

Trinidad and Tobago's First Deepwater Drilling Campaign

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Abstract: *Trinidad and Tobago is endowed with abundant oil and gas reserves both onshore and offshore. Most of the reserves offshore have been found in the shallow water shelf area. Over the last decade exploring the deep waters beyond the shelf (>1,000 meters) has been looked at with much anticipation. However, the eight (8) wells drilled thus far have not found hydrocarbons in commercial quantities. It is important to note however, that many geo-scientists believe the exploration work in the deepwater proved the existence of a working hydrocarbon system. The drilling phase of the exploration activities in the deepwater blocks (i.e. Blocks 25a, 25b, 26 and 27) produced many challenges. This paper looks at the major problems, risks and uncertainties encountered during the drilling of these wells and highlights key lessons that would be useful for further drilling in the deep and ultra deep waters off Trinidad and Tobago. The main objectives of well drilling would be examined. Results showed that some of the wells were unable to reach their technical objectives. As a result, the actual number of days and cost for some wells were less than that originally planned.*

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