



## MEO Australia Limited

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## Quarterly Activities Summary For Period Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011

### Highlights

- Rig contract awarded for ENSCO-109 jack-up to drill Heron-3 in 2012
- WA-360-P participating interest to increase to 62.5% prior to permit renewal
- Acquisition of 1,318 km<sup>2</sup> multi-client Zeus 3D survey completed (covers WA-361-P)
- Eni acquires 766 km<sup>2</sup> Bathurst 3D seismic survey in NT/P68 over Blackwood East
- Completed acquisition of 708 km<sup>2</sup> Ibu Horst 3D seismic survey in Seruway PSC
- Regained 100% unencumbered interest in Tassie Shoal Methanol Project
- Head office relocated to Level 23, 500 Collins Street, Melbourne
- Consolidated cash balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December A\$83.7 million (\$0.155/share)

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2012)

MEO Australia Limited (ASX: **MEO**; OTC: **MEOAY**) provides the following information in relation to its activities for the quarter ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

### Executive Summary

MEO commenced a period of high field activity during the quarter and made significant progress in all areas of its portfolio.

In NT/P68, Operator Eni Australia Limited (“Eni”) awarded a rig contract for the drilling of the Heron-3 appraisal well. The rig is expected to arrive late in the second quarter this year, with drilling to occur during the third quarter. Eni also brought forward the exercise of their 3D seismic option and acquired some 766 km<sup>2</sup> of 3D seismic data over the eastern extension of the Blackwood gas discovery. Acquisition of this survey was completed in early January and the survey will now undergo extensive processing to a pre-stack depth migrated volume to resolve depth conversion challenges. The final processed volume is expected in November.

Our Tassie Shoal Gas Processing Projects entered a new phase during the quarter with the appointment of Mr Robert Zammit to a new position of Executive Manager – Business Development. His primary role is to drive the Company’s efforts to monetise the Tassie Shoal projects. We terminated the Joint Development Agreement (JDA) with Air Products which had been suspended since 2006 and regained a 100% unencumbered interest in all components of this project, materially enhancing our commercialization options. Concurrent with terminating the JDA, we announced our intention to seek expressions of interest from companies seeking to participate in these projects. We are confident that this year will see significant progress in finally moving these projects towards commercial reality.

Work on MEO’s Carnarvon basin permits continued with the acquisition of 3D seismic in WA-361-P and the submission of a renewal application for WA-360-P. Two of our WA-360-P joint venture partners - Petrobras and Moby – have elected to withdraw at the expiry of the current permit year. The WA-360-P renewal application includes the proposed purchase of existing multi-client 3D seismic in the first year. Our plans for both these permits involve maturing several leads into prospects before seeking a farm-in partner for either or both of the permits.

Since we were awarded the WA-454-P in the Bonaparte Gulf in June 2011, we have moved rapidly to assess the potential of the permit. A technical evaluation of the Marina-1 gas and liquids discovery has provided sufficient encouragement to warrant an early investment in 3D seismic. The nearby Breakwater prospect represents a very attractive exploration target. Design of and tendering for the Floyd 3D seismic survey targeting Marina, Breakwater and two other leads was completed during the quarter and the contract for acquisition of the Floyd 3D seismic survey was awarded in early January. Acquisition is expected to commence in February and be completed in March.

In our contiguous AC/P50, 51 and 53 exploration permits in the Vulcan sub-basin, we completed design and tendering of the Zeppelin 2D and 3D seismic surveys during the quarter. A contract for the 2D and 3D Zeppelin seismic surveys was awarded in January. The surveys were combined with the Floyd contract for efficiency and cost reasons.

In Indonesia, acquisition of the 708 km<sup>2</sup> Ibu Horst 3D seismic survey commenced and was completed in early January. This survey will provide the technical basis to evaluate the exploration potential of the Ibu Horst section of the block. We will use this evaluation to select a candidate for drilling the commitment well due by the end of 2012. In addition, MEO is working on a variety of activities aimed at maturing a Plan of Development (POD) for the Gurame gas discovery within the Seruway PSC. This POD maturation, coupled with the Kuala Langsa discovery and the improved definition of the Ibu Horst exploration prospects will underpin our future plans to attract a farm-in partner for the Seruway block.

