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## **Chevron project achieves first steam injection**

*Thursday, 02 Jul, 2009*

Trade Arabia reported that Chevron Corporation's subsidiary Saudi Arabian Chevron has achieved first steam injection at its large scale pilot steamflood project at Wafra Field, an Eocene heavy oil carbonate reservoir in onshore partitioned neutral zone.

The USD 340 million LSP, which is the final test phase for the steamflood project is expected to lead to full field steam flooding of First Eocene reservoir, marking the world's first commercial application of a conventional steamflood in a carbonate reservoir.

Mr George Kirkland executive VP of Chevron Global Upstream and Gas said that "Full-field deployment of steamflood technology in the PNZ would significantly increase recovery of crude oil reserves, confirm the technology's potential applicability in other carbonate oil fields and build on Chevron's steamflood capabilities that date back 5 decades."

The LSP is the third in a series of staged tests to validate the feasibility of applying the enhanced oil recovery technology of steamflooding to unlock the producing potential of the heavy Eocene oil of the PNZ's carbonate reservoirs.

Previous tests included the Small Scale Test which was successfully completed in 2008 and simple steam stimulation testing, conducted in the late 1990s.

Steamflooding involves injecting steam into heavy-oil reservoirs to heat the crude oil underground, reducing its viscosity and allowing its extraction through wells.

Chevron has successfully employed steamflooding to produce heavy oil from sandstone reservoirs at Kern River, California, for more than 40 years and at Duri in Sumatra, Indonesia, for 25 years. The company is recognized as the world's leader in steamflood technology.

SAC operates on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom's 50% undivided interest in the petroleum resources of the onshore PNZ between the Kingdom and the State of Kuwait. SAC's operating agreement with the Kingdom was recently extended and amended and runs until February 2039. The operations include 4 fields in the area Wafra, South Umm Gudair, South Fuwaris and Humma that produce mainly heavy crude from 10 reservoirs. In 2004, the 3 billionth barrel of oil was produced in the onshore PNZ.

(Sourced from Trade Arabia)

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