

**HD** Roc exits BMG field

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**LP**

Roc **Oil** has reached an agreement with fellow Australian **company** Cooper **Energy** to sell its entire 50% **stake** in the Basker Manta Gummy (BMG) field, off the coast of the Australian state of Victoria.]]>

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**TD**

Roc said it would receive a A\$1 **million** (US\$924,959) upfront cash payment followed by a A\$5 **million** contingent consideration, subject to first hydrocarbons from a commercial development. Cooper will take over operatorship and all of Roc's remaining liabilities at BMG, which the latter said would result in a reversal of its abandonment obligation with a resulting profit of roughly US\$32 **million**. "With Roc's strategy progressively increasing our business focus in South East Asia and **China**, we have concluded that a BMG gas development is no longer a core project for the business," Roc chief executive Alan Linn said. "As a consequence of the **sale**, Roc has increased its capacity to develop value growth opportunities within our core operating regions and create value and returns for our shareholders. The **sale** generated a profit of about US\$32 **million** and removed a significant potential future abandonment obligation for Roc." Cooper revealed in a separate statement that it had also reached a deal to take a 15% **stake** from Beach **Energy**, which had held the remaining 50% **equity** in the fields, giving Cooper a 65% **stake** and Beach the remaining 35% **equity**. The BMG fields were previously developed for **oil** production but have been in a non-production phase since 2010 when **operations** were suspended after a full field gas development was considered non-commercial. Since then, the joint venture partners have completed a detailed development review designed to understand the most efficient routes to bring BMG gas and liquids to market. Cooper managing director David Maxwell said BMG's proximity to existing infrastructure and developed and undeveloped gas fields was favourable for the prospects of commercialisation. "BMG is a conventional gas source, with some infrastructure in place and the potential for economic enhancement through coordination with adjacent developed and undeveloped fields," he said. "We believe BMG can be a highly competitive source of supply for gas customers and good business for shareholders at recent and anticipated gas prices." Maxwell added that the **company**'s near term focus would be to evaluate development options for BMG and determine the optimal plan for the fields' next stage of development as a gas project. The **sale** of Roc's interest will be effective 1 January 2014, subject to regulatory approval. The BMG fields stretch over production licences VIC/L26, VIC/L27 and VIC/L28 and lie in water depths ranging from between 100 metres and 200 metres.

**CO** rocoil : Roc Oil Company Ltd | copeng : Cooper Energy Ltd

**IN** i13 : Crude Oil/Natural Gas Upstream Operations | i1 : Energy | iexplo : Natural Gas/Oil Exploration | iextra : Natural Gas/Oil Extraction

**NS** c11 : Plans/Strategy | c181 : Acquisitions/Mergers/Divestments | c21 : Output/Production | c18 : Ownership Changes | cactio : Corporate Actions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

**RE** austr : Australia | apacz : Asia Pacific | ausnz : Australia/Oceania

**IPD** epaper

**PUB** Upstream

**AN** Document UPSTRM0020161221ea3u001dk