The last quarter also saw MEO's subsidiary South Madura Exploration Company (SMEC) acquire an additional 60% interest and operatorship (subject to regulatory approval) in the South Madura PSC from AED South Madura BV (AED). AED's parent company went into administration and subsequently receivership in the last half of 2011 which had the unfortunate effect of suspending progress of the work program in the block. MEO decided to acquire the increased interest in the South Madura block from AED's new owners to drive exploration efforts and we are now focused on discussions with the Indonesian regulator aimed at arriving at an achievable work program designed to test the exploration concepts our technical team has identified.

## **Office Relocation**

In November the Company relocated its head office to Level 23, 500 Collins Street Melbourne.

## **Cash balance at end of quarter**

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011, the consolidated cash balance was A\$83.75 million equivalent to \$0.155/share. The cash balance includes \$23.25 million held in US dollars.

## **Share buy-back**

On 28<sup>th</sup> September, MEO announced it intended to initiate an on-market share buy-back for up to 10% of its issued capital following a period during which its shares traded at below cash backing. The share buy-back allows for the purchase of up to 47.7 million shares over a 12 month period commencing on/about 13<sup>th</sup> October. No shares were purchased during the quarter under this initiative which lapsed on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Priorities for the current quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012**

- Regulatory approval for renewal of WA-360-P for further 5 years
- Flawless execution of seismic acquisition programs in AC/P50, AC/P51, AC/P53 and WA-454-P
- Evaluate fast-track cube of Ibu Horst 3D seismic in Seruway PSC
- Continue planning for drilling Seruway PSC commitment well in late 2012
- Achieve regulatory approval for increased interest and work program variation in South Madura PSC
- Continue to advance Tassie Shoal gas projects towards commercial development
- Continue to seek attractive New Venture opportunities to supplement acreage portfolio



Jürgen Hendrich

**Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer**

## Timor Sea: Bonaparte Basin

NT/P68 (MEO 50%<sup>1</sup>, Eni Australia Ltd 50% & Operator)

Eni is earning an initial 50% interest in the Heron area by funding the Heron-3 and Heron-4 wells. Eni also has an option to earn a 50% interest in the Blackwood area by acquiring a minimum 500 km<sup>2</sup> of 3D seismic and drilling Blackwood-2 (refer ASX release 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011).

During the quarter, Eni awarded a contract to Ensco Australia Pty Limited ("Ensco") for the provision of the ENSCO-109 jack-up drilling rig and associated services to drill Heron-3 which is designed to test the Heron South fault block. The rig is now expected to become available late 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2012.

Eni also acquired the Bathurst 3D seismic survey over Blackwood East. A total of 766 km<sup>2</sup> of full fold data was acquired, exceeding the 500 km<sup>2</sup> minimum requirement under the farm-in agreement. The survey was completed in early January. Eni has 365 days from the completion of the survey to elect whether or not to drill Blackwood-2 to fully earn its 50% interest in the Blackwood area.

