

OT2019 BID ASSESSMENT POLICY

The work program valuation methodology used varies from basin to basin and bid round to bid round, depending on prospectivity issues and the area on offer. This document specifies the methodology to be used to select winning bidders for the **OT2019** acreage release.

Exploration wells

The well score is discounted to account for timing using standard discount factors for guaranteed and non-guaranteed exploration (where the bid has not been 'loaded' with non-guaranteed activity – see below). Exploration wells score 1.5 well equivalent (WEQ). **Appraisal and development wells score zero.** Unconventional wells (eg. CSG wells) will be scored on the basis of cost proportionally to one conventional well equivalent, to a maximum 1.5 WEQ. For example a \$500,000 CSG hole will score 0.5 WEQ.

Table 1: Discount factors for guaranteed and non-guaranteed work

Year	Guaranteed exploration	Non-guaranteed exploration
1	1	1
2	1	0.70
3	0.9	0.45
4	0.8	0.40
5	0.7	0.35

Where any non-guaranteed exploration drilling in years 3-5 exceeds the total guaranteed drilling program, a sliding scale of additional discount factors is applied (Table 2). This reduces the effect of an applicant loading bids with non-guaranteed wells in later years.

Table 2: Discount factors where non guaranteed drilling exceeds twice guaranteed drilling

Non-guaranteed year	$Ng > 2 \times g$	$Ng > 3 \times g$	$Ng > 4 \times g$	$Ng > 5 \times g$
3	0.3	0.15	0.075	0.04
4	0.3	0.15	0.075	0.04
5	0.25	0.125	0.06	0.03

Where g = guaranteed program, ng = non-guaranteed program

The resulting score = total well score (WEQ)

Seismic

Assessment of seismic surveys reflects the value of seismic compared to drilling and also the greater value of full fold 3D surveys relative to 2D surveys.

In frontier blocks, where it is considered that a minimum amount of seismic per well is required to locate a prospect, wells that do not appear to be supported by sufficient seismic per proposed well (e.g. 200 km 2D seismic per well) will result in those wells not being included in the assessment.

The value of each seismic survey is discounted using the following cost factors:

Table 3: Seismic surveys and cost factors

Seismic survey type	Seismic cost factor
2D	0.5
Full fold 3D	0.75

The seismic survey score (WEQ) = (cost of work × seismic cost factor)/1,000,000

The seismic survey WEQ scores are then further discounted using the factors in Table 1 and also Table 2 where any non-guaranteed seismic exceeds the total guaranteed seismic.

The sum of all discounted seismic survey scores = **total seismic score (WEQ)**

Other data acquisition

Other data acquisition includes seismic reprocessing, aeromagnetic surveys, geochemical surveys etc. Each of these activities will have the following cost discount factors applied:

Table 4: Discount factors for other data acquisition

Type of work	Cost discount factor
High resolution combined gravity gradiometry and magnetic survey	0.5 (in frontier blocks) otherwise 0.01*
Gravity survey	0.01
Seismic reprocessing	0.05
Aeromagnetic survey	0.01
Geochemical survey	0.01

** High resolution combined gravity gradiometry and magnetic surveys may be useful for determining structural highs and depth to basement over large areas where seismic data coverage is limited. The 0.5 cost discount factor will apply to the designated frontier blocks only.*

Geological and Geophysical studies are part of normal business operations for a Petroleum Exploration Licence and are not scored.

The activity score (WEQ) = (cost of work × cost factor)/1,000,000

The other data acquisition WEQ scores are then further discounted using the factors in Table 1 and also Table 2 where any non-guaranteed work exceeds the total guaranteed work.

The sum of all discounted activity scores = total acquisition and reprocessing score (WEQ).

Scoring

Total bid score (WEQ) = total well score + total seismic score + total other data acquisition and reprocessing score

Two situations may arise at this point:

- either there is a clear winner (ie **bid > 0.3 WEQ** from the nearest other bidder) or
- the two highest bids are regarded as similar (**within 0.3 WEQ** of each other).

Clear winner (difference in bids > 0.3 WEQ)

Total bid scores for each bid will be ranked by the Bid Assessment Team (BAT). Where there is a clear winning bid, the Executive Director will be informed and will ask the Bid Receipt Team (BRT) to initiate financial checks.

Similar bids (difference in bids \leq 0.3 WEQ)

Similar bids are defined as those where total scores are within ± 0.3 WEQ for a block. If similar bids cannot be separated by financial assessment, extra criteria may be considered in making a recommendation by the BAT:

- the bidder with the highest number of guaranteed wells will be recommended the winner, however,
- if bids are still equal after these tests are applied, then timing and amount of non guaranteed wells and seismic will be used to separate bids. (i.e. to select the best structured technical program).

The BAT will then inform the BRT of the winning bids.

Financial resources assessment

Checks on the financial status of the highest ranking applicants are undertaken, with the applicants being classified as “adequate”, “marginal”, or “inadequate”. The financial assessment includes both other licence commitments in SA (or if more than one block is to be offered to an applicant, the commitments in all blocks) and the previous performance in meeting work program commitments (including a new company with a Director of a previously poor performing company). If the applicant is classified as “inadequate”, a report on the likelihood that the capital may be raised, and/or that the work program may be fulfilled is also included.

The BRT reports to the BAT on the bidder’s status. The BAT makes a recommendation to the Executive Director. Any applicant whose status is classified as “inadequate” may be excluded from being offered the licence, and the second highest bidder may be considered. However, if the company is the only bidder for the block and their financial status is classified as “inadequate”, the block may be offered if there is a reasonable likelihood that the capital may be raised, and that the work program may be fulfilled.

Disclosure of winning bidder

The identity of the winning bidder is only to be revealed to the Executive Director and BAT after the Executive Director has made a final decision on the winner. The winning bid is released to the public in the licence document, unsuccessful bids are held confidential.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the Bid Assessment Policy please contact:

Tony Hill
Deputy Director
Geoscience and Exploration Branch
DEM Energy Resources Division

Ph: +61 8 842 92461
Email: tony.hill@sa.gov.au

Alan Sansome
Principal Geologist
Geoscience and Exploration Branch
DEM Energy Resources Division

Ph: +61 8 842 92455
Email: alan.sansome@sa.gov.au