

## ExxonMobil to boost Guyana oil, gas output

■ GEORGETOWN

PRESIDENT of ExxonMobil Guyana Alistair Routledge said yesterday the oil and gas company which is operating the Stabroek Block is moving towards extracting at least one billion cubic feet of natural gas daily in addition to its 250,000 barrels of crude oil daily from the Longtail project.

'The gas, being this is more of a gas development, we anticipate could be in excess of one billion cubic feet per day of gas-handling capacity,' he told a news conference, adding 'the Longtail project is still a little bit early in the process of being finalised, but we anticipate it could be as high as 250,000 barrels per day for production capacity for the liquids'. The ExxonMobil-led consortium is already producing about 650,000 barrels of oil daily at three projects in the Stabroek Block; oil production at a fourth project, Yellowtail, should start later this year and hike Guyana's daily oil production to about 900,000 barrels per day.

Longtail will be the eighth project the company forges ahead with in the giant Block, located approximately 120 miles offshore Guyana.

Routledge told reporters that the Field Development Plan (FDP) would be submitted in 2026 and would also contain details, but would not elaborate on prospects for Longtail's gas usage, only saying it would be to 'the best benefit of the country'.

He said ExxonMobil has already submitted its request for environmental authorisation to Guyana's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Looking ahead, Routledge said Hammerhead's production would range between 130,000 and 180,000 barrels per day. Details for that project would also be contained in its FDP.

He also told reporters ExxonMobil is yet to receive approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about plans to optimise production to 260,000 barrels per day, or 265,000 barrels per day from the Payara and Liza 2 wells.

Routledge said a team recently inspected the Floating Production, Storage and Offloading (FPSO) vessels to satisfy itself about safety should the green light be granted to up outputs beyond the vessels' nameplate capacities.

'They recently...and to verify that, indeed, we have all the safety measures in place that we have been working to assure so we're waiting for a follow-up, but in our mind, we've done all the safety analysis. We've made some changes to the facilities. There is more capacity to be given, particularly on the *Prosperity* vessel,' he said.

The Guyana government and Exxon-Mobil have been working to determine what other gas-monetisation opportunities exist. Georgetown selected a United States-based company, Fulcrum LNG, to work with the government, and an ExxonMobil-led consortium to figure out how best to monetise natural gas resources.

However, Routledge told reporters his company has no active engagement with Fulcrum.

'What we're focused on is understanding the resources and, in parallel, doing our own work on developing a market for Guyana,' he said.

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