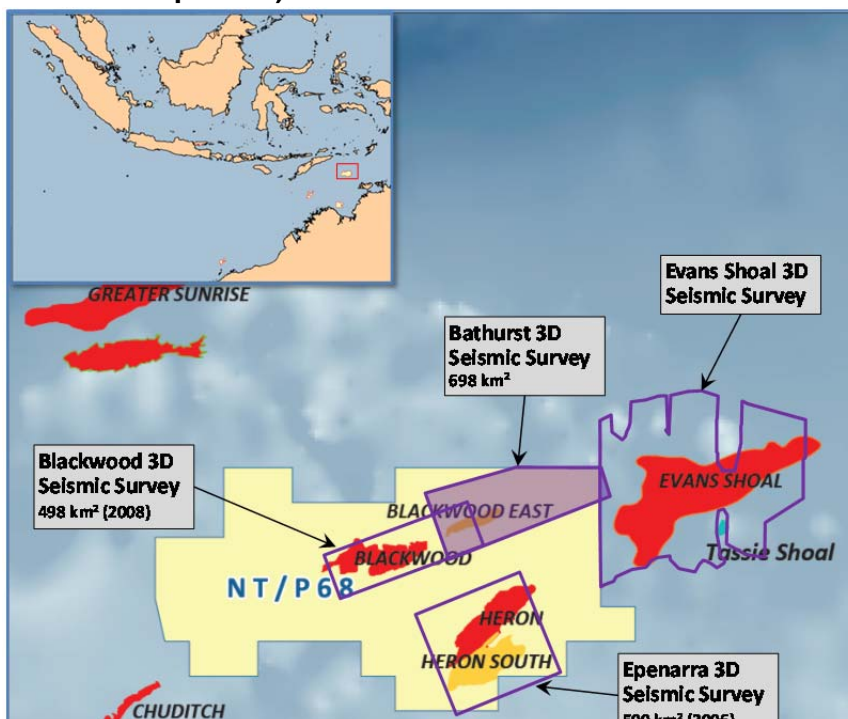


Figure 1. Location Map - NT/P68 Exploration Permit showing nearby gas fields and 3D seismic surveys.

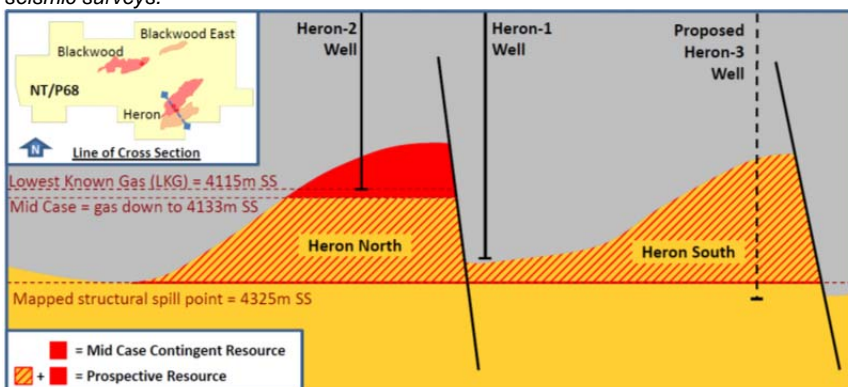


Figure 2. Heron Cross Section.

### Work Activity Schedule: NT/P68

Permit	NT/P68	2011				2012				2013									
		Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr								
MEO PI	50%	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Operator	Eni Australia	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Work program undertakings</b>		150 km <sup>2</sup> 3D seismic				Interpret 3D				1 discretionary well									
<b>Activities</b>																			
<b>Historical</b>																			
Contract rig for Heron-3																			
Bathurst 3D (766 km <sup>2</sup> )																			
<b>Outlook</b>																			
Bathurst 3D (766 km <sup>2</sup> )																			
Drill ready Blackwood prospect																			
Heron-3																			
Heron-4 drill/drop option																			
Blackwood-2 drill/drop option																			

<sup>1</sup> Eni has options to increase its equity to 75% in either or both the Heron & Blackwood gas discoveries by funding MEO's expenditures through to FID & paying MEO a one-off cash bonus of US\$75 million on reaching FID for the 1<sup>st</sup> development.

## North West Shelf: Offshore Carnarvon Basin

### WA-361-P (MEO 50% & Operator, Mineralogy 35%, Cue Energy 15%)

During the quarter, Fugro Multi Client Services Pty Ltd completed the acquisition of the 1,318 km<sup>2</sup> Zeus multi-client 3D survey. MEO has committed to purchase 363 km<sup>2</sup> of this survey which will meet the Permit Year 2 (Jan 2012 – Jan 2013) work program obligation. The 3D survey will determine whether the Heracles lead and other leads can be matured towards prospect status and be considered as potential candidates for a discretionary well in Permit Year 4 (Jan 2014 – Jan 2015).

