NPD – exploration drilling result

27/03/2006 Press Release 10/2006: Statoil ASA, operator of production licence 025, has confirmed a discovery of oil and gas on the Gudrun structure. The discovery is located 40 km north of the Sleipner field.

Appraisal well 15/3-8 was drilled with the Transocean Leader drilling facility in 109 metres of water to a total depth of 4570 metres below the sea surface. The well was concluded in rocks from the Late Jurassic Age.

Oil and gas were proven in Late Jurassic sandstone. Two successful production tests were carried out, yielding maximum production rates of 1000 and 1200 Sm³ oil per day through a 3/4-inch nozzle opening.

The appraisal well largely confirms the size of the discovery in the Gudrun structure. Data collected from the well provides good information that supports development of the discovery.

The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate estimates that the discovery holds at least 25 million Sm³ (150 million bbls) of recoverable oil equivalents.

The licensees in the production licence will now proceed with planning activities aimed at developing the discovery in the Gudrun structure.

The well will be permanently plugged.

The Transocean Leader drilling facility will now move on to drill production wells on Gullfaks Sør.

The licensees in production licence 025:

See Factpages for more information about this wellbore.