

Europa Oil & Gas' Submission on Security of Energy Supply Review (October, 2022)

1. Introduction

Europa Oil & Gas (Europa) welcomes the publication of the Security of Energy Supply of Ireland's Electricity and Natural Gas Systems (the Review) on 19th September 2022 and the opportunity to respond as part of the consultation process.

IOOA is the representative organisation for the offshore gas and oil exploration and production sector in Ireland of which Europa is a long-standing member as well as being an active operator in the Irish offshore for many years.

IOOA has published a comprehensive submission to the Review which Europa whole-heartedly supports. The IOOA submission was wide ranging and highlighted, in particular, the omission of indigenous gas from the Review.

It is the question of where indigenous gas fits into the debate on energy supply which Europa wishes to concentrate on and to use our own operated licence (FEL 4/19) to make the case for continued exploration for gas in its own submission.

2. Response to specific questions asked in the Consultation

DECC has invited responses to a number of Risks and Mitigation Options; Europa has centred on Question 2 (Risks) of the Consultation Process to present supporting information and discussion.

Risks

Q.2. *If there are other risks that you have identified, could you outline some mitigation options to address the risk(s)?*

Ignoring indigenous gas as key component to the supply of energy to Ireland is a significant risk. The increased dependency on gas imports from the UK could be mitigated by encouraging and facilitating additional indigenous gas exploration.

In addition, it is quite obvious that methane molecules used for electricity generation which are sourced within Ireland have inherently less CO₂ emissions than equivalent methane molecules piped from gas fields in the UK.

A perfect example of where such encouragement is warranted is the Europa Operated Licence FEL 4/19 which lies immediately adjacent to the Corrib Field.

Two prospects have been matured in FEL 4/19, Inishkea and Slyne High, with unrisksed prospective resources of 1.5 Tcf and 0.8 Tcf with estimated chances of success of 25% and 18% respectively (see Figure 1).

These are large, relatively low risk prospects which, if successful, would dramatically change the supply-side and security energy landscape for Ireland. If either Inishkea or Slyne High were developed, each would have the potential to supply around half of the Irish gas market. Furthermore, these prospects lie within 15 kilometres of Corrib and would be tied-back to Corrib by subsea flow-lines with minimal environmental and emissions impact.

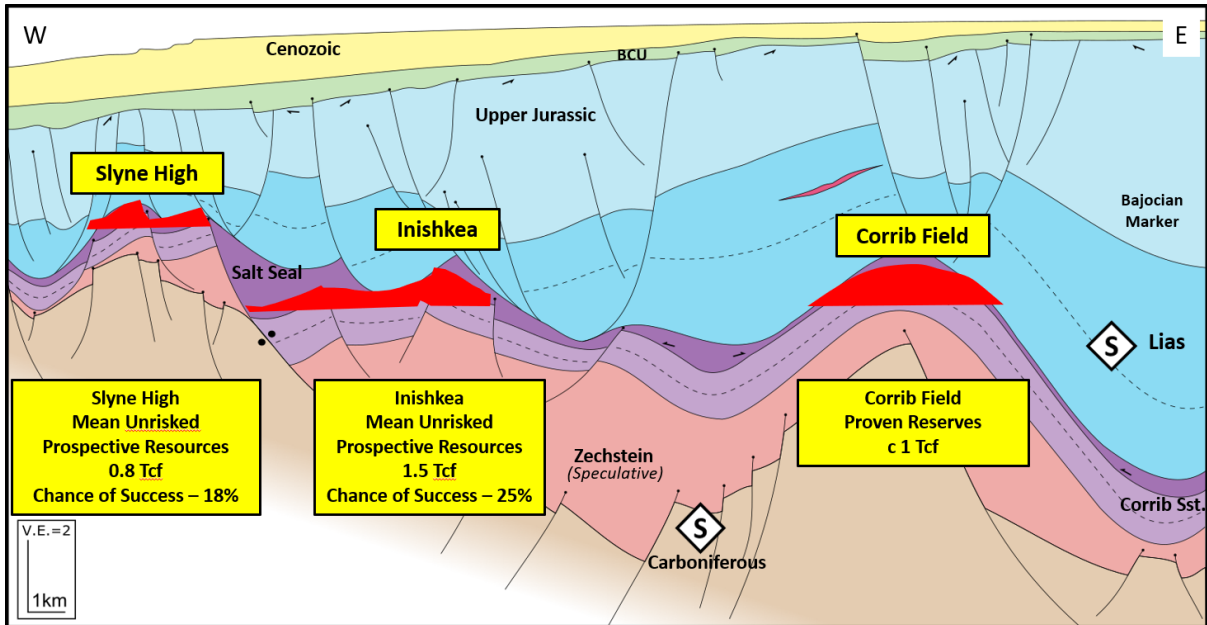


Figure 1. FEL 4/19 Cross-section through Slyne High & Inishkea Prospects and Corrib Field

3. Footnote

Europa submitted an application to DECC in April, 2022 to extend the FEL 4/19 by 18 months with a work programme to reprocess seismic data to enable the Inishkea and Slyne High Prospects to be elevated to drill-ready status. A successful outcome of this work programme could result in drilling either or both prospects within 2 to 3 years and a possible subsea tie-back to Corrib within 5 years and so reduce Ireland's reliance on imported gas.