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Serica lays groundwork for possible first new Bruce drilling since 2012

Serica Energy is laying the groundwork for what could be the first new drilling campaign since 2012 in its Bruce field, in blocks 9/9a, 9/8a and 9/9b in the UK Northern North Sea.

The UK-listed operator, in a second-quarter report yesterday (Tuesday), said that subsurface work has identified more than 20 possible opportunities around its Bruce, Keith and Rhum fields and that work is ongoing to define an optimal future drilling programme.

Serica CEO Chris Cox told a second-quarter briefing that the operator “anticipates an initial high-graded programme that has five wells in Bruce in two phases”.

The company is looking at a first phase of drilling in the vicinity of the Bruce Western area development where existing subsea infrastructure could allow rapid and simple tieback of new wells.

A second phase could then target opportunities to the northeast of the Bruce platform where subsurface studies suggest “large untapped potential”, the company added.

Serica said that as it continues its preparations it has approached the drilling market with a request for information covering the availability of a semi-submersible rig for a two-year programme that could start around the end of 2026 or early in 2027.

The rig programme could also include drilling for Serica’s proposed Kyle redevelopment, in block 29/2c, which the operator is targeting to develop via a single well that would be tied back to the Triton FPSO, in block 21/30.

Kyle was initially produced via the Banff FPSO, but was shut in when that floater was decommissioned in 2021 (NSR 611/12). *(Continued on page 2)*