

Who Dat programme progressing



Who Dat: OPTI-Ex semisub at work, with three wells completed and producing

Upstream

By Blake Wright in Houston, 30 April 2012 15:37 GMT

US independent LLOG Exploration is one-third of the way through its development drilling programme at the Who Dat field in the deep-water US Gulf.

With three of a planned dozen wells now completed and online, the field is producing 15,000 barrels per day (b/d) of oil and 40 million cubic feet per day (MMcf/d) of natural gas, a company executive said at the OTC conference in Houston on Monday.

Who Dat is estimated to hold between 100 million and 300 million barrels of oil equivalent. LLOG believes the overall development cost for the Mississippi Canyon area field will come in at around \$2 billion.

The field is being produced via subsea wells from two drill centres tied back to the Exmar-designed OPTI-Ex floating production semisub, which was originally built on spec by the Belgian shipper. The facility has the capacity to handle 60,000 b/d of oil and 150 MMcf/d of gas.

Development plans for the field changed no fewer than three times prior to signing off on the floating system. Pre-drill, LLOG believed it had one commercial gas zone that would make for a simple, two-well subsea tieback to an existing facility, according to Rick Fowler, vice president of deep-water projects for LLOG.

After the discovery well was drilled and four zones identified, LLOG shifted gears and started to work on the engineering for a newbuild shelf platform that would host subsea wells at the field site. Following a pair of follow-up wells and the discovery of a heavier crude oil component, LLOG again changed the plan and opted for a stand-alone floating system.

The operator planned to keep drilling development wells, but BP's Macondo incident forced change yet again for the project.

"Right after third well... Macondo happened," said Fowler. "We were invited not to drill by our government."

Because the company had subsea trees in inventory, it was able to move right into completion mode and kept the deep-water rig it had under contract running throughout the moratorium.

LLOG's current completion plan has identified 16 fault blocks, mostly oil. The company is eying 28 completions -- 18 oil and 10 gas -- and three future sidetracks.