

Accelerating Low Cost and Low Carbon Barrels in a Brownfield Development

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Abstract

Sustaining and growing oil production in a large cluster of brown fields requires focused efforts, creativity, and innovation. The ‘easy’ oil accumulations have already been identified and are in production. The production growth focuses on developing existing reserves and undeveloped reserves. Opportunities have been identified in play types such as near field, re-drill, rim, below-field, and field extension opportunities. Maturing these play types brings challenges such as higher subsurface complexity, increased drilling risks and surface infrastructure limitations. To realize these opportunities a dedicated team was established in 2020.

The strategy of the Growth team is to build a healthy project funnel of diverse, low cost, low carbon portfolio of opportunities that will replenish depleting reserves, are robust against oil price / cashflow constraints, and that can be matured and realized quickly and with as low a GHG intensity footprint as possible.

To achieve this, the Growth Team works in collaboration with Exploration, Field Studies Center and Field development teams to rank all the Prospective and Pre DG1 Contingent Resources and to allocate resources to mature these opportunities to a Project Initiation gate.

Since early 2020, the Growth team has been responsible for realizing new Contingent Resource and Undeveloped Reserves volume additions. A case study will show that early successes within the team can be attributed to 1. Close and cross organizational collaboration with internal and external stakeholders, 2. Striking the right balance between studying vs drilling appraisal wells, and 3. Commitment from management to drill appraisal wells that carry higher risk but have the potential to unlock new volumes.

Novel: Dedicated growth team embedded in the Asset framework that works in harmony with Exploration, Field development and Field Studies Center teams to prioritize, rank and mature new hydrocarbon opportunities, with an emphasis on agile working, collaboration and streamlining to fast-track appraisal.