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Kjøttkake operator switch as DNO and Aker BP eye fast-track development

DNO is handing over operatorship of the Kjøttkake oil and gas discovery in PL1182S, covering block 35/10 in the Norwegian North Sea, to Aker BP as the duo target a fast-track subsea development that could lead to first production early in 2028.

The Norwegian independent, in a third-quarter report last Thursday (6 November), said that, assuming the government approves the step, operatorship of Kjøttkake will transfer to Aker BP during the development phase and then return to DNO after production starts.

DNO said a subsea tieback to Gjøa area infrastructure, in 35/9, has been identified as the optimal development solution for Kjøttkake which could lead to production starting barely three years after discovery in the first quarter of 2028. It said that such a timeline would be a stand-out on the Norwegian Shelf where tiebacks normally take at least twice as long to complete.

DNO added that Aker BP will make use of its alliance arrangements with suppliers to help drive forward the Kjøttkake development.

DNO executive chairman Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani, who has been vocal on the need for development timelines to speed up in Norway, welcomed the plan. "By showing how oil and gas discoveries can be put on production in record time, we hope to speed up monetisation of our own sizeable inventory of discoveries, but also usher in a new era on the Norwegian Shelf," he said.

Aker BP, in its own statement last Thursday, confirmed the agreement along with asset swaps reported by DNO the previous day that involved Aker BP increasing its stake in the producing Vilje field, in 25/4, and the Kveikje discovery, in 35/10, as well as a trio of exploration licences, while selling to DNO its 3.5% share of the Equinor-operated Verdande development, in 6608/10, in the Norwegian Sea.

Aker BP said the agreements reflect "both companies' shared commitment to maximising resource recovery and creating value through collaboration".
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