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Exciting surveys in the Barents Sea

Based upon an agreement between Norway and Russia regarding a borderline in the Barents Sea, Norway this summer begun accumulating seismic data on the subsoil in the Norwegian sector of the Barents Sea. This work begun in early July and is now completed. This is the first time in forty years that the Norwegian petroleum authorities have collected data on the subsoil of the Barents Sea. Five months ago, Statoil announced that they together with ENI Norge and Petoro, had made a major oil discovery on the Skrugard prospect in the Barents Sea. The company spoke of this discovery as one of the largest made in Norwegian waters in the past ten years and this has also played an prominent part in creating the huge interest for the latest seismic surveys conducted in the region. The seismic company PGS has conducted these surveys with the vessel the Harrier Explorer. The vessel has utilised the so-called GeoStreamer technology for these surveys. One special aspect of this technology is that the exploration cable lies deeper in the sea column compared to when shooting conventional seismic. This means that the weather does not affect operations to the same degree as otherwise. This fact also benefitted the Harrier Explorer, as the vessel managed to cover 11.400 kilometres, says Sissel Eriksen the exploration manager at the Petroleum Board. Norwegians conducted some seismic surveys in the Barents Sea some forty years ago, but after an agreement with the Russians no oil industry activities have undertaken there until now.