

Early Production Systems to Reduce Cycle Time of Offshore Developments

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Development of an offshore oilfield typically involves a lengthy transition from discovery to production. This time frame is typically referred to as cycle time. ExxonMobil has progressed an FPSO concept that can significantly reduce cycle time - called the Early Production System (EPS). Several keys to the successful application of the EPS concept are 1) flexibility to handle a range of potential resource outcomes, 2) shorter execution time through use of a generic design, 3) lower cost approach, 4) quality facility in full compliance with Company health and safety requirements, 5) full compliance with industry standards and regulations, and 6) an alignment of objectives between contractor and host government.

Three general applications of the EPS are described. This includes 1) the development of small remote resources, 2) the development of large/long lead resources and 3) the development of highly complex resources. The descriptions include consideration of economics/development costs, production timing and the trade-off between additional appraisal drilling and acquisition of early production data.
