

Malta and Libya Opportunities with TGS Data



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Finding Petroleum Opportunities in the Eastern Mediterranean, 20 September 2018.

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Malta – Libya – Why?

- Underexplored! (wells and seismic)
- Connection or Differentiation to other proven plays to be established!
- Joint initial basin evolution connected petroleum system today?
 - 1. Petroleum knowledge offshore Malta
 - 2. Dis/Similarities to offshore Libya
 - 3. New opportunities

TGS' collaboration with the Maltese government continues.

Malta is keen on renewing the interest in their area.



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Tectonic Context

Tectonic Reconstruction





Regional Structural Trends Today



Capitanio 2011 (after Anketell 1992 and Finetti 1984)



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Jurassic Basins Continued Trend





Exploration Offshore Malta

Exploration History – 1970s Open for Offshore Area

14 wells to date

Completed	Well	OPERATOR	BLOCK/AREA	Blocks	Well status
1954	Naxxar-2	D'Arcy (BP)	Onshore (Area 3)		Dry
1971	MS-A1	Shell	Area 3	Block 3	Dry
1971	MS-B1	Shell	Area 3	Block 2	Dry
1971	Aqualta-1	Aquitaine	Area 3	Block 6	Dry
1972	Home Malta-1	Home Oil	Area 3	Block 3	Oil shows
1974	Medina Bank-1	Техасо	Area 2		Gas shows
1982	Alexia-1	IEOC	Area 3	Block 3	Junked following drilling problems
1984	Alexia-2	IEOC	Area 3	Block 3	Oil shows
1982	Gozo-1	Reading and Bates	Area 3	Block 8	Dry
1992	Valletta-1	Amoco/BHP	Area 3	Block 3	Dry
1993	Tama-1	Amoco/AGIP	Area 4	Block 3	Oil shows
1998	Madonna Taz-Zejt	Malta Government	Onshore (Area 3)		Gas shows
2002	Lampuko-1	ENI	Area 3	Block 2	Oil & Gas shows
2014	Hagar Qim-1	GENEL	Area 4	5&7	Dry

Well Locations – Malta and Region







Preliminary Well Correlation – Malta / Sicily



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TGS Database

Malta TGS Multi-client 2D Seismic Data

- 224 km Malta 2000
- 5,522 km Malta Sicily Channel 2001
- 3,146 km Medina Bank 2001
- 109 km Malta 2002
- 109 km Malta East 2002
- 328 km Medina Bank 2004

Reprocessed 2013

Malta Sicily Channel / Western Regional 5,613.325 km



Size	Survey	Acquired
5,613 km	MSC0102RE13	2001/2002
5,522 km	MSC-01 (Malta Sicily Channel)	2001
109 km	MSC -02 (Malta Sicily Channel)	2002
3,146 km	MB-01 (Medina Bank)	2001
328 km	MB-04 (Medina Bank)	2004
109 km	ME-02 (Malta East)	2002
931 km	WMR01RE13	2001
931 km	WMR-01 (Western Med Regional)	2001
224 km	HDM-00	2000
129 km	MET-01 (Malta East)	2001
10,480 km	Total	
5,613 km	Reprocessed (italic: underlying vintage of repro)	2013



Messinian Erosion with Carbonate Infill challenge Seismic Imaging



Post-Messinian Isochron



2D Modelling of Sedimentary Sub-basins

Areas with imaging problems due to carbonates and / or volcanic rocks





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Typical Horst and Graben Structures





Petroleum Systems

Petroleum Systems Regional Correlation

Offshore Tunisia Pelagian Basin **BC**

Offshore Libya Pelagian (West) and Sirt Basin (East) **BC**



Marsili et al., 2017



Main Source Rocks

C Lower Eocene ▲ - Equiv. to the Bou Dabbous Fm of Tunisia. Basinal limestones Equiv. to .Nummulitic limestone reservoirs

B Turonian shales & carbonates - Equiv. to the Bahloul & Annaba-Bireno Fms. of Tunisia.

Basinal shales and limestones

A Upper Triassic & Lowermost Jurassic - Streppenosa & Noto Fm. of Libya and Sicily.

Basinal carbonates and shales

Equiv. to Siracusa, Modica and Buccheri reservoirs



Main potential reservoirs

1 Upper Coralline limestone – Upr Miocene – Beneath Messinian salt, but likely to be too shallow to be prospective.

2 Lower Coralline limestone – Lwr Miocene – Oligocene

3 Numulitic limestones – Lwr Eocene Halk al Menzel -Metlaoui Fm. Shelfal and shelf margin forams carbonate build-up (Bouri Field). Equiv. Libya

4 Platform carbonates – Upr Cretaceous Amerillo Fm. equivalent to the Apulian Carbonates of S. Italy, especially if marginal "reef" build-ups can be located. Fractured and karstified.

5 Platform carbonates – Jurassic Siracusa Fm. May also include carbonates of the Upr -Mid Jurassic Buccheri & Lwr Jurassic Modica Fms. Platform carbonates defined in the Sicily Channel (Vega Field). Karstified and fractured.

6 Gela dolomites – Upr Triassic Gela Fm. Platform carbonates defined onshore Sicily and the Sicily Channel.





Seal – Different Seals in Different Areas

- I. Messinian erosion and evaporites
- II. Mid-Upper Eocene shales
- III. Maastrichtian Paleogene shales and marls
- IV. Triassic Jurassic shales and marls and evaporites





Targeted Closure created from Stacked Reefs







Traps and Features

Traps, Features and Leads

- Erosional Truncation and Seal
- Incised Channel Infill Onlap
- Transgressive Up-lap
- Thrust Features
- Stacked Reefs
- Clinoforms
- Slumps
- Wedges
- Tilted Fault Blocks
- Rift Basin Up-dip Pinch-out
- Inversion and roll-over anticlines

- Environment change

Depositional change

Tectonic change



















Channel Infill, Basinfloor Fans, Slope Pinch-out







Thrusts, Stacked Reefs, Closures (Zoom In)







Tilted Fault Blocks, Growth Sequences, Rollover Anticlines











Type Section (Zoom In)

Rollover anticlines from extension and later transtension.



