

Future Challenge of the North Sea

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One of StatoilHydro's main strategic objectives is to continue to maximise value creation on the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS). The NCS production target is to deliver 1.4 million boe per day in 2008 and 1.55 million boe per day in 2012.

This growth potential on the NCS is founded on a combined effort of increased recovery from existing fields, improved operational performance, development of identified projects, and last but not least, maintaining a high exploration level in order to prove new resources.

The North Sea is a mature petroleum province with several fields on decline, and aging installations with rising production unit costs. New discoveries are generally smaller and more complex and technically challenging. Still, the North Sea holds a large potential of undiscovered and undeveloped resources.

A well established infrastructure reduces the time and cost related to new field developments and tie-ins. New projects that will come on-stream the next two years are the Oseberg Delta, Gamma Main, Volve, Vega and Gjøa.

We have stepped up the activity-level and in 2008 StatoilHydro will participate in 15-20 exploration wells in the North Sea. These wells are well balanced between near-field targets and strategic play openers. The result of these wells will be important for determining the long-term growth potential in the North Sea.