

# DRILLWATCH

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**Reliance** and partners BP and Niko Resources are preparing to **develop the MJ-1** or D-55 discovery at the KG-D6 block (KG-DWN-98/3). The consortium expects to receive bids by January 15 (today) from short-listed companies Technip with FMC, GE, Aker Kvaerner and OneSubsea in a tender for a subsea production system. Whoever wins must supply X-Mas trees, wellheads, pipeline end manifolds and other subsea equipment. The successful bidder must also provide support to the driller who will carry out installation before it begins drilling the development wells in water depths of 500 to 1500 metres. Reliance has divided the work into two seasons: five X-Mas trees must be supplied during the first season and the remaining equipment supplied in the next season so production can begin from 2020.

**Bharat PetroResources (BPRL)** is planning to start production from the Pahunia discovery at its onland Cambay basin block CB-ONN-2010/8 near Ahmedabad. BPRL plans to start production from two existing exploratory wells: Pahunia#01 (PA#01) and Pahunia#02 (PA#02). In 2019-20, BPRL also plans to drill **three development wells** at the block to monetise discoveries DW#01, DW#02 and DW#03. BPRL applied to the environment ministry for Terms of Reference to carry out an EIA study on January 1, 2018. BPRL also plans a quick production facility at well sites to store the produced oil and later transport it to the nearest ONGC facility for further processing. BPRL estimates that development drilling and the setting up of production facilities will cost around \$6.5m.

**Quippo Oil and Gas** expects to mobilise **four land rigs** for Schlumberger by March and by May two more for ONGC. Schlumberger wants two 750-hp and two 1000-hp rigs to mobilise to the RJ-ON-90/1 block in Rajasthan where it will carry out an 81 development well drilling programme for Cairn India at the Aishwariya-Barmar Hill and Raageshwari Deep gasfields. On December 7, Schlumberger issued a LoA to Quippo for two years to mobilise Rig-1 (750-hp), Rig-2 (750-hp), Rig-4 (1000-hp) and Rig-39 (1000-hp). Schlumberger has given Quippo three months to mobilise. Elsewhere, Quippo is also preparing to mobilise two 2000-hp rigs by May 12, 2018 for ONGC: Rig-28 to Rajahmundry and Rig-31 to Sibsagar in Assam.

**Oil India** is planning a pre-bid for a **rig tender** later this month (January) as it gears up to begin drilling three exploration wells at prospective NELP-VI frontier block MZ-ONN-2004/1 in Mizoram. Next month (February) a team of senior Oil India engineers is expected in Mizoram to visit the site of the first of the three planned wells: MZ-8 near Thenzawl town. Oil India plans to hire one rig and use one already on hire, we hear. A 2000-hp land rig already on hire will be used to spud MZ-8 by early April or before monsoon rains. The second well MZ-2 will be drilled near village Fulmawi, but the location of third well is yet to finalise. For both MZ-8 and MZ-2, Oil India is targeting the Oligocene and Miocene Jenam formation, the Renji formation and the Bhuban formation.

US-based **Nabors Drilling** has a good chance of winning Oil India's expected tender to hire a **3000-hp rig** to drill at the 650-sq km Hapjan-Tinsukia-Dhola area of Assam. Nabors is possibly the only driller with a 3000-hp land rig already active in India, on hire with Oil India to drill HP/HT exploration wells at the KG-ONN-2004/1 onland KG basin block. Oil India is likely to offer a firm two-year contract with a one-year extension option and says it is ready to issue the tender soon. Oil India prepared the tender document last month (December), but first will invite Eols. Expect drillers to offer rates of between \$33,000 and \$35,000/day. In India Nabors is best known for hiring platform rig 805 to GSPC in March 2012 for its offshore Deen Dayal field, now owned by ONGC.

After Baker Hughes, it's **Halliburton's** turn to carry out a **directional drilling campaign** for Oil India so it can use the technique to bypass land acquisition challenges in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. Halliburton has begun mobilising after winning the Rs43.95cr (\$6.6m) contract on November 3, 2017. This three-year contract will run till October 2020 with an optional one-year extension. Under the contract, Halliburton will provide services to drill directional wells with tools and equipment including steerable downhole mud motors, measurement while drilling and logging while drilling surface units, directional gamma tools, annular pressure while drilling tools, and drilling jars. Halliburton will supply experienced workers to operate the equipment for Oil India at Baghjan and Barekuri.

Semisubmersible rig **Olinda Star** owned by Brazil's QGOG is preparing to spud her maiden **development well** in India at ONGC's eastern offshore deepwater discovery block KG-DWN-98/2. Anchor handling tugs began assisting Star lower her six anchors on January 9. After the well is spud, a 36-inch casing will be lowered, then the wellhead casing, we hear. Universal Energy-managed semi-submersible rig SSV Louisiana meanwhile left Trincomalee port in Sri Lanka before midnight on January 9 for 98/2, also to drill development wells for ONGC. Louisiana was expected to reach Kakinada by January 14 and secure customs and navy clearances before moving to 98/2. Separately, development drilling of well AE-AB spud on November 28 for ONGC at this block by Platinum Explorer is proceeding smoothly.