
The Southern Permian Basin Atlas (SPBA)-project is a joint project of the Geological Surveys of the United Kingdom, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany and Poland and was initiated by Ken Glennie. The Atlas will be published in December 2009 and will be both in paper and digital (GIS) format. The project is supported by a wide range of Petroleum Exploration & Production companies, licensing authorities, research institutes and universities. It follows the successful launching in 2003 of the ‘Millennium Atlas: petroleum geology of the central and northern North Sea’.

Background
The Atlas has been initiated to celebrate a milestone in the Southern Permian Basin area: the discovery of the Groningen gas field nearly 50 years ago, one of the largest gas fields in Europe. This discovery boosted exploration for gas and oil in the Southern Permian Basin area. As the Southern Permian Basin gas and oil province continues to mature and with field sizes inevitably decreasing, more and more careful data integration and geoscientific effort will be required to discover new reserves and to augment the recovery of proven hydrocarbon accumulations. The large volume of data that is or will be made available publicly allows the production of an authoritative compilation to support the E&P industry in their efforts to fully develop the basin; efforts which will likely take place in the coming decades. At the same time, easy and inexpensive access to the accumulated knowledge held by educational bodies will lead to a better understanding of the Southern Permian Basin area and the documentation of this knowledge will assist in the training of the next generation of petroleum geologists.

Aim
The aim of the Atlas, which is published in 2009, is to present a comprehensive and systematic overview of the results of over 150 years of petroleum exploration and research in the Southern Permian Basin area. The Atlas aims to stimulate the petroleum E&P industry to continue their activities in this mature basin.

Atlas’ contents
The Atlas reviews the entire Southern Permian Basin area, covering the British, Belgium, Dutch, German, Danish and Polish sectors. The area under review extends from eastern England to the Belarusian-Polish border and is situated between latitudes 50.5 and 56 degrees North. The Atlas addresses the geologic evolution and hydrocarbon potential per stratigraphic interval. The paleogeographic and tectonic evolution is covered within the framework of the principal stratigraphic intervals, from the pre-Cambrian basement to the Holocene. The various structural and stratigraphic settings are elucidated by a thorough set of field examples, overview maps and illustrations. In addition, petroleum generation, migration, trapping and production as well as the history of exploration and licensing in the basin are covered, together with a summary of resource assessments. Other potential options for use of the deep subsurface such as gas storage and geothermal aspects are also addressed. The content of the Atlas has been generated through contributions from high-level international experts, surveys and petroleum exploration companies.

Products
The Atlas is available on printed paper (A2 size) and on CD in an interactive PDF format. The enclosed maps on 3M and 6M scale are also offered in a GIS format. This greatly increases the utility and accessibility of the maps, and allows their integration with other, perhaps more detailed data sets. It also enables a user defined web-based access of the Atlas’ content and hence provides an invaluable training tool for post-graduate students and for new graduates employed by the petroleum industry.

Current activities
The project kicked off on March 2, 2005 and has been scheduled to take four years.
A complete overview of the geological exploration and exploitation history

On the kickoff a Steering Committee was established. This Committee consists of mainly representatives from the National Geological Surveys and from the Sponsors (E&P industry). The Project Team was endorsed in the first meeting of the Steering Committee. TNO executes the project management, database building and the GIS mapping compilation; the British Geological Survey has edited the Atlas. Currently the Atlas is being peer-reviewed, is presented in June 2009 at the Groningen-50 conference and at the EAGE conference in Amsterdam. The official publication date is December 2009.

Sponsoring
To finance the Atlas, a budget of EUR 1.7 million is required, in addition to free author commitments, data supply and extra staff resources from National Geological Surveys and other participants of the Project. A number of different sponsorship levels have been determined, reflecting the size and activity levels of the various companies or agencies:

* For a multinational company with a high level of involvement in the Southern Permian Basin area the support as a Patron by sponsoring the project for the sum of € 125,000. These Patrons will have their company profile and corporate logo displayed inside the Atlas.
* For a company active in 1 of the participating countries, a sponsorship sum of € 50,000 is proposed. Such a sponsor will have its corporate logo displayed inside the Atlas and an honorable mention of its name in the Atlas.
* For companies with a relative low level of involvement in the Southern Permian Basin area a sponsorship sum of less than € 50,000 is suggested and their company names will be mentioned in the Atlas.

Sponsors is still possible!

**Current Sponsors of the project are:**

We invite you to explore our website to find out more on this exciting project: [www.spb-atlas.org](http://www.spb-atlas.org).

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**Depth map of the base Zechstein Group.**