

Largest-ever Multi-client Offshore Gravity Gradiometry Survey Completed

UK-based ARKeX, provider of non-seismic geophysical imaging services, has recently completed an airborne Full Tensor Gravity Gradiometry (FTG) survey offshore Greenland for ION Geophysical. The 50,000-square-kilometre multi-client survey is the largest single offshore FTG survey ever carried out.

The survey takes in key areas of the pre-round blocks that are on offer to the KANUMAS group and in addition, the ordinary round blocks that will be offered in Greenland's 2013 license rounds. The FTG data is currently being integrated and jointly interpreted with ION's 2D Northeast GreenlandSPAN program to provide a better understanding of the structural development of the region. The interpretation is expected to be completed by September 2012 and the report along with the data will be available to licence on a non-exclusive basis.

The NE Greenland region is estimated to contain 31.4 BBOE resources by the USGS (2008). The extensive NE Greenland continental shelf is the conjugate margin to Norway and the Barents Sea and is expected to contain the same rich Jurassic oil-prone source rocks.

Phill Houghton, VP New Ventures, ARKeX explained that acquiring 3D seismic in the northeast Greenland is extremely challenging due to the extensive ice covering. ARKeX's airborne FTG survey can provide a 3D image set that once integrated with ION's 2D GreenlandSPAN, will afford potential operators in the region with the clearest picture to date of the area's potential.

Joe Gagliardi, ION's Director of Arctic Solutions and Technology, added the programme, which is leveraging both ION's understanding of the regional geology and basin structural components from the 55,000km ArcticSPAN 2D data library, and ARKeX's Gravity Gradiometry technologies and expertise. By linking the regional 2D data with full-tensor gravity gradiometry data, oil & gas companies who are assessing the prospectivity of these areas can accelerate the normal exploration lifecycle, bypassing the recon 3D phase to focus directly onto their prospects of interest.

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