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Santos

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03 APR -3 AM 7:21



Date: Thu 03 Apr 2003 09:00:03 AM EST

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www.santos.com

3 April 2003

Santos' latest WA gas result exceeds expectations

Santos Limited has increased its gas resources in Western Australia's offshore Carnarvon Basin with a successful appraisal of the John Brookes gas field in permit WA 214-P.

Santos said the Thomas Bright-1 exploration well had upgraded the gross resource potential of the John Brookes field to up to 1000 petajoules (PJ) of gas.

Santos Managing Director, Mr Ellice-Flint, said the John Brookes field is close to existing infrastructure and that Santos is actively engaged in negotiations to commercialise the field.

"The Thomas Bright-1 result has exceeded our expectations," he said.

"The result has increased the expected gas volume by 25 per cent on our interpretation prior to drilling," Mr Ellice-Flint said.

The John Brookes field was discovered in 1998 with John Brookes-1, which flowed at 37 million cubic feet per day.

Thomas Bright-1 is located 2.3 kms southwest of John Brookes-1, 30 kms north-northeast of East Spar and 56 kms northwest of the gas processing facilities on Varanus Island.

The well intersected approximately 88 metres of net gas within the primary objective Basal Muderong/Upper Barrow target.

The successful result significantly increases the total hydrocarbon resources discovered and appraised by Santos in its Western Australian interests over the last twelve months.

WA 214-P is operated by Apache Northwest Pty Ltd. Santos currently has a 28.75 per cent interest in the permit.

Santos Limited is a major Australian oil and gas exploration and production company with interests in all Australian hydrocarbon provinces. The Santos Group also operates in the USA, Indonesia and PNG.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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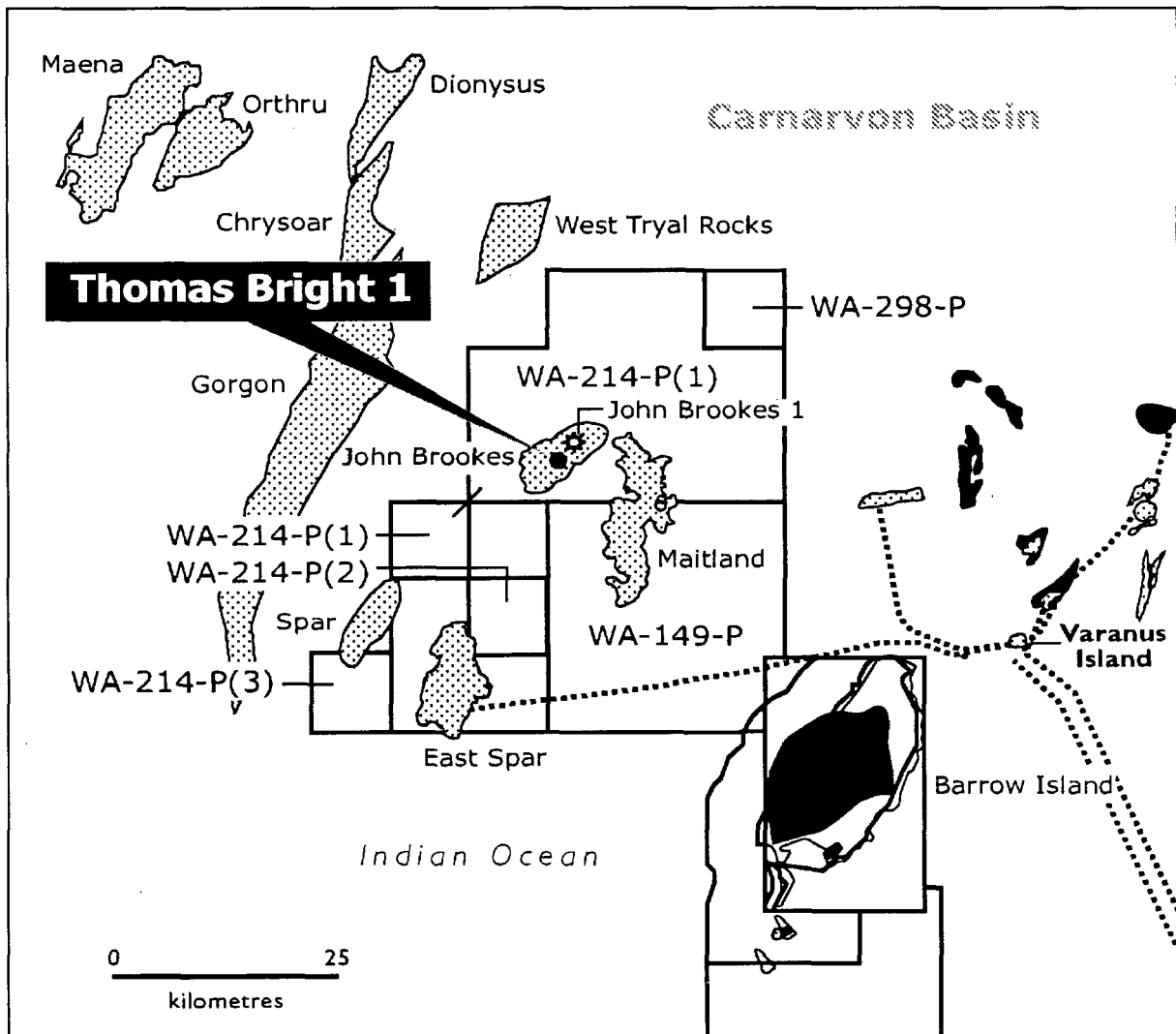
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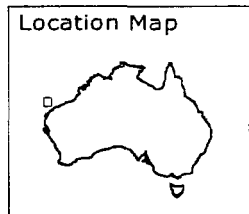
Santos stock symbols: STO (Australian Stock Exchange), STOSY (NASDAQ ADR)

