

## Rialto cheers Gazelle flows



Fired up: gas being flared at the Gazelle-P3 ST2 well off the Ivory Coast

[Josh Lewis](#)

18 July 2012 02:23 GMT

London-based Rialto Energy has flowed both oil and gas following its first drill stem test on the Gazelle field on Block CI-202, off the Ivory Coast.

The company achieved maximum flow rates of 19.5 million cubic feet per day of gas and an un stabilised rate of 760 barrels of oil per day from separate sands within the Upper Cenomanian reservoir of the Gazelle-P3 ST2 well.

Rialto noted that the maximum gas flow rate was constrained due to downhole equipment limitations but estimated the well could deliver 33 MMcfd with standard 4.5 inch production tubing as opposed to the 3.5 inch test string.

The test focused on a 33.7 metre interval, between 2632.9 and 2666.6 metres, in the Upper Cenomanian reservoir and Rialto noted the average flow rate over the 10-hour test period was 17.5 MMcfd through a 0.688 inch choke.

Gazelle-P3 ST2 was sidetracked from the initial Gazelle-P3 location to further appraise the reservoirs in the Upper Cenomanian sands, which were poorly developed at the original well location.

The well will now be suspended for future use and Rialto will then turn its attention to the second well in its three-well drilling programme on the block, Gazelle-P4, which will appraise two additional oil reservoirs and three additional gas reservoirs in the Upper and Lower Cenomanian sands.

The third well in the campaign will be drilled on the Chouette exploration prospect which is estimated to hold a prospective resource of 84 million barrels of oil and 42 billion cubic feet of gas.

The positive test results at Gazelle-P3 bode well for Rialto who is due to make a final investment decision on the Gazelle field development by September this year.

The company's development plan utilises a production platform where oil and gas will be processed before being exported via bundle pipelines to onshore infrastructure, about 30 kilometres to the north-west.

The field is scheduled to start-up in early 2014 with initial output of about 8000 barrels per day of liquids and 100 MMcfd of gas, however the pipelines will be designed with spare capacity for future production of up to 40,000 bpd and 230 MMcfd.

Block CI-202 also contains the Hippo and Bubale discoveries which, together with Gazelle, are estimated to hold mean contingent resources of 50 million barrels of liquids and 396 billion cubic feet of gas, in addition to total mean prospective resources of 511 million barrels of liquids and nearly 1.8 trillion cubic feet of gas.