# **Global exploration review**

APPEX, London, March 2019





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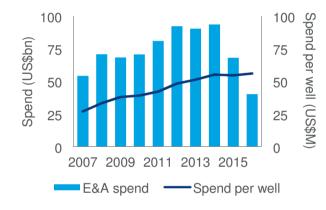
# **Exploration results and outlook**

- 1. Exploration trends
- 2. 2018 exploration results
- 3. Outlook for 2019 and beyond

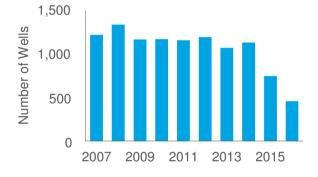
# Context: exploration was struggling with dwindling volume & value

### Global conventional exploration results 2007-2016

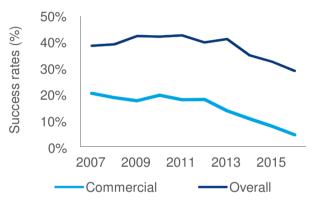
**Exploration spend** 



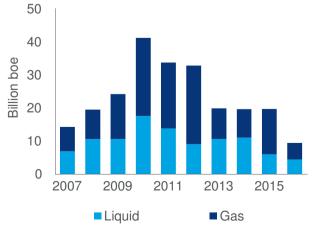
### **Exploration wells**



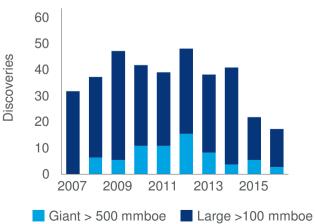
#### Success rates



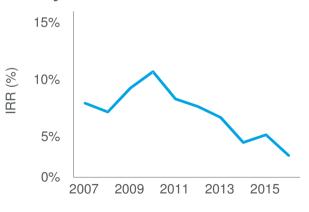
**Volumes discovered** 



Large and giant discoveries



#### Full cycle returns

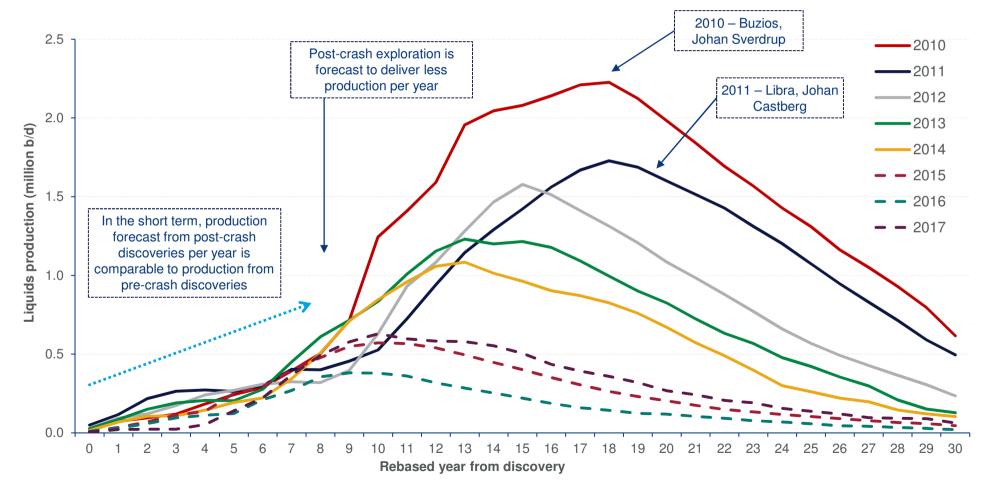


Source: Wood Mackenzie Exploration Service.