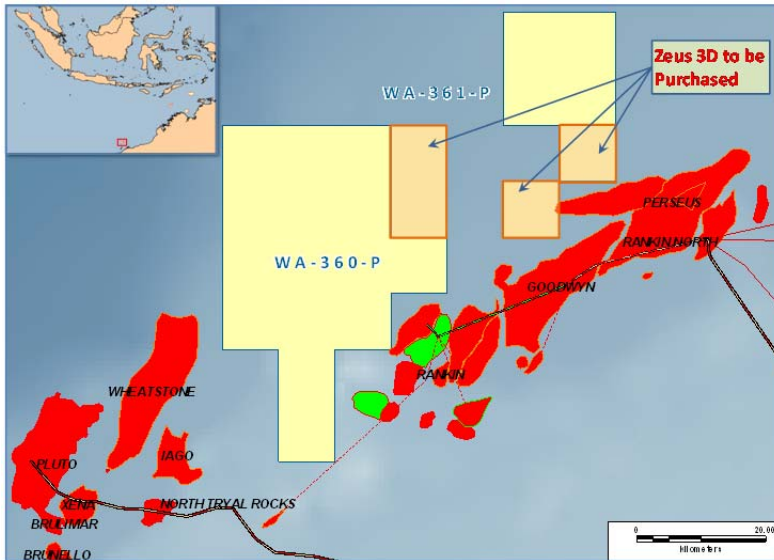


Figure 3. Location Map - Carnarvon Basin Permits showing proposed WA-360-P relinquishment and portion of Zeus 3D Multiclient Survey to be purchased

### WA-360-P (MEO 25% & Operator, Petrobras 50%, Cue Energy 15%, Moby Oil & Gas 10%)

The permit is currently in Permit Year 6 and expires on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012. During the quarter, MEO submitted an application to renew the permit for an additional 5 years. This process involves the mandatory relinquishment of 50% of the permit area. MEO has applied to retain 8 of the 15 current graticular permit blocks.

Petrobras (50%) and Moby (10%) elected not to participate in the permit renewal and their participating interests will be distributed between MEO (62.5%) and Cue (37.5%) immediately prior to renewal.

### Work Activity Schedule: WA-361-P

Permit	WA-361-P	2011		2012				2013					
		MEO PI	50%	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr
		Operator	MEO	J A S	O N D	J F M	A M J	J A S	O N D	J F M	A M J	J A S	O N D
<b>Work program undertakings</b>		Geo studies		150 km <sup>2</sup> new 3D, studies				3D interpretation, studies					
<b>Activities</b>													
<b>Historical</b>													
Zeus 3D (363 km <sup>2</sup> )		Plan	3D	Proc									
<b>Outlook</b>													
Zeus 3D (363 km <sup>2</sup> )				Process 3D		Interp 323 km <sup>2</sup> 3D							
Drill ready prospect													
Potential farm-in discussions								Potential Farm-in discussions					

### Work Activity Schedule: WA-360-P

Permit	WA-360-P	2011		2012				2013					
		MEO PI	25% => 62.5%*	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr
		Operator	MEO	J A S	O N D	J F M	A M J	J A S	O N D	J F M	A M J	J A S	O N D
<b>Work program undertakings</b>		Geo studies		Foxhound 3D, studies				Reprocess 3D multi-azimuth					
<b>Activities</b>													
<b>Historical</b>													
Studies		>Artemis-1 work											
Permit renewal		Renew											
<b>Outlook</b>													
Permit renewal*													
Foxhound 3D (323 km <sup>2</sup> )				3D		Interp 363 km <sup>2</sup> 3D							
Seismic reprocessing								Repro		Interp 3D			
Drill ready prospect													
Potential farm-in discussions								Potential Farm-in discussions					

\* Subject to regulatory approval



## Ashmore Cartier Region, Timor Sea: Vulcan Sub-Basin

### AC/P50 (MEO 100%)

### AC/P51 (MEO 100%)

During the quarter, planning for seismic data acquisition continued. Subsequent to the end of the quarter, MEO awarded a contract to CGGVeritas Services SA for the acquisition of the Zeppelin 3D seismic survey. Acquisition commenced on 20<sup>th</sup> January.

