

---

# Oil Search: Most active PNG explorer

PNG Media Release

---

13 December, 2018

---

Oil Search remained the most active explorer in PNG in 2018.

The Company's Exploration General Manager, Dr Sam Algar, told delegates at the recent PNG Mining & Petroleum Investment Conference that Oil Search's 2018 activities included two successful operated appraisal wells in Kimu 2 and Barikewa 3, plus the drilling of an appraisal well on behalf of ExxonMobil, the acquisition of just over 380km of seismic, and the farm-in to four licences in the Onshore Gulf/Eastern Foldbelt.

"The Kimu gas discovery was made in 1999 and earlier assessments indicated it to be sub-commercial," he said.

"Creative thinking and ingenuity by our geoscientists identified potential for the field to be much larger. In 2016, a seismic programme was acquired by Oil Search and interpretation of the data confirmed the upside potential. The recently drilled Kimu 2 well confirmed the larger resource volumes that were inferred through interpretation of our new seismic data. We are now working with our partner, Kumul Gas Niugini, to develop commercialisation options.

"PNG has enormous exploration potential. We believe that up to 40tcf of oil and gas is yet to be discovered and Oil Search, along with its joint venture partners, are working to ensure these projected discoveries are found."

With this level of focus and activity, Oil Search has formed a Port Moresby based Technical Team which includes young Papua New Guinean geologists.

"Our Port Moresby-based technical team has seven national staff members, including graduates, who undergo intensive training and get significant exposure to field operations. The team is responsible for evaluating a number of exploration blocks with support from the technical team in Sydney," he said.

"I am also pleased to announce a recent first, where we safely completed a seismic operation field trip where an all-female team of geoscientists had the opportunity to experience the challenging but very interesting work the field team undertake".

Dr Algar also touched on new technology being used by Oil Search to assess the chance and volume of gas or oil, filling a structure.

"Initiatives such as the recent use of Laser Imaging Detecting and Ranging (LIDAR) is helping to constrain subsurface structural models, and Kronos, a powerful structural and geochemical software tool designed specifically for fold and thrust belts."

Through collaboratively working with our partners and with the governments support, these tools will help Oil Search do the work necessary to find the hydrocarbons PNG needs to power its future, in 2019 and beyond.

**Ends.**

**For further information, please contact:**

Ruth Waram  
Manager, PNG Communications  
Mobile: (+675) 7190 6078

**Photos courtesy of Oil Search**



Oil Search will continue to optimise its exploration portfolio in PNG.



Oil Search has formed a Port Moresby based Exploration Technical Team which includes young Papua New Guinean geologists.