## Poor recent exploration results impact oil supply

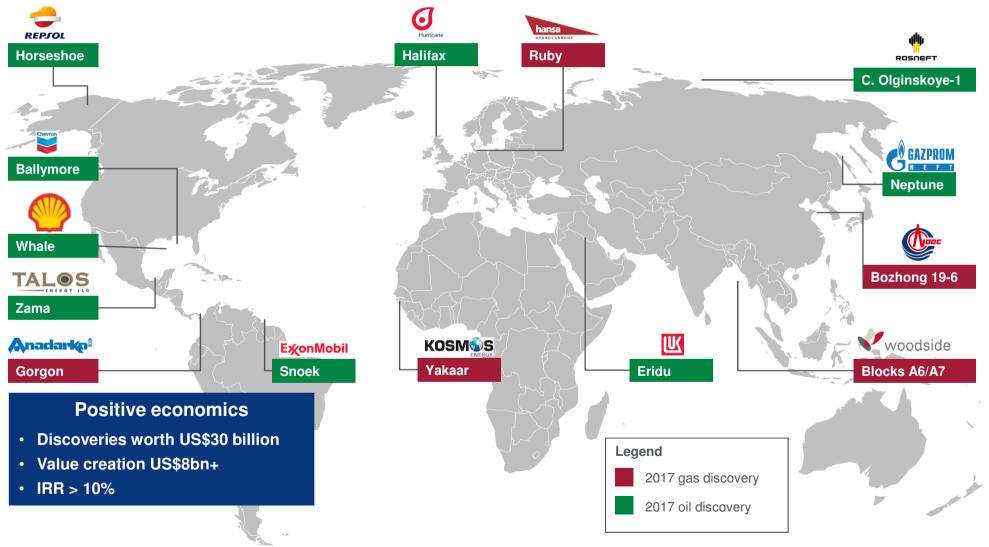
Production is comparable to pre-crash volumes only in the first few years from discovery

Total commercial liquids production each year from discovery



## Exploration's return to profitability from 2017

### New discoveries add 11+ billion barrels of oil and 6+ billion boe gas

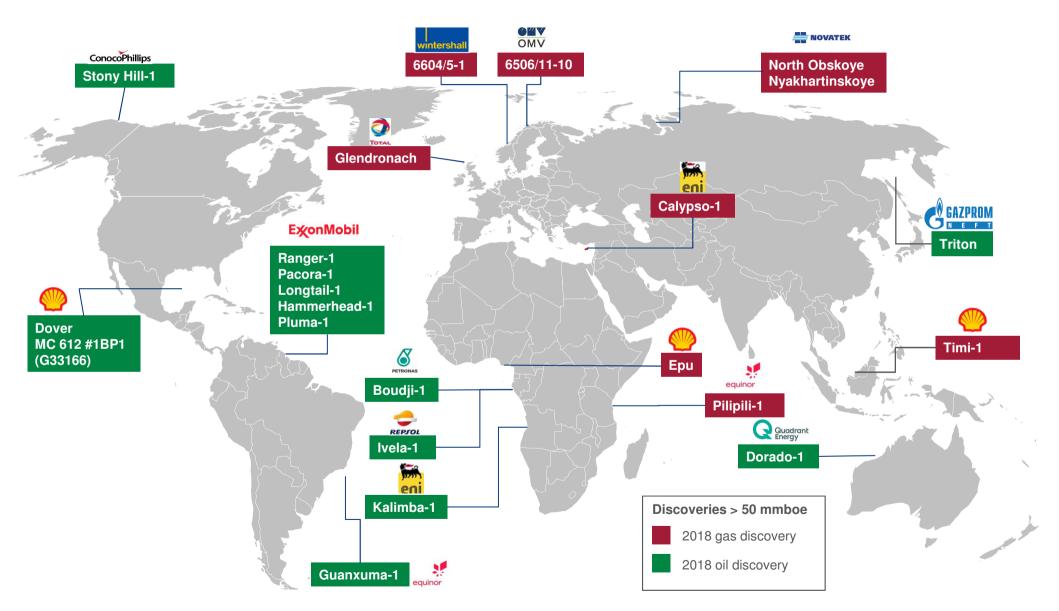


Source: Wood Mackenzie

# **Exploration results and outlook**

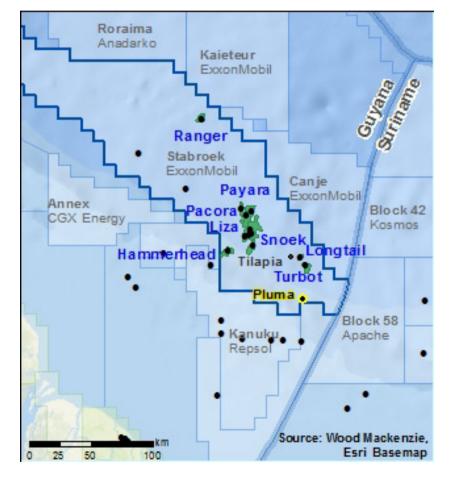
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# More success in 2018, including some high value discoveries

