

## AUSTRALIA

# Woodside's keen on Kenya

PERTH

Woodside Energy has acquired from UK-based Dana Petroleum a 40% interest in four exploration blocks offshore Kenya.

Under the agreement, Dana's interest in the blocks will be 40% with the remaining 20% continuing to be held by Star Petroleum International (Kenya) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Brisbane-based Global Petroleum.

As a condition of the farm-in, Woodside will operate the four blocks—L5, L7, L10 and L11—which cover 47,500sqkm over water depths up to 3,000m.

The blocks include some onshore areas and coastal waters.

Woodside's commitment under the farm-in is limited to the acquisition of 5,000km of two-dimensional seismic in 2003-04 with indicative expenditure of US\$3 million.

It is the first oil exploration offshore Kenya by anyone in 20 years and drilling could be as early as 2005.

The joint venture has the option of entering the second exploration phase, which would include exploration drilling in each of the blocks renewed.

Commercial terms have been agreed between the parties should the joint venture decide to enter the drilling phase.

Woodside's Director of New Ventures, Agu Kantsler (*pictured*), said the farm-in followed an extensive regional study of East Africa by Woodside which identified a variety of different geological features with a range of leads of 50 million to 1,000 million barrels.

"Our review identified east Africa as an under-explored frontier province that has the potential to replicate Woodside's successful exploration strategy in Mauritania, West Africa," Dr Kantsler said.

"Kenya's oil and gas exploration industry has been virtually inactive since the early 1980s and this opportunity provides Woodside with a relatively low-cost entry to a very large area which we can mature by using our strong technical skills and leveraging from our success in deepwater off Mauritania.

"We are pleased to be able to work with Dana and Global Petroleum on this project."

Woodside said it would determine its future involvement in the blocks following its initial two-year work program.

Global's Chairman, Dr John Armstrong, commented:

"Having such an internationally experienced oil and gas company as Woodside involved as Operator provides a major boost to the potential of the exploration effort on what is the flagship project within Global's suite of assets.



"The Woodside farm-in is also the most significant development for Global since the company listed on the ASX in November last year.

"Woodside's technical expertise and its previous exposure to Africa's petroleum sector through its Mauritania drilling program will contribute a sharp and purposeful edge to the Kenyan exploration," Dr Armstrong said.

"It is a transaction under which we expect to realise for shareholders the potentially very significant value of our 20% holding in these Kenyan blocks.

"Earlier mapping by Dana has identified some 100 leads spread amongst several play types within these blocks," Dr Armstrong said.

"We are also encouraged by Woodside's assessment that there are a variety of different geological features on the Kenyan project with a size of possible prospects of 50 to 1,000 million barrels."

The Kenyan acreage in total is equivalent to about 200 North Sea blocks.

# The cabinet of the future

PERTH

The West Australian Government's Department of Industry and Resource's Geological Survey Division has made available a new virtual geological atlas of the State, which it says may see the end of geologists and prospectors storing geological maps in bulky cabinets.

Available on CD-ROM, the new digital geological atlas contains all 168, 1:250,000-scale geological series maps of Western Australia published by the Geological Survey.

Geological Survey Executive Director Dr Tim Griffin said the CD-ROM entitled *Atlas of 1:250,000 Geological Series Map Images, Western Australia* was a great tool for geologists and prospectors who need quick and easy access to geological information out in the field.

"Once the GeoVIEWER software program, which comes with the atlas, has been loaded onto a computer, the

virtual atlas gives the user quick access to any of the 168 maps through its map-sheet index, or via the atlas' key word search facility," Dr Griffin said.

"Locations can also be found by typing the name in the search field of the atlas."

The collection of virtual maps also shows major roads, towns and the location of mineral fields throughout the State.

In addition, the atlas can zoom in and out of individual maps for easy use with other spatial information.