Thomas Bright 1



LEGEND

- Santos Acreage
- Oil Field
- ▨ Gas Field
- .. Gas Pipeline



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Week Ending 03rd April 2003**Wildcat Exploration Wells****Montgomery 1**

Type	Exploration Well	
Location	Offshore Western Australia, Carnarvon Basin WA 149P, 15km W of the Wonnich Gas Field, and some 32km NW of Barrow Island.	
Status at 0600hrs 03/04/03	Drilling ahead surface hole. The current depth and progress for the week is 467m Montgomery 1 spudded on 01/04/02.	
Planned Total Depth	3682m	
Interest	Apache Oil Australia	48.8150%
	Tap (Shelfal) Pty Ltd	22.4740%
	Santos Group	18.7110%
	Pan Pacific Petroleum (SA) Pty Ltd	10.00%
Operator	Apache Oil Australia	

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Week Ending 03rd April 2003

Near Field Exploration Well / Appraisal Wells

Melba 1

Type	Near Field Exploration (Gas)	
Location	Onshore Victoria, Otway Basin PEP 154, 1.8km NE of Lavers 1, 2.1km N of McIntee 1 and some 20km NW of the township of Port Campbell.	
Status at 0600hrs 03/04/03	Meba 1 has been plugged and abandoned having failed to intersect economic hydrocarbons. The well reached a total depth of 1668m with 456m progress for the week. The rig was released on 31/03/03.	
Planned Total Depth	1620m	
Interest	Santos Group	90.00%
	Beach Petroleum	10.00%
Operator	Santos Group	

Thomas Bright 1

Type	Near Field Exploration (Gas)	
Location	Offshore Western Australia, Carnarvon Basin WA 214P, 2.5km SSW of John Brookes 1, and some 45km NW of the Barrow Island.	
Status at 0600hrs 03/04/03	Thomas Bright 1 has been plugged and abandoned having successfully appraised the Cretaceous Basal Muderong and Upper Barrow Group reservoirs. The well intersected approximately 88m of net gas within the primary objective Basal Muderong/Upper Barrow target. The well reached a total depth of 3040m with no progress for the week. The rig was released on 01/04/03, and has moved to Montgomery 1.	
Planned Total Depth	3050m	
Interest	Apache Northwest Pty Ltd (Operator)	28.75%
	Santos (BOL) Pty Ltd	28.75%
	EnCana International (Australia) Pty Ltd	25.00%
	Ampolex (AE) Pty Ltd (subsidiary of ExxonMobil Corporation)	17.50%
Operator	Apache Oil Australia	

Marabooka East 1

Type	Near Field Exploration (Gas)	
Location	South Australia, Cooper Basin PPL 22 (Former Nappacoongee-Murteree Block), 2.7km E of Marabooka 4, 2.3 km N of Strzelecki 1, and some 42km E of the Moomba Gas Plant.	
Status at 0600hrs 03/04/03	Marabooka East 1 has been plugged and abandoned having failed to intersect economic hydrocarbons. The well reached a total depth of 2216m with 36m progress for the week. The rig was released on 30/03/03 and has moved to Roseneath 3.	
Planned Total Depth	2207m	
Interest	Santos Group	59.75%
	Delhi	20.21%
	Origin Energy Resources Ltd	13.19%
	Novus Australia Resources NL	4.75%
	Basin Oil NL	2.10%
Operator	Santos Group	

During the week ending 3rd April, 2003 Santos Limited also participated in 3 Appraisal wells and 6 development wells.
A complete list of Santos' drilling activity is available from www.santos.com