Nigeria is the largest exporter of oil in Africa and the Niger Delta is acknowledged as one of the most prolific hydrocarbon producing basins in the world. A number of huge discoveries (Agbami, NNWA, Akpo, Bonga, Erha and others) have highlighted the Deepwater Niger Delta as a world class petroleum province. In recent years exploration activity has slowed, yet significant exploration potential remains and there are indications that there will be a major resurgence of both foreign and local investment in deep water areas, with more than five farm-in opportunities currently on offer.

Project Description

Polarcus Nigeria Limited, a joint venture between Polarcus and Ashbert Limited, has obtained exclusive rights from the Department of Petroleum Resources of Nigeria (DPR) to broker 11,000 sq. km of modern 3D seismic data, covering large tracts of some of the most prospective deepwater areas off the Western Niger Delta.

Slumping and gravity driven extension across the western Niger Delta has led to the development of complex, large fold and thrust belts, with a series of detachment advances in the late Miocene initiated when the Akata shale detachment horizon was buried to a depth of around 4 km. This has led to a diversity of structures including toe thrust anticlines, listric and transcurrent faults, shale diapirs and mud volcanos.

The complexity of the deepwater fold and thrust belts can only be accurately defined by using high quality 3D seismic data, and whilst there have been several world class discoveries in adjacent blocks (Erha/Bosi and SW Bonga), the 11,000 sq. km covered by the surveys remains unexplored with only five exploration wells having been drilled.
Nigeria Deepwater Renaissance
Polarcus Multi-Client 3D Survey

Survey Parameters

The surveys were all acquired between 1999 and 2004 with 6 to 8 x 6000m streamers. All of the datasets have been processed through a comprehensive de-multiple and Pre-Stack Time Migration sequence.

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