

## **Building on the Shoulders of Exploration Pioneers to Unlock Myanmar's Riches**

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### **ABSTRACT**

BP has a long history of exploration in Myanmar through its heritage exploration companies (British Petroleum, Burmah Oil, Amoco, Arco, etc). The Burmah Oil Company Limited was incorporated in 1886 to develop the Burmese oilfields. Between 1886 and 1963, Burmah Oil was the dominant explorer in Myanmar's oil industry, discovering the Yenangaung field in 1887 and the Chauk field in 1902. BP, Arco and Amoco each also carried out their own exploration campaigns in Myanmar during the mid and late 20th Century. This was mainly focused onshore, though Arco also ventured offshore drilling the Shwe Pyi Htay-1 gas discovery (now part of the Zawtika field development) in 1997. Arco left the country when sanctions restricting foreign operations in Burma were placed later that same year. Following the lifting of restrictions in 2012-13, BP embarked on an extensive review of the various plays and opportunities in Myanmar. Building on the back of this extensive heritage knowledge database, integrating this with new data, and applying modern mapping techniques, a full suite of play fairway models were creating and used to high-grade basin and licence block areas. Myanmar is located in a complex tectonic setting; thus a fundamental part of BP's play fair way evaluations was to place the basins in their palaeogeographically reconstructed setting. In this paper we shall present a series of reconstructed tectonic and gross depositional environment maps through the Cenozoic, and implications for our risking and overall YTF estimation for the region discussed.