



# SAINTS PERSPECTIVES

*Things Relating to Oil and Gas*

## Discovery 1

### **Exxon Says It Discovered New Guyana Oil Reserves**

**Bluefin discovery includes 197 feet of oil-bearing rock  
Find comes after Exxon filed arbitration over oil field**

[By Mitchell Ferman, Bloomberg, March 15, 2024](#)

ExxonMobil Guyana today announced a discovery at **Bluefin in the Stabroek block** offshore Guyana, the company's first discovery of 2024.

The Bluefin well encountered approximately 197 feet (60 metres) of hydrocarbon-bearing sandstone and was drilled by the Stena Drillmax drillship in 4,244 feet (1,294 metres) of water.

The Bluefin well is located approximately 8.5 kilometres southeast of the **Sailfin-1 well**, in the southeastern portion Stabroek block.

"Our exploration program continues to improve our understanding of the block's potential to drive viable oil-and-gas development. This latest find reinforces that we have the people, skills and technology to safely and responsibly deliver value to Guyana from the country's resources," said President of ExxonMobil Guyana Alistair Routledge.

The Bluefin discovery joins the more than 30 already made on the Stabroek block since 2015.

## Discovery 2

### **ExxonMobil greenlights Whiptail oil project offshore Guyana, expects production to pass Venezuela**

[Kevin Crowley, Bloomberg April 14, 2024](#)

Exxon Mobil Corp. formally approved its sixth oil development offshore Guyana that will make the Latin American nation a bigger crude producer than OPEC member Venezuela. The **Whiptail** project will cost \$12.7 billion and produce about 250,000 bpd as soon as the end of 2027, Exxon said in a statement Friday. Guyana's overall daily crude capacity will climb to 1.3 MMbbl just eight years after the advent of the country's oil production.



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Guyana's boom comes as neighboring Venezuela, a co-founder of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, grapples with years of underinvestment and international sanctions that slashed oil production and government revenues.



Source: ExxonMobil

Guyana's emergence as a major oil producer also is having vast social and economic consequences for a country of just 800,000 people. Oil revenues have allowed the government to unleash a wave of welfare and infrastructure spending while expanding crude supplies factored into a recent OPEC decision to maintain production caps in a bid to support prices. **International crude prices have risen almost 20% this year to about \$90 a barrel.**

Exxon plans to drill 48 wells about 120 miles (190 kilometers) offshore Guyana that will feed a floating production, storage and offloading vessel, or FPSO, named Jaguar, the country's national animal.

The FPSO will have 2 MMbbl of crude storage capacity, SBM Offshore NV, which will construct the vessel, said in a separate statement. SBM shares rose as much as 1.7% in Amsterdam.



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Exxon expects Whiptail to ultimately produce more than 750 MMbbl. The cache was discovered in 2021.

Guyana's offshore oil production growth is unlikely to continue at breakneck pace once Whiptail is online in 2027. Exxon has found enough oil and natural gas to support as many as 10 FPSOs, but is leaving its options open for the seventh project having now made more than 30 major discoveries.

"Some of it is not quite so easy reservoir-wise, but there's a lot of resource," Exxon's Guyana country manager Alistair Routledge said in an interview. "We're working through that inventory and figuring out what could potentially be next in the development."

- **One option** is for Guyana's first gas-focused project, which is favored by the government.
- **Other options** include connecting more recent discoveries to existing production vessels rather than commissioning new FPSOs.

Since Exxon's first Guyanese discovery in 2015, the nation's known reserves have expanded to more than 11 Bbbl, attracting unwelcome interest from Venezuela. President Nicolas Maduro has ramped up rhetoric around his country's historic claims to the Essequibo region that makes up two-thirds of Guyana's land mass.

Meanwhile, Chevron Corp. is attempting to buy a share of Guyana's oil bounty through a \$53 billion takeover of Hess Corp., which holds a 30% share in the Exxon-led development. Exxon, which owns 45%, is disputing the change of hands via arbitration at the International Chamber of Commerce, arguing that it has a right of first refusal.

Chinese oil giant **Cnooc Ltd.**, which also owns a stake, joined Exxon in arbitration last month.



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## Related Articles

### **Another oil & gas find for Petronas and ExxonMobil offshore Suriname**

By Melisa Čavčić, May 16, 2024, Offshore Energy

<https://www.offshore-energy.biz/another-oil-gas-find-for-petronas-and-exxonmobil-offshore-suriname/>

*Petronas Suriname E&P, a subsidiary of Malaysia's energy giant Petronas, and ExxonMobil Exploration and Production Suriname, an affiliate of the U.S. oil major ExxonMobil, have made another hydrocarbon discovery at an exploration well in **Block 52** offshore Suriname.*

### **Brazil's new Petrobras chief calls to speed up oil exploration**

AFP, Monday, May 27, 2024.

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/brazils-petrobras-chief-calls-speed-235455071.html>

*The new president (Magda Chambriard) of Brazil's Petrobras said Monday it was crucial that the state-run company "accelerate" oil exploration, including in a controversial **offshore basin near the mouth of the Amazon River.***