

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**OETR Awards Research Grants to Stimulate Offshore Exploration**

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May 23, 2007

The Offshore Energy Technical Research Association (OETR) has awarded three research grants to Nova Scotia geoscientists for work that will arm potential industry explorers with valuable information about Nova Scotia's offshore resources.

Government of Nova Scotia funding worth nearly \$1 million will fund three geoscience research projects through OETR. The investment will leverage another \$2 million in research over the next three years.

"We know that Nova Scotia has untapped oil and gas reserves and now our focus is on adding to the existing knowledge base and making that information publicly available for explorers," says Energy Minister, Bill Dooks. "The province is thrilled to support research through OETR that will build our knowledge base so we can go about the business of attracting exploration and uncovering our tremendous resource potential."

Dr. Keith Loudon, Professor of Oceanography at Dalhousie University, will receive \$300,000 for a project looking at petroleum systems on the Scotian Slope using thermal and seismic techniques. This work will lead to a better understanding of the nature of basement and salt structures and their effect on petroleum maturation.

Dr. Georgia Pe-Piper, Professor of Geology at Saint Mary's University, will receive \$300,000 for a study that will define the distribution systems for sand and help industry explorers refine their exploration targets and better understand the quality of underground petroleum reservoirs.

Dr. Grant Wach, Professor of Petroleum Geology at Dalhousie University, received \$293,250 for a project that will investigate reservoir distribution within the petroleum system. It will provide industry with the groundwork for a better understanding of petroleum reservoirs.

Proposals were vetted by Petroleum Research Atlantic Canada (PRAC) and then submitted for external peer review and a panel

of subject matter experts. Final review was conducted by the OETR Research Advisory Committee and the OETR Board of Directors.

Funds were awarded based on the projects' likelihood of generating exploration in offshore Nova Scotia and are conditional upon final approval of contracts.

"The OETR Association is very pleased to be able to support collaborative research initiatives involving universities and other partners," says OETR president, Dr. Carl Breckenridge. "This work will build the knowledge of petroleum systems in the Nova Scotia offshore and also enhance research training of highly qualified personnel."

Grant recipients will present the project and provide an update on its status at the ***Nova Scotia Offshore Basin Forum 2007***, on Oct. 1 and 2, 2007 in Halifax. The forum is being held in association with OTANS' Canadian Offshore Resources Exhibition and Conference (CORE.07).

OETR is a not-for-profit association dedicated to fostering geoscience research that will enhance petroleum exploration and development in offshore Nova Scotia. The Association works in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Energy, Dalhousie University and Saint Mary's University.

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