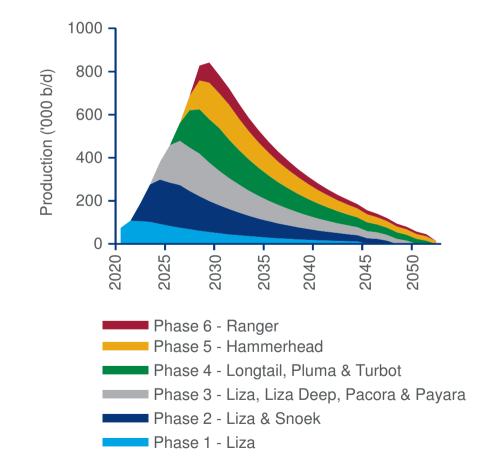


## Guyana: volumes now > 5 billion boe, value > US\$25 billion

### ExxonMobil's Pluma is the tenth discovery from 12 wildcats

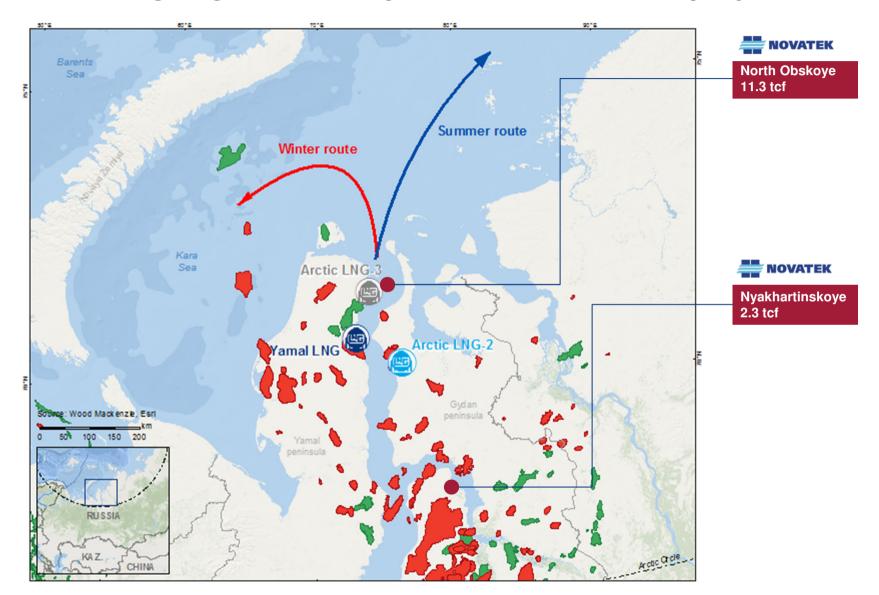


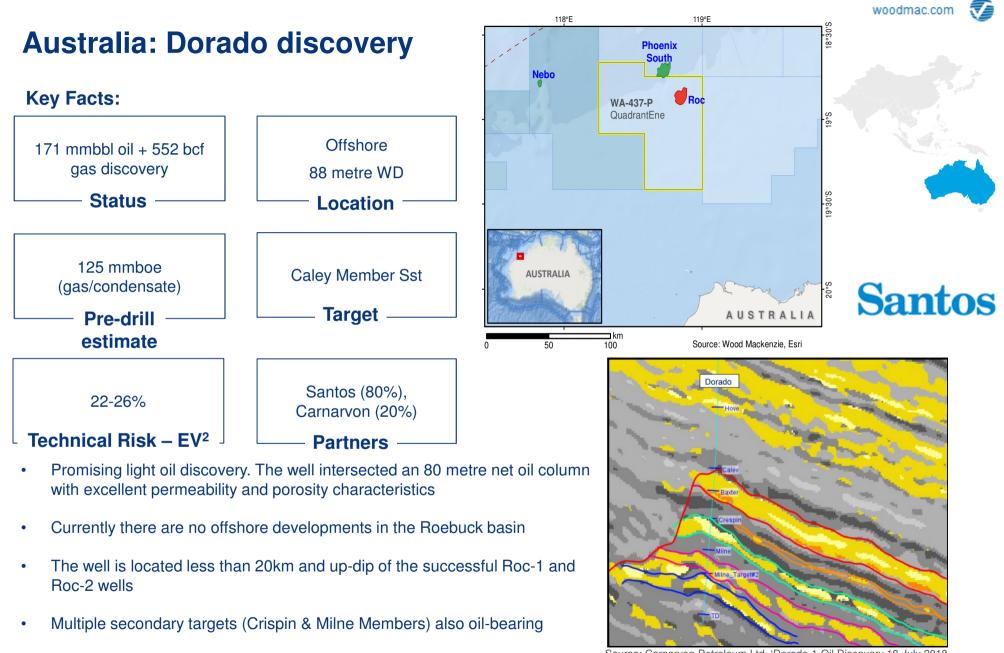
### Stabroek licence, Guyana



#### Guyana production outlook by field

# Russia: Yamal gas giants underpin future Arctic LNG projects

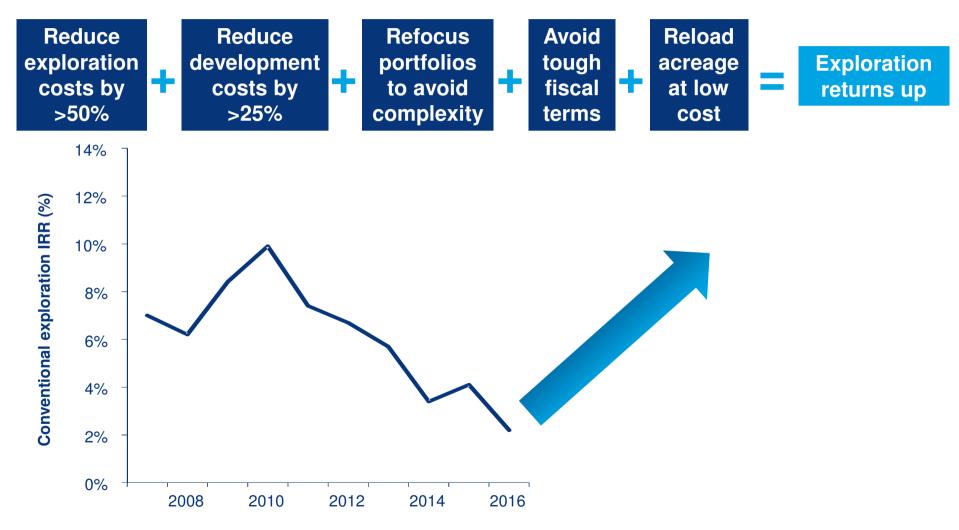




