

PRESS RELEASE

Agência Nacional do Petróleo de SãoTomé e Príncipe (ANP-STP) a.k.a. National Petroleum Agency is pleased to announce resolution of the preemption rights for Petroleum Exploration within its territorial waters. In accordance with these preemptions rights, Equator Exploration and ERHC have each been awarded two blocks subject to PSC negotiation which will include a competitive work program. The details of the block awards are as follows;

Equator Exploration Block 5(Zone A) and Block 12(Zone B)

ERHC Block 4(Zone A) and Block 11(Zone B)

The seven (7) remaining Blocks of the EEZ, as follow, will be made available for the STP First Licensing Round that will open on March 2nd 2010 at the APPEX Conference in London:

Zone A: Blocks 1, 2, 3 and 6

Zone B: Blocks 7, 8 and 13

More information about the SaoTome and Principe Exclusive Economic Zone 1st Licensing Round please visit www.stp-eez.com.

The mission of ANP-STP is to enhance the value of the hydrocarbon resources of the country, by promoting a sustainable exploration and production with due consideration for the environment. The ANP-STP operates administrative and financial autonomy with the policy guidance from the governing bodies of the country, and in accordance with the laws in the force.

Luis Alberto C.Prazeres

Executive Director