

Launch of OALP Bid Round-IV

Press Release

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched Open Acreage Licensing Programme Bid Round-IV

New Delhi, August 26, 2019: The Government has implemented plethora of reforms in the past five years in the E&P sector. The Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) replacing the erstwhile New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) was approved in March 2016 and the Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) along with the National Data Repository (NDR) were launched in June 2017 as the key drivers to accelerate the Exploration and Production (E&P) activities in India. Government under three (3) OALP Rounds have already awarded Eighty-Seven (87) Blocks covering an area of 1,18,280 Sq. Km with leading E&P companies.

In continuation to its determination for reduction in import dependency of oil and gas and accelerating E&P activities, Government notified further policy reforms in upstream sector on 28th February, 2019 to increase exploration activities, attract domestic and foreign investment in unexplored/unallocated areas of sedimentary basins and promote ease of doing business by streamlining and expediting the approval processes.

The Government has now launched the **Bid Round-IV** for International Competitive Bidding on **27th August, 2019** which will be carried out under the revised policy framework. In this bid round 7 blocks, with an area of approximately 18,500 sq. km. are being offered for bidding to the investor community. All seven (7) blocks are based on Expressions of Interest submitted by the bidders.

Salient features of Policy Reforms cover Category Specific Bid evaluation criteria with more weightage to exploratory work programme, Category-II and III type blocks will be bided based on exploratory work programme only, shorter exploration period, concessional royalty rates to expedite oil and gas production and introduction of alternate dispute resolution mechanism.

The exploration acreage of India has been enhanced from 90,000 square kilometers in 2017 to 2,10,000 sq. km after successful completion of three OALP rounds under HELP and is expected to rise with upcoming bidding rounds. To further increase exploration acreage of India, Government has increased EoI cycles from two (2) to three (3) in a year with the revised dates of April 1 to July 31, August 1 to November 30 and December 1 to March 31.

With the release of Notice Inviting Offer (NIO), bidders can study the data available in National Data Repository (NDR) and select blocks for the bidding. The bidders would be able to submit their bids through an online e-bidding portal starting **27th August 2019** and the bidding round would continue till **1200 hrs. 31st October 2019**. The blocks are spread across 3 sedimentary basins; 7 Onland blocks are on offer under OALP-IV which includes 6 blocks in Category-II and

Launch of OALP Bid Round-IV

III Basins and 1 block in Category-I Basin. It is expected that OALP Round IV would generate immediate exploration work commitment of around USD 200-250 million.

The 5th cycle of submitting Expressions of Interest (Eols) is currently going on till November 30, 2019 and would be followed by the 6th cycle from December 1, 2019 till March 31, 2020.

Details of Blocks on Offer (OALP Bid Round-IV)

(All blocks are onland)

S.No.	Block Name	Basin	Basin Category	State	Area (sq. km.)
1	VN-ONHP-2019/1	Vindhayan	Category-II	Madhya Pradesh	2,730.73
2	VN-ONHP-2019/2	Vindhayan	Category-II	Madhya Pradesh	3,077.65
3	VN-ONHP-2019/3	Vindhayan	Category-II	Madhya Pradesh	3,097.17
4	BP-ONHP-2019/1	Bengal Purnea	Category-III	West Bengal	3,130.91
5	VN-ONHP-2019/4	Vindhayan	Category-II	Madhya Pradesh	2,932.74
6	VN-ONHP-2019/5	Vindhayan	Category-II	Madhya Pradesh	1,421.66
7	RJ-ONHP-2019/1	Rajasthan	Category-I	Rajasthan	2,118.83
	Total Area				18,509.69
