A Rosneft and ExxonMobil joint venture is preparing to drill an exploration well in Russia’s Kara Sea continental shelf zone. The University-1 well drilling is scheduled for the summer, during the open water season. Rosneft is the license holder; the joint venture is the operator. The drilling rig contracted for the work is the semi-submersible West Alpha owned by North Atlantic Drilling. The joint venture is committed to operating in a safe and environmentally responsible manner in the Arctic, drawing upon decades of drilling experience in the region and utilizing the latest research, technologies and safeguards.

**University-1 well**
- The University-1 is planned to be a conventional well. High pressures and temperatures are not anticipated in this geological setting.
- The well will be in a water depth of approximately 80 meters, and will be drilled to a depth of approximately 2350 meters.
- The well will be drilled in open water during the August-October drilling period, with few and minor icebergs expected and tracked through a tested ice management program. The ice management program uses proven technologies such as vessel radar, satellite and infrared imaging, visual observations and aircraft reconnaissance.
- The well’s environmental impact assessment and drilling and oil spill response plans meet Russian regulatory requirements, and were approved by government agencies for project implementation. Public consultations and state environmental expert reviews were held as part of the regulatory approval process before the start of work.

**West Alpha rig**
- The West Alpha is a semi-submersible rig chosen for harsh environment capability, reliability and experienced crew. It has been upgraded regularly since construction and further weatherized for the Kara Sea’s harsh climate. The West Alpha is designed to meet the specific conditions in the Kara Sea drilling window.
- The rig is one component of an integrated system designed for safe operations, focusing on prevention of incidents and multiple layers of redundancy, including specialized vessels for support and spill response, enhanced communications systems, shore-based operations centers, and advanced ice defense system.

(continued)
Managing operations in remote conditions

- Throughout the operation, ExxonMobil’s Operations Integrity Management System (OIMS), adopted by the joint venture, will be rigorously applied to ensure design and procedures meet or exceed regulatory requirements.
- Enhanced communications systems, at-sea medical response and spill response capability will be on scene at all times.
- Multi-functionality of marine vessels to maintain operations integrity, and emergency response and resupply capability will be present throughout the drilling program.

Environmental protection

- The Rosneft-ExxonMobil joint venture conducted environmental, marine mammal and fishery studies during 2012 and 2013. A coastal survey was conducted in 2013 to identify potentially vulnerable habitat environments. Public consultations on the drilling program environmental impact assessment (EIA) for well construction were also held.
- The drill site is over 200km from the Russian Arctic National Park and the Yamalskiy Wildlife Refuge, and no operations will take place within 20 km of either protected area, per self-imposed operations limits.
- The support fleet for the rig will include a dedicated ice class oil spill response vessel, with other ice class and ice breaker vessels equipped with spill response and ice management capabilities. Icebreaking vessels can support response into the winter months if required.
- Mitigation measures have been implemented to further reduce risk of harm to wildlife. Research and monitoring of identified populations will continue as the project progresses.

Well control

- When wells are properly designed for the range of risks, established procedures are followed, layers of redundancy are built in, equipment is properly inspected and maintained, operators are trained, tests and drills are conducted, and when the focus remains on safe operations and risk management, well control events can be avoided or managed safely.
- ExxonMobil’s safety and risk management focus results in a risk-based approach to selection of well control equipment and services. For each drilling operation around the world, site and well-specific characteristics are analyzed to determine the optimal equipment configuration including whether a capping stack contingency is appropriate.
- To address the unlikely scenario of a loss of well control, Rosneft and ExxonMobil evaluated the most appropriate approach for the University-1 well, and given the specific characteristics of this particular well, have elected to employ an enhanced subsea shut-in device to provide additional protection.

Arctic experience

- Rosneft and ExxonMobil have a proven track record of successful cooperation under Arctic conditions at Sakhalin covering nearly 20 years, with strong safety and environmental performance and economic benefits to the community.
- ExxonMobil has operated in arctic conditions for over 90 years.
- ExxonMobil has had the industry’s only dedicated, in-house oil spill response research program since the 1970s, and since 2000 has focused significant research on response techniques in Arctic conditions.