Source: Carnarvon Petroleum Ltd, 'Dorado-1 Oil Discovery 18 July 2018

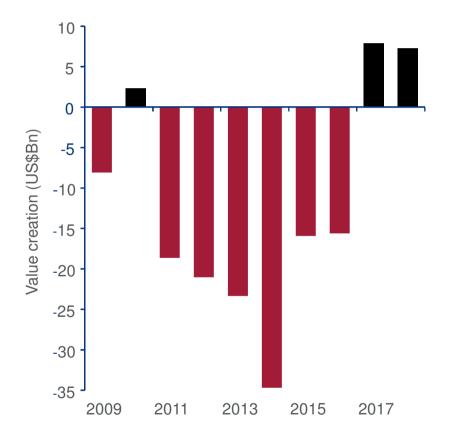
# Progress on many fronts is driving exploration recovery

### "How exploration can fix its broken economics" (published 2016)

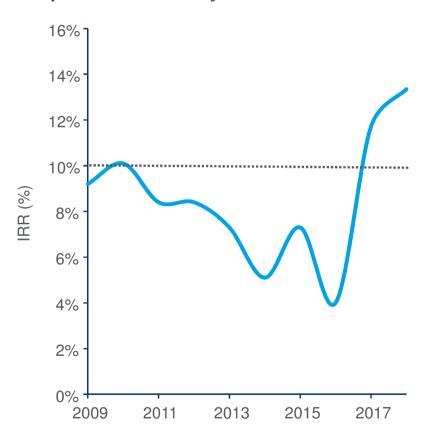


## **Exploration is now back in the black**

Reduced costs and quicker commercialisation of discoveries are now creating value



