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**Deepwater Angola; The Pinda Group - A Revitalised Play Concept**

The Pinda Group of Angola is part of the widespread development of Albian carbonates that have been an important target in the West African Salt Basin from Equatorial Guinea to Southern Angola. In Angola, approx. 2/3 of the production is currently from Pinda carbonates, but since the shift of exploration in the early 90's, future production focuses more on developing Tertiary turbidites as the major oil-producing fairway.

In Angola, production from the Pinda Group is exclusively from carbonates and associated sandstones deposited in shallow water environments and currently found both onshore and on the continental shelf. Exploration of Pinda reservoirs in deeper water has so far not led to any discoveries, but there is encouraging new information available.

Although Albian sedimentation along the West African Salt Basin is dominantly carbonate, important sandstone fairways are known from both the Congo and Kwanza Basins. In the Kwanza Basin, several discoveries were made in the Albian sandstones of the Mucanzo Formation in shallow offshore Blocks 5 & 6, though none proved commercial. More recently, wells in deeper water in the west of Block 5 have proved the extension of these sandstones westward. Sonangol P&P has access to an extensive database of 3-D seismic and wells in this area and the interpretation of these data has revealed previously unknown Albian depocentres associated with large structures, which form the basis of a new play concept for deepwater exploration in Angola.