



Suite 400
5151 George Street
PO Box 2664
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3P7

T 902.424.8479
F 902.424.0528

Offshore
Energy
Technical
Research
Association

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OETR releases first ever digital seismic dataset offshore Nova Scotia

March 13, 2008

The Offshore Energy Technical Research Association (OETR) is pleased to announce the release of a 3-D digital seismic dataset that could help renew exploration interest in Nova Scotia's offshore.

This 3-D seismic dataset spans across the Penobscot structure situated along the Jurassic Age Carbonate Bank. The dataset has been archived and reprocessed from field data acquired in 1991, thus, providing an improved geological picture of the earth's subsurface.

"Our goal is to put new geological ideas in front of both current and potential explorers," said Nova Scotia Energy Minister Richard Hurlburt. "This new dataset will not only help us understand our geology -- it will build a case for further offshore exploration in the Sable area."

Academics and Industry representatives alike are very excited about having access to this useful seismic data.

"Having reprocessed, digital data is a wonderful advance compared to the paper version that researchers had access to previously," said Dr. Andrew MacRae, Assistant Professor of Geology at Saint Mary's University. "It's like the difference between having a bad photocopy and the original digital photograph -- the digital data allows us to apply the full suite of modern seismic visualization techniques. Best of all, because the data is public we can share the results openly with everyone."

Greg Noval, Chairman of Canadian Superior Energy Inc., the company holding the largest exploration land position offshore Nova Scotia, speaking from Calgary today said, "We have recently accessed the dataset and the availability of this 3D digital seismic dataset will further assist in increasing exploration activity in this highly prospective basin".

The \$256,000 project was funded by OETR, on behalf of Nova Scotia Energy, and was carried out by Kelman Technologies Inc. headquartered in Calgary, Alberta.

The project also includes the archiving and reprocessing of a 2-D seismic dataset that is currently underway and will be made available to the public at the end of May 2008. This data was originally acquired in 1985 and covers a much larger area along the Jurassic Age Carbonate Bank.

Both the 3-D and 2-D seismic surveys are the first ones owned by the Province and also the first to be made available at no cost.

NS Energy hopes the 3-D data will help generate interest in the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board's (CNSOPB) recent Call for Bids, assisting in the development of potential new plays and exploration prospects in Nova Scotia's offshore.

"The digital data can be loaded directly on to most geophysical workstations," said Sandy MacMullin, Director, Resource Assessment and Royalties with NS Energy. "Explorers are always looking for new opportunities. Ready availability of petroleum geoscience data is the fundamental starting point for explorers who are new to an area."

As mentioned, CNSOPB issued a Call for Bids on two parcels of land offshore Nova Scotia. Parcel one covers the Penobscot structure, which is the focus of the 3-D seismic dataset. Potential bidders can use this valuable data to better evaluate the potential of this parcel. Successful bidder(s) who may be awarded an Exploration Licence can also use the data to aid them in their exploration efforts.

To access the 3-D seismic dataset, go to the CNSOPB Digital Data Management Centre (DMC) at <https://ww1.cnsopbdmc.ca>. Please note that you must be a registered member of the DMC in order to have access to the data. Instructions on how to become a registered member can be found at the link above.

OETR is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to fostering research to enhance petroleum exploration and development of Nova Scotia's offshore. OETR's members are Dalhousie University, Saint Mary's University and Nova Scotia Energy. Funding for OETR activities and research comes from grants totaling \$2.85 million from the Nova Scotia Department of Energy.

For more information on the OETR Association please visit our website at www.offshoreenergyresearch.ca.

-30-

Media Contacts: Sandy MacMullin
Director, Resource Assessment and Royalties
Nova Scotia Department of Energy
902-424-8129
E-mail: MACMULSA@gov.ns.ca

Andrew MacRae
Assistant Professor, Geology Department
Saint Mary's University
902-420-5746
E-mail : Andrew.MacRae@smu.ca

John Cianfaglione
Communications Coordinator
OETR Association
902-424-2493
E-mail: oetr@offshoreenergyresearch.ca