

COOPER SECURES TUNISIA BLOCK

Cooper Energy has been awarded a prospecting permit over the Bargou Block in the offshore waters of Tunisia, North Africa, adjacent to a number of onshore and offshore oil and gas/condensate discoveries.

The 4,600 km² Bargou Block is situated in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Hammamet off the east coast of Tunisia in the southern Mediterranean Sea.

Cooper has 100% of the licence for an initial two year period, as a prospecting permit, and has committed to spend approximately US\$1.25 million to reprocess 5000 km of existing 2D seismic data, as well as acquiring a minimum 400 km of new data.

The deal comes hot on the heels of the company's maiden unaudited full year net profit of about \$13 million and reported cash reserves of \$22 million, allowing Cooper to seek out quality opportunities.

Cooper Energy CEO, Mike Scott, said the Tunisian deal provided a low cost, low risk entry into a proven hydrocarbon region and further builds the company's exciting and growing exploration portfolio.

"This award is in line with our stated focus of building a quality exploration portfolio in North Africa and South East Asia, consistent with our management and technical skill set," said Mr Scott.

"A preliminary data room review has demonstrated that the Bargou Block has existing hydrocarbon prospects and we expect to further enhance the prospectivity of the block through our seismic reprocessing and acquisition and technical abilities."

"The shallow waters and ready access to markets significantly lowers the cost of commercialising any discoveries made in the block," he said.

After the initial two year period, Cooper has the option to convert the permit into an exploration licence with a five year term. If Cooper opts to convert, it must spend approximately US\$8.4 million on acquiring 200 km² of 3D seismic data and drilling one well.

Tunisia, located between the prolific oil producing countries of Libya and Algeria, is an established oil and gas producer with production of 80,000-100,000 barrels of oil per day over the past decade.

An excellent network of oil and gas pipelines covers Tunisia, with five major gas exporting lines to Europe via Sicily. The Bargou Block has easy access to nearby onshore gas pipelines and the major shipping port of Sousse, located on the western boundary of the permit area.