

A Synopsis of Field Operations in the Rakhine Basin Delivering Outstanding Outcomes through Collaboration

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ABSTRACT

Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte Ltd (“Woodside”) has operated and non-operated interests in six exploration blocks in the highly prospective Rakhine Basin, offshore Myanmar. During the 2015 to 2016 field season, Woodside and its joint venture participants drilled two wells, acquired over 30,000 km² of broadband 3D seismic data and 1200 line km of 2D seismic data, 200 seabed geotechnical cores and over 34,000 line km of potential field data. The operations had a number of challenges, including a remote offshore location, limited shore-side infrastructure and very tight timeframes. At various times there were multiple operations, each with multiple vessels underway in the same or adjacent blocks. Conversely, the proximity of multiple operations in time and space provided opportunities to share resources between operations saving both costs and time. Woodside and joint venture participant BG, later Shell, conducted separate 3D seismic surveys but shared resources across the two operations which resulted in efficiency gains. The drilling campaign, although across different blocks with different participants, was able to share resources across the different wells, as well as with the seismic operations, saving time and costs. This presentation aims to provide an overview of the strategies used to optimise the field program, yielding cost and time benefits, minimise potential interference between adjacent operations and leverage the large program to obtain the best technical and commercial outcomes.