

NPD – exploration drilling result

17/09/2007 Press release 34/2007: Statoil ASA, operator of production licence 265, has concluded the drilling of wildcat well 16/2-3 in the North Sea. The well is located 35 km east of the 15/3-1 Gudrun discovery in the central North Sea.

The objective of the well was to prove petroleum in a prospect called Ragnarrock in Upper Cretaceous reservoir rock. Light oil was proven in chalk rock in the Upper Cretaceous. A number of small-scale formation tests were conducted which showed limited flow properties. Extensive data and samples were collected and are now being analysed. Complex reservoir conditions have led the licencees to decide to drill an appraisal well on the structure. One will refrain from commenting on the size of the oil discovery pending this appraisal well.

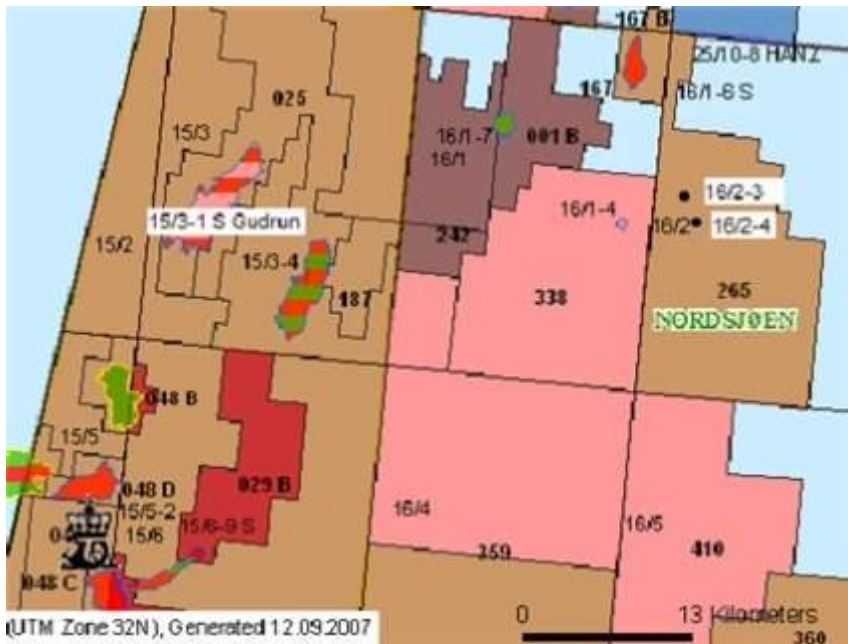
This is the second exploration well in production licence 265. The licence was awarded in 2001 in connection with the North Sea Awards in 2000. The well was drilled to a vertical depth of 1856 meters below the sea surface and concluded in bedrock. Sea depth at the location is 113 meters. The well will now be permanently plugged and abandoned.

Well 16/2-3 was drilled by the *West Epsilon* drilling facility which will now drill well 16/2-4 in the same production licence in order to delimit the oil discovery.

Licencees in production licence 265:

Statoil ASA (operator)	30%
Petoro AS	30%
Det Norske Oljeselskap ASA	30%
Talisman Energy Norge AS	10%

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



16/2-3

09/05/2007 The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate has granted Statoil ASA a drilling permit for wellbore 16/2-3, ref. Section 8 of the Resource Management Regulations.

Wellbore 16/2-3 will be drilled from the drilling facility *West Epsilon* at position 58°53' 00.2" North and 02°22' 24.1" East, after it concludes drilling of wildcat well 16/6-9 S for Statoil in production licence 303.

The drilling program for wellbore 16/2-3 relates to drilling of a wildcat well in production licence 265. Statoil is the operator with a 30 per cent ownership interest. The other licensees are Petoro and DNO, each with 30 per cent, and Talisman with 10 per cent.

The area in this production licence consists of parts of block 16/2. Well 16/2-3 will be drilled about 10 km southeast of the 16/1-6 S discovery and 30 km east of the Gudrun field in the middle part of the North Sea.

Production licence 265 was awarded in the North Sea Awards in 2001. This is the second well to be drilled in the production licence. The permit is contingent upon the operator securing all other permits and consents required by other authorities before the drilling activity commences.

