

**Announcement from Norway concerning Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions for granting and using authorisations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons**

**Announcement of invitation to apply for petroleum production licences on the Norwegian Continental Shelf — 22nd licensing round**

(2012/C 284/07)

The Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy hereby announces an invitation to apply for petroleum production licences in accordance with Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 1994 on the conditions for granting and using authorisations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons, Article 3(2)(a).

Production licences will be awarded to joint stock companies registered in Norway or in another State party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (the EEA Agreement), or to natural persons domiciled in a State party to the EEA Agreement. The joint stock company shall have a minimum equity share capital of NOK 1 million or an amount equivalent to this in the currency of the country of registration.

Companies which are not presently licensees on the Norwegian Continental Shelf may be awarded production licences if they are qualified as licensees on the Norwegian Continental Shelf.

Companies submitting individual applications and companies applying as part of a group will be treated on equal terms by the Ministry. Applicants submitting an individual application, or applicants being part of a group submitting a joint application, will all be considered as an applicant for a production licence. The Ministry may, on the basis of applications submitted by groups or individual applicants, determine the composition of the licence groups being awarded a production licence, including removing applicants in a group application and adding individual applicants, and appoint the operator for such groups.

The award of a participating interest in a production licence will be subject to the licensees' entering into an agreement for petroleum activities, including a joint operating agreement and an accounting agreement. If the production licence is stratigraphically divided, the licensees of the two stratigraphically divided licences will also be required to enter into a specific joint operating agreement, regulating the relationship between them in this respect.

Upon signing the said agreements the licensees will form a joint venture in which the size of their participating interest will at all times be identical to their participating interest in the production licence.

The licence documents will mainly be based on relevant documents from the Awards in Predefined Areas 2012 and 21st licensing round. The aim is to make the main elements of any adjustments to the framework available to the industry prior to the time of application.

**Criteria for the award of a production licence**

To promote good resource management and rapid and efficient exploration for and production of petroleum on the Norwegian Continental Shelf, including the composition of licence groups to ensure this, the following criteria shall apply to the award of participating interests in production licences and to the appointment of operator:

- (a) the relevant technical expertise of the applicant, including expertise related to development work, research, safety and the environment, and how this expertise may actively contribute to cost-effective exploration and, as appropriate, the production of petroleum from the geographical area in question;
- (b) that the applicant has the satisfactory financial capacity to carry out exploration for and, as appropriate, production of petroleum in the geographical area in question;
- (c) the applicant's geological understanding of the geographical area in question, and how the licensees propose to perform efficient exploration for petroleum;
- (d) the applicant's previous experience on the Norwegian Continental Shelf or equivalent relevant experience from other areas;
- (e) the Ministry's experience regarding the applicant's petroleum activities;
- (f) where applicants apply as part of a group, the composition of the group, the operator recommended and the collective competence of the group will be taken into account;

- (g) production licences will mainly be awarded to a joint venture where at least one participant has drilled at least one exploration well on the Norwegian Continental Shelf as operator, or has equivalent relevant operational experience outside the Norwegian Continental Shelf;
- (h) production licences will mainly be awarded to two or more participants, where at least one of them has experience as mentioned under (g);
- (i) the appointed operator for production licences in the Barents Sea must have drilled at least one exploration well on the Norwegian Continental Shelf as operator or have equivalent relevant operational experience outside the Norwegian Continental Shelf;
- (j) for production licences in deep waters, both the appointed operator and at least one other participating interest shall have drilled at least one well on the Norwegian Continental Shelf as operator or have equivalent relevant operational experience outside the Norwegian Continental Shelf. In the production licence, one participating interest shall have drilled in deep waters as operator;
- (k) for production licences where drilling of exploration wells in high pressure and/or high temperatures (HPHT) is expected, the appointed operator and at least one other participating interest shall have drilled at least one well on the Norwegian Continental Shelf as operator or have equivalent relevant operational experience outside the Norwegian Continental Shelf. In the production licence, one participating interest shall have drilled an HPHT-well as operator.

#### Blocks available for application

Applications for petroleum production licences may be submitted for the following blocks or parts of blocks in the Norwegian Sea and the Barents Sea:

6706/2,3	7219/1,2,3,4,5,6,10,11
6707/1	7220/1,2,3
6705/7,8,9,10	7221/1,2,4,5
6704/12	7224/6
6604/8,9	7225/2,4
6605/1,9	7226/5,6
6606/7,8	7227/4,7
7423/12	7231/4,5,6
7424/10	7127/5,6
7425/10,11	7128/4
7317/4,5,6,8,9	7130/4,7
7318/11,12	7017/6,7,8,9
7319/11,12	7018/4
7320/7,8,9,10,11,12	6706/2,3
7321/4,7,8,9,10,11,12	6707/1
7322/6	6705/7,8,9,10
7323/3,4	6704/12
7217/9	6604/8,9
7218/1,2,4,5,6,7,12	6605/1,9

Maps showing the available blocks may be found on the webpage of the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (fact maps: <http://www.npd.no/22round>), or by contacting the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, tel. +47 22246209.

Applications for petroleum production licences shall be submitted to:

Ministry of Petroleum and Energy  
 PO Box 8148 Dep.  
 0033 Oslo  
 NORWAY

**Deadline: 12.00 noon on 4 December 2012**

The award of petroleum production licences in the 22nd licensing round on the Norwegian Continental Shelf will take place no less than 90 days after the date of publication of the invitation to submit applications and is planned before summer 2013.

The work program for each new licence in the 22nd licensing round will be made public at the time of awards.

The full text of the announcement, including detailed maps of available areas may be obtained by visiting <http://www.npd.no/22round>, or by contacting the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, tel. +47 22246209.

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