### AC/P53 (MEO 100%)

During the quarter, planning for seismic data acquisition continued. Subsequent to the end of the quarter, MEO awarded a contract to CGGVeritas Services SA for the acquisition of the Zeppelin 2D long offset seismic survey. Acquisition was completed on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

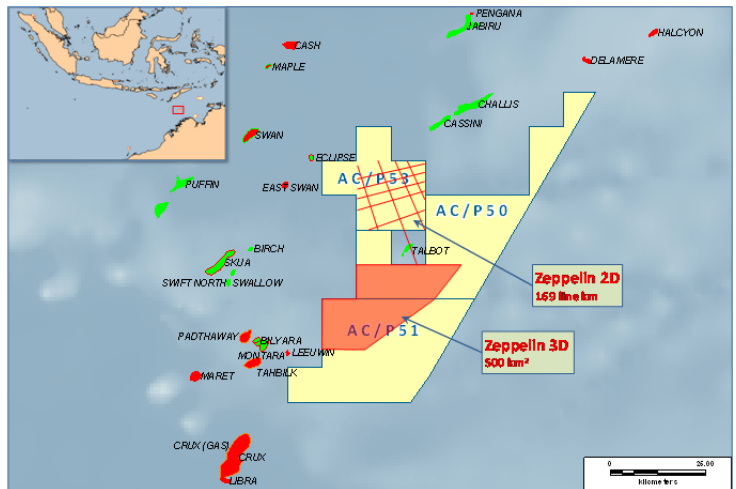


Figure 5. Location Map - Vulcan Sub Basin Permits with Zeppelin Seismic Surveys

### Work Activity Schedule: AC/P50

Permit	AC/P50	2011				2012				2013			
		Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr		
		J A S	O N D	J F M	A M J	J A S	O N D	J F M	A M J	J A S	O N D		
MEO PI	100%												
Operator	MEO												
<b>Work program undertakings</b>		200 km <sup>2</sup> 3D				Studies				1 discretionary well			
<b>Activities</b>													
<b>Historical</b>													
Zeppelin 3D		Planning 3D											
<b>Outlook</b>													
Zeppelin 3D						3D   Process 3D   Interpret 3D							
Drill ready prospect										Farm-in talks			
Farm-in discussions													
Discretionary well (2013/14)										Optional well			

### Work Activity Schedule: AC/P51

Permit	AC/P51	2011				2012				2013			
		Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr		
		J A S	O N D	J F M	A M J	J A S	O N D	J F M	A M J	J A S	O N D		
MEO PI	100%												
Operator	MEO												
<b>Work program undertakings</b>		1,000 km 2D				Studies				1,000 km 2D			
<b>Activities</b>													
<b>Historical</b>													
Zeppelin 3D		Planning 3D											
Work program variation		WPV											
<b>Outlook</b>													
Work program variation*						3D   Process 3D   Interpret 3D							
Zeppelin 3D													
Drill ready prospect										Farm-in talks			
Farm-in discussions													
Discretionary well (2014/15)										Optional well			

\* Awaiting regulatory approval

### Work Activity Schedule: AC/P53

Permit	AC/P53	2011				2012				2013			
		Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr		
		J A S	O N D	J F M	A M J	J A S	O N D	J F M	A M J	J A S	O N D		
MEO PI	100%												
Operator	MEO												
<b>Work program undertakings</b>		825 km <sup>2</sup> 3D repro, studies				150 km long offset 2D				Studies			
<b>Activities</b>													
<b>Historical</b>													
Zeppelin 2D		Planning 2D											
Work program variation		WPV											
<b>Outlook</b>													
Reprocessing						Repro							
Zeppelin 2D						2D   Process 2D   Interpret 2D							
Lead inventory													
Farm-in discussions										Potential farm-in discussions			

## Seruway PSC, North Sumatra (MEO 100%)

The PSC contains two significant gas discoveries – Gurame & Kuala Langsa – together with a number of wells that have intersected and tested gas and condensate. The PSC is strategically situated in close proximity to LNG infrastructure which has under-utilised capacity and a strong domestic gas market. MEO has committed to acquiring 700 km<sup>2</sup> 3D seismic and to drill one well by the end of 2012.

