company also has a stake in the Barreirinhas AP 1 and the BM-ES-23 projects, both in Brazil.

The company is exploring the region's potential to draw up an appropriate development plan. —