#### **Exploration industry value creation**



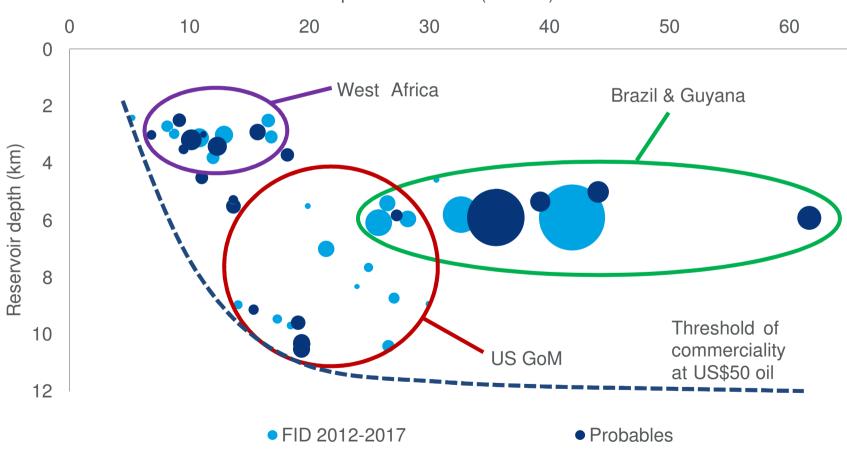
#### **Exploration industry returns**

Source: Wood Mackenzie Exploration Service . Value creation and returns at US\$65/bbl Brent.

## Deepwater sweet spots a critical part of exploration's recovery

### Key to the sweet spots: exceptional reservoirs at unexceptional depths

#### Deepwater oil FIDs add over 30 billion boe since 2012



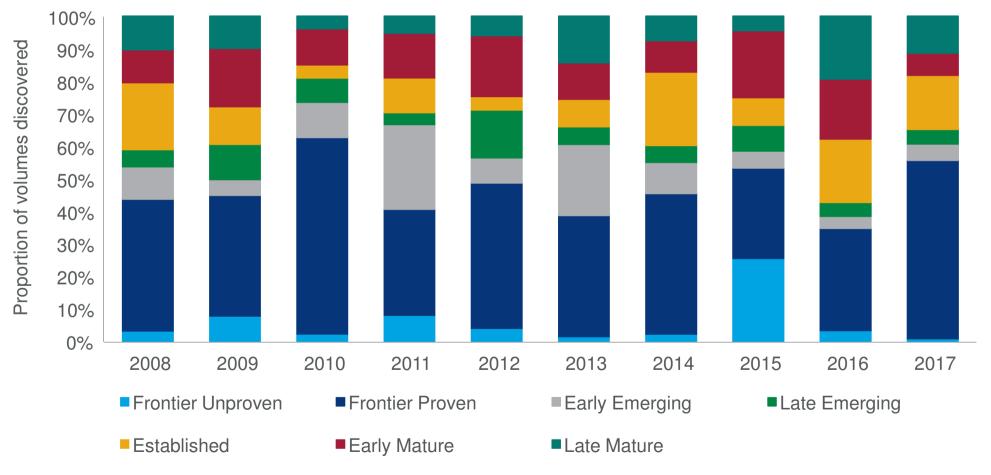
Development well EUR (mmboe)

Source: Wood Mackenzie. Chart includes deepwater oil developments >50 mmboe achieving FID since 2012 or expected in the next few years. Bubble size represents full field reserves. Reservoir depth based on typical development well TD. Development well EUR is based on field reserves divided by well count including production and injection wells.

