

Launch of OALP Bid Round-V

Thursday, 14th January, 2020, New Delhi

Press Release

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

New Delhi, January 14, 2020: The Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) was approved in March 2016. In continuation to its determination for reduction in import dependency of oil and gas and accelerating E&P activities, Government notified the further policy reforms in upstream sector on 28th February, 2019. OALP Bid Round-IV was carried out under reformed policy and revised model bid documents. Government has recently awarded 7 blocks under OALP Bid Round IV on 2nd January, 2020 for an area of 18,510 sq. km. So far, the Government has awarded 94 blocks under the HELP regime in a very short time span of two and half years. These 94 Blocks cover an exploratory area of approximately 136,800 sq. km over 16 Indian Sedimentary Basins.

In continuation of its aggressive acceleration of E&P activities and adhering to the prescribed timelines, the Government has now launched the **Bid Round-V** for International Competitive Bidding on **14th January, 2020**. In this bid round 11 blocks, with an area of approximately **19,800** sq. km. are on offer for bidding to the investor community. All eleven (11) blocks are based on Expressions of Interest received during EoI Window-V from 16th May 2019 to 30th November 2019.

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 **14th January, 2020** and the bidding round would continue till **1200 hrs. 18th March 2020**.

The 11 blocks under OALP Round-V have spread across 8 Sedimentary Basins and include eight Onland blocks (six in Category-I Basin and one each in Category II and III Basins), two Shallow Water blocks (one each in Category-I and II Basins) and one Ultra Deep Water block (Category-I Basin). It is expected that OALP Round V would generate immediate exploration work commitment of around USD 400-450 million. An area of 136,800 sq. km. has already been awarded under OALP Bid Round I, II, III and IV. These OALP Bid Round-V Blocks would add further 19,800 sq. km. Overall Exploration Acreage of India would then increase to 236,600 sq. km.

The Hydrocarbon Exploration & Licensing Policy (HELP), which adopts the Revenue Sharing contract model, is a giant step towards improving the 'Ease of Doing Business' in the Indian Exploration and Production (E&P) sector. It comes with attractive and liberal terms like reduced royalty rates, no Oil Cess, marketing and pricing freedom, round the year bidding, freedom to

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investors for carving out blocks of their interest, a single license to cover both conventional and unconventional hydrocarbon resources, exploration permission during the entire contract period, and an easy, transparent and swift bidding and awarding process. OALP Round-IV was the maiden bidding round under the further liberalized policy terms, which focused on production maximization with higher weightage to work programme as part of evaluation criteria in Category I basin and no revenue share commitment as part of bidding parameters for category II and III basins.

The **6th cycle** of submitting Expressions of Interest (EoIs) is currently going on till March 31, 2020 and would be followed by the **7th cycle** from April 1, 2020 till July 31, 2020.

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

S. No.	NAME Of BLOCK	AREA (Sq. Km.)	STATE NAME	BASIN	ONLAND/OFFSHORE
1	RJ-ONHP-2019/2	1,520.08	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	Onland
2	RJ-ONHP-2019/3	1,819.48	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	Onland
3	CB-ONHP-2019/1	18.84	Gujarat	Cambay	Onland
4	CB-ONHP-2019/2	152.98	Gujarat	Cambay	Onland
5	GK-ONHP-2019/1	1,693.04	Gujarat	Kutch	Onland
6	BP-ONHP-2019/2	3,169.53	West Bengal and Orissa	Bengal-Purnea	Onland
7	AA-ONHP-2019/1	1,278.27	Arunanchal and Assam	Assam Shelf	Onland
8	AA-ONHP-2019/2	2,405.12	Assam	Assam Shelf	Onland
9	GS-OSHP-2019/1	1,420.71	Western Offshore	Saurashtra	Offshore
10	MB-OSHP-2019/1	2,246.77	Western Offshore	Mumbai Offshore	Offshore
11	CY-UDWHP-2019/1	4,064.22	Eastern Offshore	Cauvery	Offshore
	Total	19,789.04			

Summary of Blocks awarded in OALP Bid Round-I, II, III and IV

MoPNG awarded **94** Blocks spanning to an area of around **136,790** sq. km. in over **16** Sedimentary Basins of India which attracted total committed investment of around **USD 2,317 million**.

S. No.	Awardee's Name	Numbers of Blocks	Area (Sq. Km)
1	Vedanta Ltd.	51	58,584.10
2	Oil India Ltd.	21	42,137.18
3	ONGC Ltd.	17	33,615.10
4	BP+RIL	1	1,513.90
5	IOCL	1	474.19
6	GAIL	1	212.00
7	BPRL	1	174.00
8	HOEC Ltd.	1	79.00
		94	136,789.47
