

NPD – exploration drilling result

21/12/2006 The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD) has granted A/S Norske Shell a drilling permit for wellbore 6406/9-2, ref. Section 8 of the Resource Management Regulations.

The drilling program for wellbore 6406/9-2 applies to drilling of a wildcat well in production licence 255. Wellbore 6406/9-2 will be drilled from the *West Alpha* drilling facility at the following position coordinates: 64° 28' 34.85" North and 6° 48' 40.61" East.

The licensees are: Shell 30%, Petoro 30%, Statoil 20% and Total 20%.

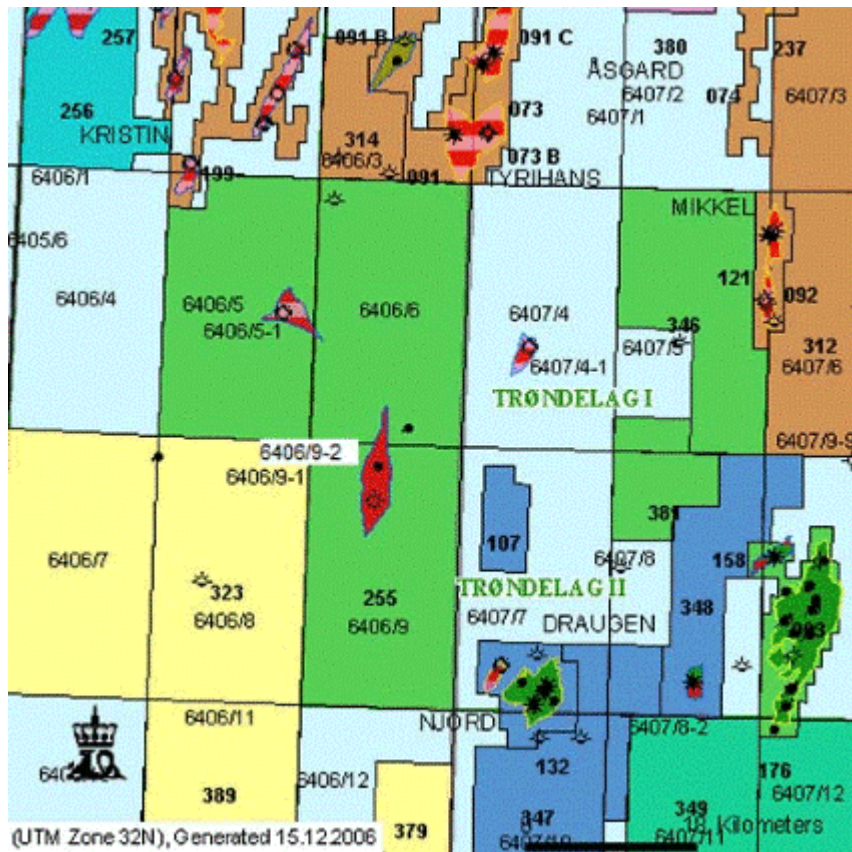
The area in this production licence encompasses the following three blocks: 6406/5, 6406/6 and 6406/9 in the southern part of the Norwegian Sea, approx. 40 km west-northwest of Draugen and approx. 20 km north of Njord. Production licence 255 was awarded in the 16th Licensing Round in 2000.

Previously a gas-condensate discovery was made (6406/6-1), as well as a gas discovery (6406/9-1), which will be delimited by this well (6406/9-2). This is the fourth well drilled in this licence.

The *West Alpha* is currently drilling well 6406/6-2 for Shell in the Norwegian Sea.

The drilling permit is conditional upon the operator obtaining all other permits and consents required by other authorities before the drilling activity commences.

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



6406/9-2

29/06/2007 Press Release 24/2007:A/S Norske Shell, operator of production licence 255, has concluded drilling of appraisal well 6406/9-2 on the 6406/9-1 discovery ("Onyx Sørvest").

The 6406/9-1 discovery was proven in 2005 and is located approx. 40 km north-west of the Draugen field in the Norwegian Sea. The discovery contains gas in Middle to Lower Jurassic rocks. In a press release issued in January 2006, the NPD indicated a range of uncertainty of 10-50 billion Sm³ recoverable gas for the discovery.

The objective of appraisal well 6406/9-2 was to delimit the discovery. The well encountered gas/water contacts in Middle to Lower Jurassic rocks, thus confirming the northerly extent of the discovery. The NPD's preliminary assessment is that the size of the discovery is probably in the upper half of the uncertainty range. The well was not formation tested, but extensive data

collection and sampling were carried out. The collected data will be analysed to enhance the estimated size and production characteristics of the discovery.

The appraisal well was drilled to a total depth of 5330 metres below sea level, and was concluded in the Åre formation of the Lower Jurassic Age. The water depth was 299 metres. The well has now been permanently plugged and abandoned. The well was the fourth exploration well in production licence 255, which was awarded in the 16th licensing round in 2000.

The well was drilled by the semi-submersible drilling facility *West Alpha*, which will now proceed to the Kristin field in the Norwegian Sea to drill production well 6506/11-N-2 H.

The licensees in production licence 255 are:

A/S Norske Shell (operator):	30%
Petoro AS:	30%
Statoil ASA:	20%
Total E&P Norge AS:	20%