## New frontiers also critical to exploration's recovery

### Half of recent exploration volumes found before first production in the play

Proportion of new fields volumes discovered by play maturity



# **Exploration results and outlook**

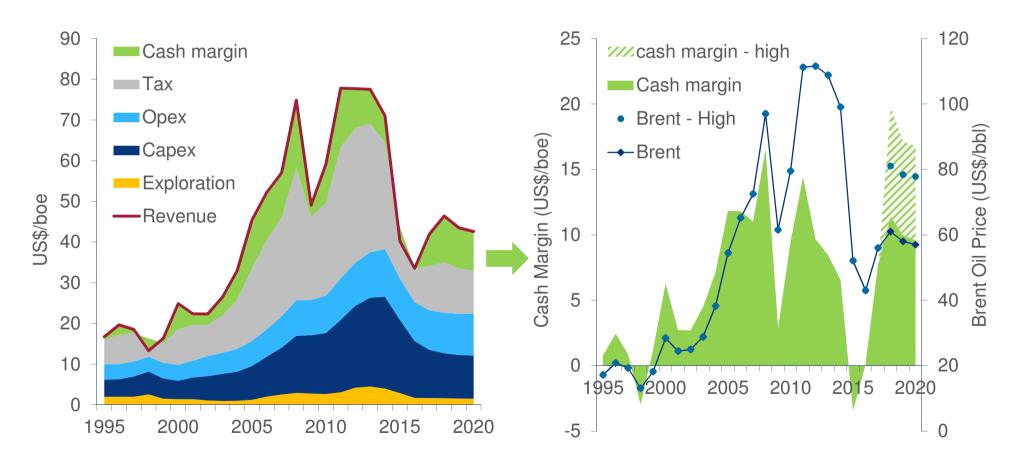
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## **Upstream cash margins looking strong**