During the quarter, a contract was awarded to PT Nusantara PGS for the acquisition of the Ibu Horst 3D seismic survey. The 3D survey was completed in early January with 708 km<sup>2</sup> of full fold data recorded.

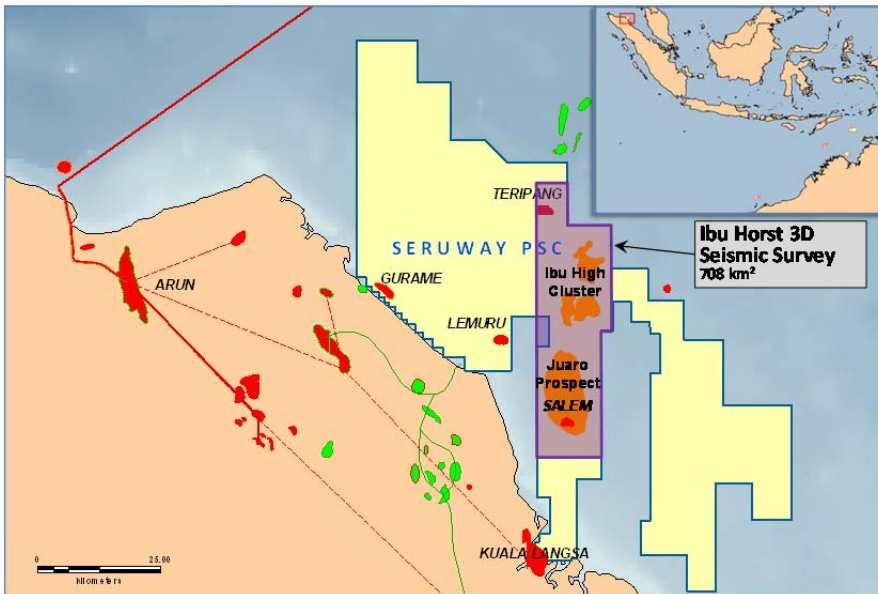


Figure 6. Location map – Seruway PSC (MEO 100%)

### Work Activity Schedule: Seruway PSC

Permit	Seruway PSC	2011				2012				2013			
		MEO PI		100%*		Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr
		Operator		SOEL*		J A S	O N D	J F M	A M J	J A S	O N D	J F M	A M J
<b>Work program undertakings</b>		100 km <sup>2</sup> 3D				1 well				2 wells			
<b>Activities</b>													
<b>Historical</b>													
Work program variation		[Green bar]											
Plan Ibu Horst 3D		[Yellow bar]											
Ibu Horst 706 km <sup>2</sup> 3D		[Yellow bar]											
<b>Outlook</b>													
Ibu Horst 706 km <sup>2</sup> 3D		[Yellow bar]											
Resource assessment		[Green bar]											
Farm-in discussions		[Blue bar]											
Gurame development plan		[Green bar]											
Kuala Langas JV discussions		[Green bar]											

\* via Seruway Offshore Exploration Limited (SOEL); 100% owned by MEO International Limited a wholly owned MEO subsidiary

## South Madura PSC, East Java (MEO 90%, Operator)

During the quarter, MEO executed a binding agreement to acquire an additional 60% participating interest in the PSC from AED South Madura BV for US\$0.3 million cash. The purchase is subject to customary approvals.

