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Aker BP has significant oil discovery in Yggdrasil Omega area prospects

Aker BP has made a significant oil discovery via its Omega Alpha exploration drilling campaign targeting five prospects from one location in block 25/1 in the Norwegian North Sea, close to the company's large ongoing Yggdrasil development.

The Oslo-listed operator, in a statement last Thursday (21 August), said it estimates that it has discovered 96-134 million barrels of oil equivalent. "Omega Alpha is among the largest commercial discoveries in Norway in a decade," said Aker BP CEO Karl Johnny Hersvik.

The campaign with Odfjell's *Deepwater Stavanger* semi-submersible, drilling in 112 metres of water, targeted the Omega, Alpha, Alpha South, Sigma NE and Pi prospects to the west of Yggdrasil.

Aker BP had already said in July that commercial oil volumes totalling 20-40 million boe had been discovered in the Alpha structure and part of Omega (*NSR 840/8*). Now, with drilling having been completed across the prospects, the resource estimates have climbed to the significantly higher total.

Aker BP said the three-month drilling programme saw 45,000 metres drilled in all, of which 40,000 metres were in reservoir sections. Drilling included three of the longest well branches on the Norwegian Shelf, with the longest of them reaching 10,666 metres, it added.

The operator said horizontal drilling enabled the collection of an "unprecedented" volume of high-quality reservoir data that has "significantly reduced subsurface uncertainty" and will allow it to move quickly into conceptual studies to determine tieback solutions to Yggdrasil for the newly discovered resources.

The initial development phase of Yggdrasil is heading towards first production in 2027 based on a proven resource base of around 700 million boe, with the aim of boosting that total to more than 1 billion boe. (*Continued on page 2*)