

**AAPG International Conference
Barcelona, Spain
September 21-24, 2003**

Robert Glendinning¹ (1) BG Group, Reading, United Kingdom

The Yafo Sand; post-Messinian turbidite play, offshore Levant

BG has been involved in exploration offshore Israel and Palestine since 1999 and has participated in the drilling of 4 exploration wells. The initial exploration rationale was to seek an extension of the Nile Delta play. However, drilling results have confirmed an independent gas play, the turbiditic Yafo Sand member of the Pliocene Yafo Formation.

The Yafo Formation immediately overlies the Messinian unconformity. The topography of this surface exerted a major control on the deposition of the Yafo Sand member. Sand was supplied via long-lived canyon systems and accumulated as base-of-slope submarine fans. Reservoirs comprise high net to gross amalgamated channel sands and sheet sands with significant interbedded clay.

This paper describes the key geological and geophysical features of the Yafo Sand member. Illustrative material is drawn from the Gaza Marine Field, offshore Palestine. BG and its partners have drilled two wells on the field, and acquired extensive datasets in each. We will demonstrate how we have incorporated these data into coherent geological and reservoir models.