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10 - 07 - 2012

## Faroe Petroleum breaking new ground

The survey vessel the Normand Baltic is currently conducting new and very exciting electro-magnetic surveys for the Faroe oil company Faroe Petroleum, just east of the Faroe border and north of Shetland. This type of survey could revolutionise future exploration efforts in the Faroes, says the Faroe Petroleum CEO, Mr Nils Sørensen. Last week the Normand Baltic visited Tórshavn for a crew change, take onboard fuel and other provisions and undergo some minor repairs. The vessel has been chartered by Faroe Petroleum to survey the Grouse prospect, located just north of Shetland and close to the Faroe/UK border. The surveys underway are a rather new type of electro-magnetic survey, which results will form part of the decision making basis if it is advisable to drill or not to drill the prospect. This is quite a new surveying technique, which apart from cutting oil companies costs for both seismic and drilling expenditures, is capable of quite accurately telling the oil companies if all the preconditions for hydrocarbons being present are contained in the geological structures. Mr Sørensen told oljan.fo that they are quite excited about this survey. The Grouse prospect is located quite close to the Faroe border. Not many wells have been drilled in the area yet, but last year the Lagavulin prospect was drilled and Faroe Petroleum is also involved there - -The well was a dry hole, but the drilling did supply a wealth of very useful information, says Mr Sørensen. Although a well may be abandoned as a dry hole, it may also supply very important information, which can be used to estimate if hydrocarbons are present in the vicinity and this is exactly what we are doing at the moment. The Grouse prospect is located close to the Lagavulin well and although the Lagavulin well was dry, it has provided information, which has initiated the company to undertake these electro-magnetic surveys sooner than intended - -We

believe we can see from the seismic data a so-called flatspot on the Grouse prospect. This implies there is a trap present, which contains either oil or water. The electro-magnetic survey will assist us in determining what is present, before we decide to undertake a drilling or not. Faroe Petroleum recently decided to alter their Atlantic Margin strategy. The company has already used hundreds of millions on seismic surveys and well drillings, both west of Shetland and in the Faroes. The company has decided to try out new survey methods and alter their exploration strategy in their attempt to discover hydrocarbons. The time has come for change. -We believe from our trials to date that the time has come to try other exploration models. Instead of just focusing upon the deepest lying layers under the basalt, we wish to try and discover hydrocarbons within the basalt and also above the basalt. Examples of such discoveries are the Rosebank and the Cambo west of Shetland. This proves that if our predictions regarding the Grouse are correct and a drilling delivers a positive result, this could revolutionise exploration in the Faroes also, says Mr Sørensen. Faroe Petroleum is the operating company on Grouse and holds a 37% share. Eon Ruhrgas also holds a 37% share and Idemitsu Petroleum the remaining 25%. Oljan.fo visited onboard the Normand Baltic last week and met up with Henrik Josephsen from the company PetroMarker Accpron, which is leading the EMS surveys. These have been going on for a few days and will continue for another few days. It is not all that many years ago since the oil companies begun requesting this type of surveys, which is a quicker, easier and more cost efficient manner of determining if hydrocarbons are present in the subsoil. It is estimated that expenditure can be saved on seismic surveys and also a possible drilling operation, by employing EMS techniques. The technique involves sending electro-magnetic waves down into the subsoil, in this case 1600 metres down. The technique is also very eco-friendly. Mr Josephsen, who is a subsea consultant, says this is a very exciting survey method, which has been tried out in northern Norway to very good effect, for example on the Snøvit gasfield. Mr Keith Mackie is a geophysicist working for Faroe Petroleum onboard the Normand Baltic and he says the surveys have all gone very well and they will hopefully provide a result, which Faroe Petroleum can continue to work on with. Faroes instead of Norway The Normand Baltic is just one of many offshore vessels, which this year have elected to come to the Faroes for their crew changes, bunkers, provisions and other repairs. This seems to be a trend, which is here to stay and probably grow. It is understood it is the excellent flight connections between the Faroes, Denmark and Norway, which was the main reason why the Normand Baltic elected to dock in Tórshavn for its crew change. The other alternative was to go to Florø, but there is only a once daily flight and very few transit options to other destinations.