



## PRESS RELEASE

### **GDF SUEZ ANNOUNCES A GAS DISCOVERY IN L5a OFFSHORE PRODUCTION LICENCE AND SETS HP/HT DRILLING RECORD IN THE DUTCH SECTOR**

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September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

GDF SUEZ E&P Nederland B.V. is pleased to announce that its L5-12 exploration well drilled on the Sierra prospect in the Dutch sector of the North Sea tested positively from the Lower Slochteren reservoir at 1.2 million cubic meters of gas per day.

The L5-12 well was spud with the Noble jack-up drilling rig Ronald Hoope earlier this year and has reached a total depth of 5,450 m. The recorded static reservoir pressure of 1023 bar and reservoir temperature of 183 degrees C are believed to be the highest ever encountered in the Netherlands. The successful drilling and testing of the high pressure - high temperature L5-12 well further underlines GDF SUEZ' ability and competence to safely and responsibly execute such a challenging well.

Further technical work is ongoing to assess the size of the Sierra discovery. It is expected that the range of reserves is sufficient to warrant development, with export via the existing GDF SUEZ operated L5-FA platform and the NOGAT pipeline system as the logical evacuation route.

GDF SUEZ believes that this discovery may open a new play in an area of the Dutch Continental Shelf where the traditional Permian reservoirs are buried at a lower than usual depth.

Partners in the L5a production licence are GDF SUEZ E&P Nederland B.V. (60% and operator) and the Dutch state represented by Energie Beheer Nederland B.V. (40%).

Jan Treffers, Managing Director of GDF SUEZ E&P Nederland B.V, comments; "GDF SUEZ is very pleased with the Sierra discovery, which is close to our existing infrastructure and which has the potential to add significant reserves and production to our Dutch portfolio. The Sierra discovery further illustrates that the Netherlands is still a good place for the exploration of hydrocarbons".

*GDF SUEZ develops its businesses around a responsible-growth model to take up great challenges: responding to energy needs, ensuring the security of supply, combating climate change, and optimizing the use of resources. The Group provides high-performance, innovative energy solutions to individuals, municipalities, and businesses, relying upon a diversified natural gas supply portfolio, a flexible, low CO2-emitting production base, and unique expertise in four key sectors: liquefied natural gas, energy efficiency services, independent power production, and environment services. GDF SUEZ employs 200,650 people worldwide and achieved revenues of EUR 79.9 billion in 2009. The Group is listed on the Brussels, Luxembourg, and Paris stock exchanges and is represented in the main international indices: CAC 40, BEL 20, DJ Stoxx 50, DJ Euro Stoxx 50, Euronext 100, FTSE Eurotop 100, MSCI Europe, ASPI Eurozone, and ECPI Ethical Index EMU.*

Press contacts:

Communications Department, The Netherlands

Tel: +31- (0)79 368 68 68

E-Mail: [communication@gdfsuezep.nl](mailto:communication@gdfsuezep.nl)