

PROJECTS & COMPANIES

Pancontinental plans Kenya seismic

Australia's Pancontinental Oil & Gas is to carry out extensive 3-D and 2-D marine seismic surveys at its L-10A and L-10B blocks offshore Kenya later this year.

L-10A and L-10B are located in the country's north, with the former covering a significant portion of the Anza Basin. The blocks are operated by BG Group, with a number of other partners, including Premier Oil Investment and Cove Energy, also holding an interest.

In a statement, Pancontinental said it expected the studies to be completed in mid-2012. The 3-D survey will be on the east side of the blocks, covering 2,200

square km, while the 2-D survey will focus on the western sections over 970 square km. BG is seeking a seismic vessel for data acquisition.

"The aim of the surveys is to identify the most prospective prospects for drilling. Two wells are required under the licences in the second exploration period," which start in August 2013, Pancontinental said.

"Offshore East Africa has become an industry focus through major deepwater gas discoveries and oil discoveries offshore Tanzania and Mozambique," said the company's CEO, Barry Rushworth. He went on to describe the

company as being "surprised by the diversity and size of the leads and plays" identified in BG's initial review of L-10A and L-10B.

Thus far, Kenya has yet to discover any commercial oil and gas reserves, but hopes remain high that its prospectivity can match that of elsewhere in East Africa.

Later this month, Tullow Oil is planning to begin drilling two test wells in the country's north, while Africa Oil recently said it intended to drill a number of exploration wells in its Kenyan acreage over the next 18 months. ■
