

ROAD MAP

Three expeditions are planned before the commercial production of Methane from Gas Hydrates.

NGHP Expedition 01 aimed at the physical verification of the presence of Gas hydrates in Indian Deep waters. The expedition has been successfully completed with actual cored evidences of the presence of Gas hydrates in Indian deep waters. India now boasts of the worlds richest (132m massive gas hydrate presence in KG with 80% saturation) and the worlds deepest (612mbsf in Andaman volcanic ash) occurrences of gas hydrates.

NGHP Expedition 02 would aim at the identification of sites for carrying out pilot production testing. The expedition is planned in the beginning of 2010 and would aim at identifying sites which would ideally have:

1. Sand dominated gas hydrate occurrence
2. Reasonably compacted sediments
3. Occurrence of free gas below the gas hydrate stability zone

NGHP Expedition 03 would aim at carrying out pilot production testing of at least one site in the Indian deep-water environment. The expedition is planned for 2011 and would require extensive R&D work in association with our International scientists. The commercial exploitation of Methane from Hydrates would largely depend upon the success of this expedition.

Other activities, which are planned to be carried out simultaneously, would be

1. Delineation and resource assessment of the Gas Hydrates in KG & Mahanadi area
2. Environmental hazard studies for sites identified for Expedition 02
3. R&D on methodology of production testing to be adopted for Expedition 03 along with environmental hazard studies
4. Techno-economic studies on the exploitation of methane from hydrates after Expedition
5. Policy framework for award of acreage for Gas hydrates commercial production, which would be subject to the results of 3 above.