

NPD – exploration drilling result

28/05/2004 Press release no. 11/2004: Esso Exploration and Production Norway A/S, a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation and the operator of the exploration licences 001B and 242, block 16/1, has made a promising oil discovery in wildcat well 16/1-7 just west of Utsirahøgda.

The well was drilled about 35 kilometers southwest of Balder with the semi-submersible drilling installation Deepsea Delta in a sea depth of 112 m to a depth of 3156 m under the sea surface. Interesting oil volumes were proven in rocks of the Middle Jurassic Age, most likely in the Hugin/Sleipner formations.

Further analyses and studies are necessary in order to estimate the size of the discovery, but preliminary assessments indicate that it could be commercial. In this respect the discovery is located at a favorable distance from existing infrastructure in the Jotun/Balder area.

The licensees in production licences 001B and 242 are Esso Exploration and Production Norway A/S and Statoil, both with a 50 per cent ownership interest.

After completing the drilling operation, Deepsea Delta will be on assignment for Hydro to drill an exploration well in block 30/11 south of Oseberg.

See also the table for drilling activities in 2004.

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