

Exploration of the Rakhine Basin, Pushing Out the Barriers with New 3D

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Abstract

Building a regional understanding of the Rakhine Basin offshore Myanmar has not been easy for those who entered the Basin in the 2013/14 bid round. However the recent frantic pace of seismic acquisition is about to change the understanding of the basin and hopefully unveil its great potential. It has been interpreted from remote sensing and seismic that the Rakhine Basin formed over a converging plate boundary where the mainly oceanic crust of the Indian Plate is being subducted in a right lateral slip motion under the Myanmar portion of the Eurasian Plate. The nearshore and onshore Rakhine Basin developed as an accretionary prism as subduction proceeded from Early Eocene to Present. Beyond the subduction zone to the west, the deep water exploration PSC's cover a vast area of sediments that have been deposited in the Tertiary Bengal Fan. To the north, possible Cretaceous synrift sediments have been interpreted below the fan. These packages may represent remnants of Early Cretaceous rifting and subsequent fill in the Late Cretaceous associated with Greater India's separation from Gondwanaland and subsequent northward drift.