Compression on reactivated extensionfaults. Anticlines.

Lower Jurassic Streppenosa Shales may charge the Reservoirs in Upper Sequences via the faults.





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Prospectivity from TGS Data

Medina Bank Prospect – Migration Paths



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Medina Bank Prospect – Migration Paths





What might have happened...

Medina Bank-1





Southern Extension of Malta to Offshore Libya

Offshore Libya

- 1. HC evidence, fields and shows
- 2. Petroleum System is working:
 - Good Reservoir Thickness (seismic)
 - Good Reservoir Quality (wells) (e.g. Eocene Carbonates, Cretaceous Clastics)
 - Generation and Charge (HC shows)



- 3. According to Seismic interpretation and Basin modelling studies in the south: **The Sirt shales offshore Libya may have passed Oil window 78 Ma and Gas window 62 Ma**
- 4. Underexplored with 30 wells in last 60 years!

Oil & Gas Journal, 1995. Exploration Limited Since '70s in Libya's Sirte Basin. Accessed August 2018.



Lower Cretaceous Sandstone



 \rightarrow Encountered in wells

 \rightarrow Present onshore



Lower Cretaceous Sandstone Fairway



Mapped on satellite gravity residual maps



Southern Extension of Malta to Offshore Libya

Opportunities – Gravity & Magnetics

Shipborne Data Quality and Grid Resolution

400km High-pass Bouguer





Airborne Data Quality & Grid Resolution

Magnetic anomalies - unfiltered



Open 10x10 km grid

Dense 2x2 km grid



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Airborne Data Quality & Grid Resolution

Magnetic anomalies – 30km high-pass filtered



Open 10x10 km grid

Dense 2x2 km grid



TGS High-Resolution Aeromagnetic (HRAM) Flight Path





Reduced to the Pole (RTP) Magnetics





Reduced to the Pole (RTP) Magnetics





Application of Magnetic & Gravity Data

- Structural Map View (3D correlation of 2D seismic sections)
- Structure in Depth (Interpretation of Deep Structure)
- Cost effective Crustal Studies
- Optimum Design of Seismic Programs
- Objective Testing of Seismic Interpretations
- Basement, Intra-crustal and Mantle Densities by inversion
- Vice Versa Moho Depths extrapolated from seismic reflection verified

Residual RTP – Low-Pass 200km





Application of High Resolution Magnetic & Gravity Data

- Delineation of reflectivity masking Volcanics and Dikes
- Mapping Lithic Fragments in Reservoir
- Basement Surface Seismic / Magnetics
- Detailed Density-Depth Function in pseudo 3D
- Ingress Issues (airborne or minimal impact)
- Coverage effective Regional Studies

Residual RTP – High-Pass 200km

Maps blurred for confidentiality reasons





Structural Features on 10 km HP Aeromagnetic Zoom In





Structural Features on 10 km HP Aeromagnetic Zoom In



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Southern Extension of Malta to Offshore Libya Opportunities – Sea Seep and Multi-beam

Finding Hydrocarbons at Sea

Water column acts as barrier for finding seeps \rightarrow high resolution Multi-beam has changed that

1. Multibeam and Backscatter Image with Gas Escape

- 2. Subsurface assessed (seismic)
- Prospect identified and drilled and Oil discovered
- (seep geochem ties to reservoir)

What is Multibeam? High Resolution Bathymetry

- Multibeam is a hull-mounted sonar array
- High-resolution map of the sea floor (15 x 15m)
- Large coverage at low cost

What is Backscatter? Hard Ground – Seep Indication

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Which Bathymetric Features? Folds and Pockmarks (Zoom In)

We also see 'Gas Plumes'

- Multibeam acoustics are disrupted by gas or oil escaping from seeps
- Clear indicator of active seep

Sea Floor Sampling – Core Navigated to Seep

- Piston core recovered (max. 6m)
- Shallow samples of rock fragments
- Hydrocarbon samples for geochem
- → Yield direct insight into petroleum system
 - Age, maturity, API, biodegradation,
 - biogenic/thermogenic (isotopes),
 - basin evolution

"H₂S, rock fragments and oil staining at all sub-sampled sections in core"

Southern Extension of Malta to Offshore Libya Opportunities – Further Interpretation and Plans

Opportunities – Further Interpretation and Plans

- Broadband reprocessing 2D to image the deeper structure better
- New 2D with longer offset
- Target 3D over prospects

Density Analysis from Seismic Velocities – Forward Modelling Verifies Velocity Field

Basin Modelling Example

Pseudowell expulsion models (Type 2 Streppenosa)

- Seismic provided tops and average lithologies.
- Present day hole temperature from wells.
- Zone of HC generation (120-150°C)

Expulsion takes place throughout the Jurassic due to high early stretching rates

To Sum Up

- 1. Petroleum system is working North of Malta and North of Libya.
- 2. Between these proven plays, favourable conditions for HC accumulation have been identified.
- 3. Area is underexplored regarding well and seismic exploration Connection or Differentiation to other proven plays still to be established!
- TGS plans to fully re-interpretation the entire Maltese area. Basin modelling included.
- Full well logs and borehole data available to TGS now.

As soon as the Maltese Government moves forward new acquisition is on the plate, TGS considers multi-client multi-year programmes.

The aeromagnetic is a very good place to start survey planning further south and when the Government in Libya approves TGS will invest in the area.

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Thank you

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