



22 June 2009

**ASX Announcements**

**Norwest acquires interest in Hurst Castle increasing its Southern England – Wessex Basin exploration acreage**

Norwest Energy NL (ASX:NWE) has entered into an agreement that grants it the right to earn a 60% interest in the Southern England onshore permit PEDL 089 and near shore permit P1153. The licenses, referred to as ‘Hurst Castle’, are strategically located between Norwest’s existing PEDL 238 (Dorset) and PEDL 239 (Isle of Wight) licenses in the South of England - Wessex Basin (see location map below). Norwest is earning its interest in the permits from Wessex Exploration Limited, an unlisted UK explorer, by funding in part, the 2009 exploration work program at an estimated cost of GBP60,000. Under the agreement with Wessex, Norwest, the operator of the Dorset and Isle of Wight permits, will also take over operatorship of Hurst Castle from Wessex.

Over the last nine months Norwest has acquired extensive knowledge of this region as a result of conducting an airborne gravity gradiometry survey together with a high resolution ground gravity survey over the Isle of Wight and Dorset license areas respectively. In addition an airborne gravity gradiometry survey was also completed over part of the Hurst Castle permits as a precursor to the agreement with Wessex.

A preliminary assessment by Norwest indicates significant exploration potential exists within the Hurst Castle license area and several potential leads and prospects have been identified. As part of the commitment to earn the interest, Norwest will conduct a more detailed technical review to further define and de-risk each of these potential prospects.

Norwest considers that the South of England, Wessex Basin has significant untapped potential for new hydrocarbon discoveries considering that to date; few other material discoveries have been made in the area since Wytch Farm was discovered by the Gas Council in 1973. The giant, BP operated Wytch Farm oil field, which to date has produced over 400 million barrels of oil with estimated recoverable reserves of nearly 500 million barrels, is the largest onshore oil field in Western Europe and the sixth largest oil field in the UK (including the North Sea fields). The South of England has historically been largely overlooked and undervalued by industry compared with higher profile North Sea opportunities.



**norwest**  
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Commenting on the Hurst Castle acquisition Norwest CEO, Peter Munachen said, “We have had Hurst Castle on our radar screen for a number of years now and securing this interest gives us a significant position in this very much overlooked region. Hurst Castle is strategically located, not only to our Dorset and Isle of Wight projects, but also to the giant Wytch Farm project and the acquisition is the continuation of our corporate strategy to focus on the exploration and development of onshore and near shore low cost projects.” Mr. Munachen went on to say; “We have a very positive outlook for our Wessex Basin projects and together with our Australian North Perth Basin projects, that includes the 100% owned TP/15 project, we are optimistic about the longer term prospects for success.”

For and on behalf of  
**Norwest Energy NL**

**EA Myers**  
**Company Secretary**



## South of England Wessex basin

