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EnQuest eyes pilot phase for planned Kraken enhanced oil recovery project

EnQuest is pressing forward with work on its proposed Kraken enhanced oil recovery (EOR) project, in block 9/2b in the UK Northern North Sea, where it is progressing a scheme that could ultimately target 30-40 million barrels of oil equivalent if a full-phase development is pursued.

The UK-listed operator, in a half-year report published last Thursday (3 September), said the EOR project is being planned to start with a pilot phase centred on a single drill centre that would seek to exploit around 5 million boe of incremental recoverable resources and would be the subject of an initial final investment decision (FID). A second phase of the project would target a full-field development, the company added.

CEO Amjad Bseisu told a first-half results investor call last Thursday that the Kraken EOR plans, which he described as the “largest single organic opportunity” in EnQuest’s UK portfolio, have matured significantly over the past year.

The company said it has identified an improved polymer chemistry that allows for the EOR design to be simplified, “reducing topsides complexity and lowering both facilities modification costs and polymer unit cost”.

The company also reported that work to ensure the compatibility of reservoir chemicals with topsides processing equipment on the FPSO has been completed.

EnQuest said the pilot project is heading towards its next “decision stage gate” in the second half of this year, after which it is expected to move into frontend engineering and design ahead of a potential FID.

Separately, EnQuest also continues to work on plans for a subsea development of its Bressay field, in blocks 3/28a, 3/28b, 3/27b and 9/2a, to provide feed gas for the Kraken FPSO, displacing most of the diesel that is currently used to power the facility. *(Continued on page 2)*