

CGG and Sovcomflot Form Arctic 3D Seismic Joint Venture

CGG, France, and Sovcomflot, Russia, have announced that they have signed an agreement to form a joint venture company dedicated to conducting high-end 3D marine seismic acquisition services with a focus on Arctic and sub-Arctic waters. CGG will charter a 14-streamer ice-class vessel while Sovcomflot will add the capabilities of an eight-streamer ice-class vessel.

The joint venture, to be called Arctic Geophysical Exploration (AGE), will be 51% owned by Sovcomflot and 49% owned by CGG. The company will be incorporated in Russia with its headquarters in Moscow. The primary aim of the joint venture company is to offer world-class 3D marine seismic acquisition services to operators during the Arctic navigation season. In addition, the new company will offer its vessel capabilities to the international market for the remainder of the year while benefiting from access to seismic technologies from CGG's worldwide operational and technical support.

CGG and Sovcomflot will have a combined total of four vessels scheduled to operate on client projects during the 2014 Arctic navigation season and expect the joint venture to be fully operational by Q4 2014 in order to capture the growing 3D seismic market in this region.

Jean-Georges Malcor, CEO, CGG, said that the Russian Arctic is an exciting new frontier that has increasingly shown its potential over the last two years. By bringing together the two companies' strong HSE cultures, Sovcomflot's considerable Arctic maritime experience and Russian presence along with CGG's expertise as a leading technology provider, we believe this joint venture will create a strong vehicle for growth in this demanding region.

Sergey Frank, President & CEO, OAO Sovcomflot, added that combining Sovcomflot's in-depth knowledge and experience of operating in the Arctic with CGG's global expertise in marine seismic operations, has led to a new Russian marine seismic company able to meet demanding technical and operational challenges of the Arctic region, whilst also being able to offer a competitive range of seismic services internationally.

<https://www.hydro-international.com/content/news/cgg-and-sovcomflot-form-arctic-3d-seismic-joint-venture>
