

OIL EXPLORATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF TATARSTAN, RUSSIA, AS PART OF GLOBAL EXPLORATION EXPERIENCE

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Oil exploration in the Republic of Tatarstan started during a most difficult time for Russia,- the World War II. First oil reservoirs were penetrated in August 1943 near Shugurovo village. In June 1948, well Timyash-3 produced a first oil gusher from the Devonian Romashkinskoye Giant Field. For 56 years, more than 15 B bbl of oil has been produced. Nowadays, recoverable oil reserves are estimated at 4.8 B bbl. Around 1.6 B bbl fall on small fields with 6 to 18M bbl of oil reserves. Continuous development of exploration technique showed that in earlier exploration stages many small fields were omitted. If these smaller fields had been known before, the whole exploration strategy in the Tatarstan Republic could have been quite different.

Unfortunately, both exploration and exploitation have also lead to substantial ecological damage such as environmental pollution, changes in ground water composition, technogenic earthquakes among others.

The Republic of Tatarstan would like to share the best part of its exploration experience (including environmental research and drinking water supply) with younger oil and gas producing regions of the world.