

NPD – exploration drilling result

23/05/2005 Press Release no. 11/2005: Wildcat well 6406/9-1 on the Onyx SW prospect on Halten Terrace. A/S Norske Shell as operator of Production Licence 255 in blocks 6406/5, 6 and 9, has made a promising gas discovery in exploration well 6406/9-1, situated approximately 40 km west of the Draugen field.

The well was drilled using the *Transocean Leader* drilling rig in 308 metres of water to a total depth of 5052 metres below the sea surface where it was concluded in early Jurassic rock.

Gas was proven in Jurassic sandstones and two successful production tests were performed. In both cases the maximum flow rate of 1.4 million standard cubic metres gas per day was recorded through a 3/4 inch choke.

Appraisal of the information from the well in order to estimate the size of the discovery is proceeding. It is early days to say if the discovery can form the basis for an autonomous development or whether it can be developed as a satellite to an existing field. The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate anticipates that the size of the discovery may approach 60 billion standard cubic metres of producible gas, but this estimate remains uncertain until the limits of the accumulation can be established.

Operator A/S Norske Shell is planning an appraisal well on the discovery and a wildcat well on another prospect in the production licence during the second half of 2006. The well will now be plugged permanently.

The drilling rig *Transocean Leader* will now be taken over by Norsk Hydro as operator for production licence 283. The rig will drill a well in block 6605/8 in the Vøring Basin on what is known as the Stetind prospect.

The licensees in production licence 255 are:

A/S Norske Shell (operatør) 30 %

Total E&P Norge AS 20 %

Statoil ASA 20 %

Petoro AS 30 %

See [Factpages](#) for more information about this wellbore.