

NPD – exploration drilling result

27/07/2006 Press release 24/2006: ExxonMobil, operator of production licence 315, has completed drilling of exploration well 9/4-5.

This was the first exploration well in PL315, which covers blocks 8/6, 9/2, 9/3, 9/4, 9/5, 9/6 and 10/4, 10/7, 10/8, 10/9 and 11/7. The licence was awarded in the 18th round in 2004.

The well's target was the Kogge prospect in the Permian Age. The prospect was located about 100 km southwest of Egersund in the southern part of the North Sea. Exploration well 9/4-5 was drilled in 77 meters of water to a total depth of 5837 meters into rocks from the Late Paleozoic Age.

This is the deepest well ever drilled on the Norwegian shelf. The well was dry, and has now been permanently plugged and abandoned.

The well tested a new geological model with significant potential, but low likelihood of discovery in a previously unexplored area. Although the well was dry, it has provided valuable information that will be important in the continued exploration of this part of the North Sea.

The drilling operations were carried out with the *Mærsk Gallant* drilling facility, which will now be taken over by ConocoPhillips to drill an observation /development well well in production licence 018 in the Ekofisk area in southernmost part of the North Sea.

Licensees in PL315:

ExxonMobil Expl. & Prod. Norway AS. (operator) - 30 per cent

Statoil ASA - 30 per cent

Petoro - 30 per cent

RWE-Dea Norge AS - 10 per cent

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