

Industry

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Equity 🗹

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- Cairn boss to brief gov't on stake sale, as ONGC cries foul Bill Gamell, chief executive of Cairn Energy Plc will have to do a tough convincing act when he visits India to meet Petroleum Minister Murli Deora and Petroleum Secretary S. Sundareshan to give details of Cairn India's deal with Vedanta. Both the gov't and ONGC, Cairn's partner in the Barmer oilfield in Rajasthan are unhappy about the deal. ONGC, which has a stake in nearly all of Cairn Energy's Indian operations, should have been given the right of first refusal if Cairn decided to sell its stake to Vedanta. ONGC may seek legal opinion about the options available. "We always knew that Cairn Energy is not here to stay," said an ONGC executive. "But selling its majority stake to Vedanta, which has no expertise at all in the oil and gas operations, makes it clear that Cairn was only keen to make the most of its investments in India." (Hindustan Times, 16th Aug)
- Cairn Plc may face US\$1bn cap-gains tax Cairn Energy may soon be asked to cough up capital gains on its over US\$9bn stake sale in Cairn India. The long-term capital gains tax, which is levied at the rate of 10%, is likely to be as high as US\$1bn. The share transfer in one UK firm to another UK-based firm will attract capital gains in India as the underlying asset Cairn India is situated here. "Since, the base of the asset is situated here, India retains the right to tax capital gains," said a tax consultant. (Economic Times, 17th Aug)
- Vedanta's entry may boost Ravva-Cambay The Ravva oilfields in the KG basin and Cambay basin in Gujarat took a back seat since Cairn India's Rajasthan block took centre stage, say Cairn's partners in these fields. With Vedanta Resources now taking the reins, the partners expect it would turn out well for both fields. "Cairn has been busy investing all its financial and manpower resources in the Rajasthan field, thus sidelining Ravva. With Vedanta coming in the consortium, further investments could be made in the field, which will enhance production," said a Ravva consortium member. (Business Standard, 17th Aug)

Daily Indicators 13-Aug-10 12-Aug-10 Last week's avg WTI US\$/bbl 75.4 75.7 78.2 **Brent** US\$/bbl 74.6 75.1 77.3 US\$/bbl Indian Crude Basket 73.7 74.5 76.2 S'pore GRM US\$/bbl 5.9 5.1 5.2 MS US\$/bbl 82.1 82.8 84.3 **HSD** US\$/bbl 86.0 87.3 88.9 LPG US\$/Ton 596.0 596.0 608.4 SKO US\$/bbl 85.6 86.9 88 6 Source: Reuters, Bloomberg

See Appendix A-1 for Analyst Certification, Important Disclosures and non-US research analyst disclosures.

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Industry News

Clamorous demands for KG gas: Power plants put in their requirements

The petroleum and natural gas ministry has recently been flooded with a slew of demands for allocation of natural gas from RIL's KG-D6 block. The plants that have demanded an allocation include GMR's gas-based power plant at Vemagiri (requirement of 3.8 mmscmd of natural gas which the power plant would need in the month of April, 2011), Spectrum Power Generation Ltd's (SPGL's) Expansion Project at Kakinada (requirement of 6.76 mmscmd), Lanco Kondapalli Power Project (requirement of 3.5 mmscmd), Panduranga Energy Systems' power plant in Andhra Pradesh (0.49 mmscmd). Along with the demands from many power plants, the ministry of petroleum and natural gas has also received requests for allocation of KG-D6 gas to the Visakhapatnam steel plant (5.5 mmscmd) as well as to domestic consumers in the State of Karnataka (at least 20 mmscmd). (Indianpetro, 16th Aug)

Company News

Non-compete fees: Cairn India's public investors to lose Rs35.7bn

Public shareholders of Cairn India will lose out on a whopping Rs35.7bn to the promoters who would be only beneficiary of a non-compete fees to be paid by its suitor, London-listed Vedanta group. The non-compete fees, which market regulator SEBI had already proposed to abolish, are a common phenomena in takeover deals, and are paid only to promoters and other shareholders get no share of this pie. In Cairn India's takeover by the Vedanta group, shareholders who would be missing out on this payment include state-run insurer LIC (which holds 2.57% stake) and Malaysian energy major Petronas (14.94% stake). Cairn Energy Plc said it will sell a minimum of 40% and a maximum of 51% stake to Vedanta for a price of Rs405 per share. For other shareholders, Vedanta will make an open offer at Rs355 per share for up to 20 per cent stake. (Economic Times, 16th Aug)

Vedanta can give RIL tough competition

With the acquisition of majority stake in Cairn India, Vedanta will enter the petroleum sector and has the potential to become a formidable player in the sector. After ONGC, RIL is the biggest player in the sector. Vedanta has also interest in coal-based power sector, in which RIL has also shown interest. With the entry of Vedanta, which is a major mining company in the world, RIL will face some real-time competition, a source said. At present, while ONGC has a proven reserve of around 5 bn boe, RIL owns around 2.5 bn boe. With this acquisition, Vedanta will also control oil and gas reserves of over 1 bn boe. (Economic Times, 17th Aug)

Reliance restarts deepwater drilling in Bay of Bengal

RIL has resumed its stalled deep-water drilling programme in the Bay of Bengal block KG-DWN-2003/1. The Transocean rig Discoverer 534 has started operating in the contract area at a water depth of 1,653 metres. The rig is scheduled to drill at least four deepwater exploratory wells in the block besides completing the current KGV-D3-W1 well. RIL had to suspend drilling work in the block in April 2010 when the previous rig Deepwater Expedition developed major technical snags in its blow out preventer (BOP). Reliance is expected to simultaneously launch development concept studies in the block after which the gas discoveries in the block -- Dhirubhai 39, Dhirubhai 41 and Dhirubhai 44 -- would be developed by the end of this year. (Indianpetro, 16th Aug)

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Appendix A-1

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