

Challenges in Vaca Muerta: Tecpetrol's Experience in the Exploration and Appraisal of the Play

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ABSTRACT

The presentation will cover Tecpetrol's exploration and appraisal strategy for Vaca Muerta.

The first step was to define an acreage position strategy for Tecpetrol to become a major player in Vaca Muerta. Two key elements were taken into account. The first was having a portfolio of assets diversified in all fluid windows (but with the main focus in the gas window). The second was acquiring good quality acreage. Following this strategy, Tecpetrol acquired blocks in 2014 and 2015 and now has a position of around 200,000 net acres in Vaca Muerta distributed in five blocks.

An exploration and appraisal strategy was defined for the evaluation of Vaca Muerta, which includes vertical wells to characterize the entire Vaca Muerta interval and to select the potential landing zones and horizontal wells to evaluate the productivity and potential of these rocks.

In the areas where the results of the evaluation are successful, an appraisal plan will be carried out to complete the evaluation of the zone and to define the optimum parameters for the development of the area (well spacing, completion strategies, frac designs, etc).

Tecpetrol started a drilling campaign in June 2016 with 2 vertical and 7 horizontal wells for the exploration and evaluation of its blocks in this play.