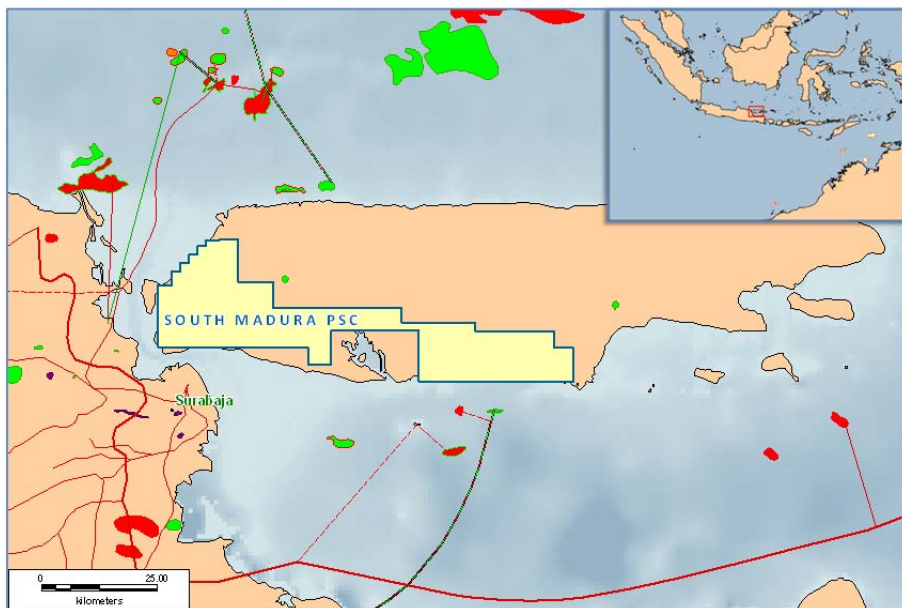


Figure 7. Location Map South Madura Island PSC (MEO 90%)

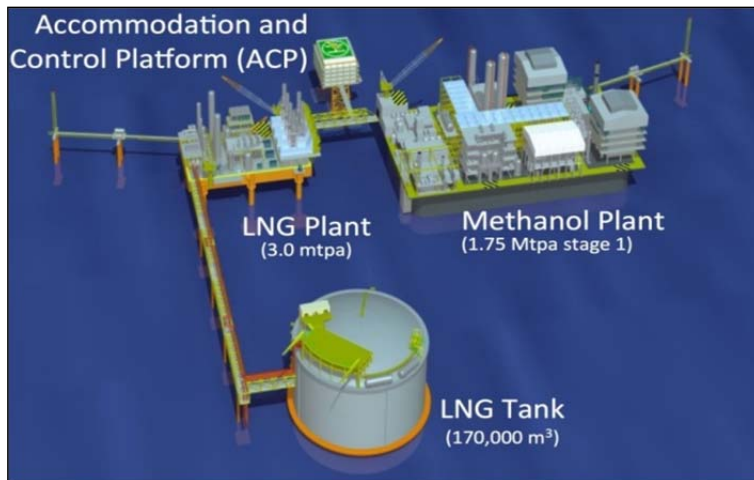
### Work Activity Schedule: South Madura PSC

Permit	Sth Madura PSC	2011		2012				2013			
		Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr
		J A S	O N D	J F M	A M J	J A S	O N D	J F M	A M J	J A S	O N D
Operator	SMEC+	Studies		under review+				under review+			
Work program undertakings+	Permit expiry										
Activities											
<b>Historical</b>											
	AED assumes Operator	█									
	AED in administration	█									
	Purchase AED interest	█									
<b>Outlook</b>											
	Assume Operatorship+			█							
	Work program variation			█				Pending +			

\* via South Madura Exploration Company (SMEC); 100% owned by MEO International Limited a wholly owned MEO subsidiary  
+ subject to regulatory approval

## **Tassie Shoal Gas Processing Projects**

**(MEO 100%)**



*Figure 8. CAD schematic of Tassie Shoal Projects showing proposed LNG Plant, LNG Storage Tank and Phase 1 Methanol Plant.*

During the quarter, MEO regained a 100% unencumbered interest in the Tassie Shoal Methanol Project by terminating the 2004 Joint Development Agreement and 2006 Amendment Agreement with Air Products and Chemicals Inc.

In consideration for terminating the agreements, MEO paid Air Products US\$1 million cash. Contingent payments capped at US\$6 million are payable out of any sale proceeds achieved by MEO. Air Products will receive the first US\$1 million of any such proceeds (refer ASX release of 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011).

## **New Ventures**

MEO continues to seek attractive opportunities to supplement its current acreage portfolio. Our primary focus is on South East Asia however we actively evaluate opportunities beyond this primary focus region using rigorous merit/risk and capability criteria.