### Outlook at US\$60 Brent as good as any time in past 20 years

Majors' upstream Cash Flow per barrel produced

Cash Margin v Brent

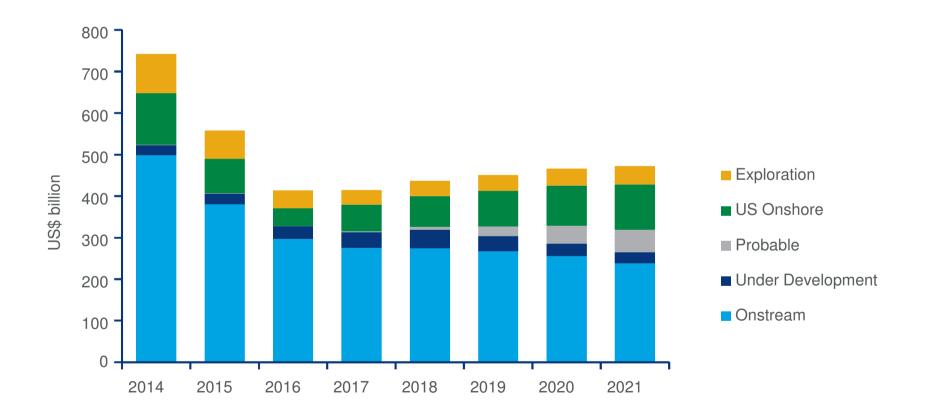




## But exploration budgets will remain flat in real terms

Activity may edge up with further improvement on costs

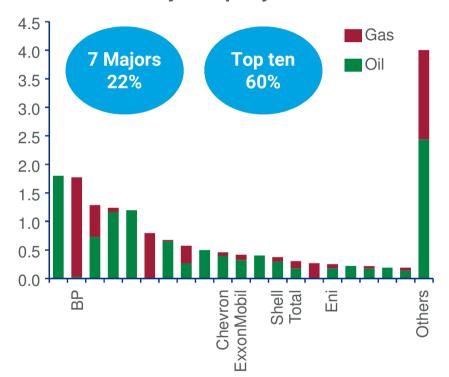
#### **Global Upstream Capex**



Source: Wood Mackenzie

# High-impact exploration is now a very exclusive club

Led by the Majors, selected NOCs and a handful of independents



#### 2017 volumes by company

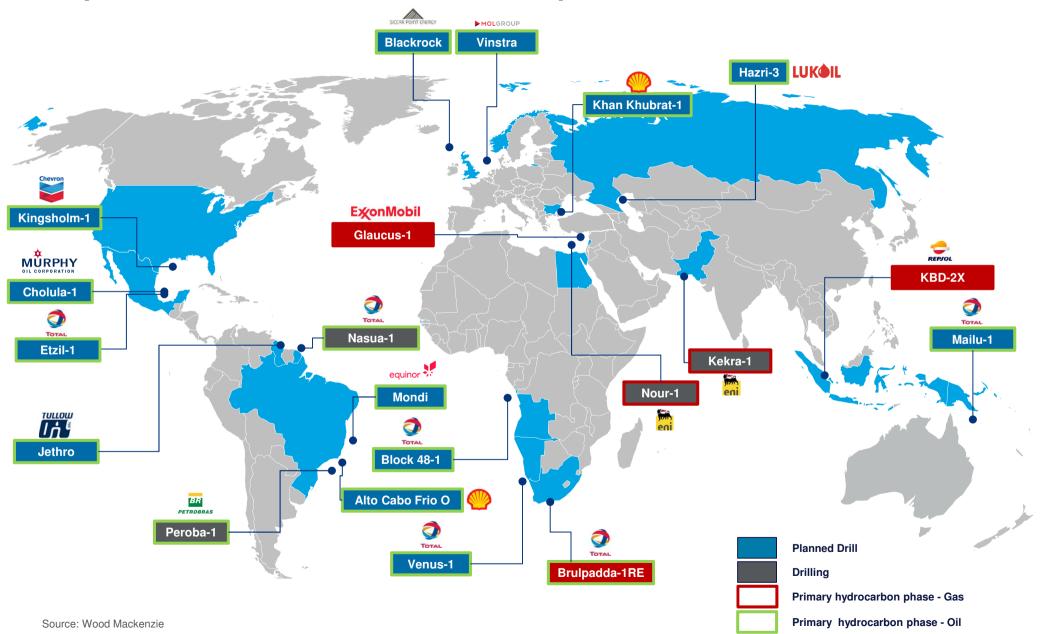
Gas Volumes discovered (bnboe) 7 Majors **Top ten** 2.5 Oil 35% 76% 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 Equinor Total Eni Shell ExxonMobil

#### 2018 volumes by company

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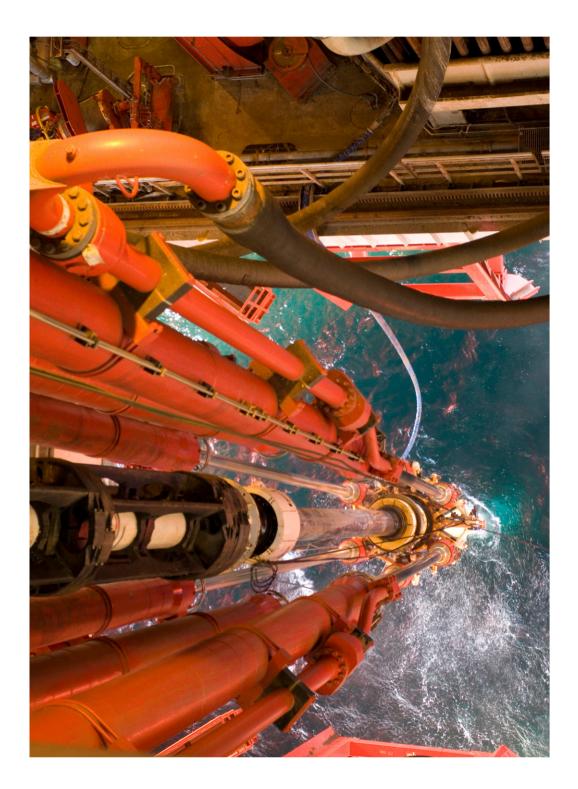
## Top 20 wildcats to watch – more deepwater and frontiers in 2019



# **Key exploration themes**

A smaller, more profitable industry

- 1. Majors continue to dominate
- 2. Little sign of inflation
- 3. Most budgets stay cautious, but will some break ranks?
- 4. Latin and North American deepwater and frontier basins drive success
- Average full cycle returns well above 10%



# **Dr Andrew Latham**

### Vice President, Global Exploration

### Biography

Andrew has over 25 years experience assisting majors and independents in the development of their exploration strategy and currently works on Wood Mackenzie's Exploration Research. He provides analysis of exploration economics, strategies and industry trends.

Andrew previously led the Exploration Strategy offering within the Upstream Consulting business. He worked with clients to help optimize their investments in petroleum exploration and advised on strategy, process, opportunity characterization and evaluation. As part of this offering, Andrew directed Wood Mackenzie's series of multiclient projects on exploration, deepwater and Arctic themes.

Andrew has been with Wood Mackenzie's energy team since 1995. Until the end of 2001, he managed the team responsible for Sub-Saharan Africa research products and consultancy, undertaking a range of market analysis and regional strategy projects.

He started his career in 1990 as an international new ventures geologist with Ranger Oil. Later, as Ranger focused on West Africa, he became project geologist for Angola.

Andrew graduated from Imperial College, London, with a BSc Honours degree in Geology, and holds a PhD in Geology from University College, Cardiff.

### Connect with Andrew







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