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EXPLORATION

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Namibian well: Galp Energia chief executive Filipe Silva. Photo: GALP ENERGIA

Galp starts drilling huge prospect close to four major Sh Namibia

Exploration well is targeting 10 billion-barrel Mopane structure

21 November 2023 5:17 GMT *UPDATED* 21 November 2023 8:39 GMT

By [Iain Esau](#)  in **London**

Galp Energia has spudded an exploration well in Namibia’s prolific Orange basin, targeting a huge structure that could be in place.

This closely-watched probe is being drilled in Petroleum Exploration Licence 83, immediately north of acreage where the company has a 50% stake, and just west of BW Energy’s 1.3 trillion cubic foot Kudu gas project.



Galp targets 10 billion barrel prospect in debut Namibian exploration campaign

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If this well meets expectations, it will be a huge resource fillip to the operator and will open up a new chapter at Galp’s door in order to acquire a slice of an asset where it holds an 80% stake.

Its partners are state-owned Namcor and local player Custos Energy, a company in which Galp has an indirect 49% stake.

Galp had already considered farming out before drilling but decided to explore the acreage itself.


Chief executive Filipe Silva told analysts on 30 October: “We have always said that we would explore and take all the exploration risk cost downside.

“So yes, we have been having discussions with several parties, but this is not the time to engage. We need to understand

The semi-submersible rig Hercules arrived on location at the Mopane-1X well site few days ago, having stocked up in a 10-day voyage from Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada.

Located in Block 2813A, the well is 14 kilometres north of the boundary with Shell’s acreage and some 30 kilometres from the high-risk, Cullinan-1 probe which was targeting a carbonate structure.

Victoria Sibeya, Namcor’s head of upstream exploration, told Upstream last month that Galp is not targeting carbonate plays... that have already been proven in (Shell’s) Graff-1X discovery”.



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Adriano Bastos, Galp’s head of upstream special projects, explained to analysts in the month that Cullinan was a carbonate target, “which is not the reservoir that is Mopane

Galp has chartered the semisub — which is equipped with testing equipment — for two other exploration targets the operator has in mind.

A Galp spokesperson said: “We can confirm that we have spudded the Mopane well [this point].” [\(Copyright\)](#)

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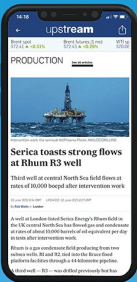
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