

[Print](#) | [Close this window](#)

Pancontinental says to begin drilling in Kenya in 2012

Wed Nov 2, 2011 6:25am GMT

NAIROBI (Reuters) - Australia's Pancontinental Oil and Gas plans to begin drilling on a block off the Kenyan coastline, block L6, next year, it said.

Kenya has no proven oil reserves, but interest in the hydrocarbon potential of the east African region has shot up in recent years after gas discoveries in Tanzania and Mozambique and billions of barrels of oil in Uganda.

With partners Pancontinental holds exploration licences for four blocks off Lamu, along the south of the east Africa country's coast.

The Australian firm said it was seeking a rig as it planned for drilling on the Mbawa prospect on block L8 off Kenya's coast which was recently farmed-in to Tullow Kenya B.V, a wholly owned subsidiary of Britain's Tullow Oil.

"Operator Apache is examining the availability of drilling rigs that are suitable for drilling the Mbawa prospect. A suitable rig and the Mbawa drilling date will be set after further discussion with rig operators," the company said.

The Australian firm's joint partners in L8 include Apache Corporation, Origin Energy Limited and Tullow Kenya B.V.

In August, Pancontinental said it would begin seismic surveys on another set of blocks - L10A and L10B - off the Kenyan coastline with its partners this year and complete the exercise by mid-2012.

The Australian firm's joint partners in L10A and L10B include BG Group Plc, Premier Oil Investment and Cove Energy Plc.

The company said BG Group was seeking a seismic vessel for data acquisition on blocks L10A and L10B and that locations for the surveys had been determined.

© Thomson Reuters 2011. All rights reserved. Users may download and print extracts of content from this website for their own personal and non-commercial use only. Republication or redistribution of Thomson Reuters content, including by framing or similar means, is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of Thomson Reuters. Thomson Reuters and its logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of the Thomson Reuters group of companies around the world.

Thomson Reuters journalists are subject to an Editorial Handbook which requires fair presentation and disclosure of relevant interests.