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EXPLORATION

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Key well: Shell chief executive Wael Sawan. Photo: AP/SCANPIX

Shell drills appraisal probe on massive Namibia oil find — a huge distance from discovery well

Jonker-2A well to test limit of 2.5 billion barrel Orange basin field after 'successful' Jonker-1A probe

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

Shell has just started drilling a second appraisal probe on its multibillion-barrel Jonker oil discovery in Namibia's Orange basin, a staggering 23 kilometres from the discovery well.

According to marine intelligence provider VesselsValue, the semi-submersible rig Deepsea Bollsta spudded this latest delineation well last week, fresh from completing what a Shell spokesperson told Upstream was a "successful" operation on the Jonker-1A appraisal probe.

The Jonker-2A probe is testing the far southwestern reaches of the big deep-water discovery as part of the supermajor's multi-well drilling campaign designed to determine the scale of resources it has found.



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Data from this well will also help inform the operator about issues like reservoir connectivity and production flow rates, with Jonker likely to be the first of Shell's four discoveries in Namibia to be developed.

The results from Jonker-1A are not known, but one source tracking drilling activity in the Orange basin suggested it was a "great success".

A Shell spokesperson said the company "has successfully concluded operations on the Jonker-1A appraisal well and our Jonker appraisal campaign continues as planned".

Hydrocarbons did not flow to the surface during testing operations at this first appraisal well, leading observers to reason, instead, that closed hole drill stem tests were carried out by the Deepsea Bollsta.

Jonker-2A is located about 7.5 kilometres southwest of Jonker-1A and an impressive 23 kilometres west of the Jonker-1 discovery well, a distance that indicates the sheer scale of this deep-water discovery.

In addition, according to VesselsValue, this latest delineation well is located just two kilometres from the boundary of TotalEnergies' block 2913B which hosts the huge Venus discovery.

Four months ago, before the results from Jonker-1A were known, Namibia's state oil company Namcor estimated that Jonker holds about 2.5 billion barrels of oil in-place resource, about half the size of Venus.

Jonker, along with the Graff, Lesedi and La Rona discoveries, are all situated in Block 2913A where Shell's partners are Qatar Energy and Namcor. [\(Copyright\)](#)

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