

Oil and gas firm doubles offshore stakes

Energy: Parkmead invests in North Sea

BY MARK LAMMEY

Aberdeen-based Parkmead Group has “tonnes of firepower” left for acquisitions after doubling its stakes in two North Sea fields, the oil and gas firm’s boss said yesterday.

Tom Cross, Parkmead’s chief executive and biggest shareholder, said the debt-free company was profitable thanks to production from its Dutch onshore gas fields and could call upon investors and cash reserves to support its expansion.

Parkmead’s portfolio grew recently when it raised its stakes in the cen-

tral North Sea Polecat and Marten fields from 50% to 100%. It acquired the shares from Faroese firm, Atlantic Petroleum, which revealed plans to sell down its North Sea assets in May.

The additions, announced yesterday, raised Parkmead’s total contingent resources by 39% to 59.1million barrels of oil equivalent.

The firm said it could look to develop the assets alongside the nearby Perth-Dolphin-Lowlander (PDL) project.

Parkmead is the operator for PDL, thought to be one



EXPANSION PLANS: Mark Cross, inset, has doubled Parkmead’s North Sea stakes and claims more could come

of the largest undeveloped oil projects in the North Sea.

This week also saw Statoil submit development plans for the Utgard discovery in the North Sea and Mr Cross said the activity shows now is a good time to invest in the region.

“People who are deeply embedded in the industry like us and Statoil – people

who understand supply and demand – feel the oil price is likely to go up and that these new supplies will be needed in the next few years,” he said.

“We are seeing investor interest from across the world and are making sure we are boosting our reserves while we have got these opportunities.”

Mr Cross also said efforts

made by industry and government to prepare the North Sea for the upturn had made a real difference.

He said: “The cost cutting in the North Sea over the last two to three years has been very good. Companies have worked together – they’ve shared facilities and transport.”

Parkmead is now weigh-

ing up more acquisitions in the North Sea and will be active in the 29th Licensing Round, which kicked off last month.

The strategy of gaining interests in assets through licensing rounds before buying out partners served Mr Cross well at his previous venture, Dana Petroleum, which was eventually bought

out for £1.87billion in 2010.

Mr Cross said Parkmead had accelerated that strategy since its formation in 2011, to the point where it has four Dutch gas fields and interests in numerous North Sea exploration and development assets, including PDL.

Shares in Parkmead rose over 5% to 49.5p.

Tesco	158 ^{7/8}	+3 ⁴	+0.51	204 ^{3/4}	139 ^{1/4}	-
Travis Perkins	1560	+2	+0.13	2119	1313	2.90
TUI AG	1015 ^{1/8}	+24 ^{1/2}	+2.47	1275 ^{1/2}	836 ^{1/4}	4.70
Unilever	3553 ^{1/2}	-18	-0.50	3678 ^{1/2}	2524	2.70
United Utilities	988 ^{1/2}	-1	-0.10	1039	828	3.90
Vodafone Gp	233 ^{1/8}	-1 ^{1/8}	-0.47	239 ^{3/8}	200 ^{1/4}	4.90
Whitbread	3940	+20	+0.51	5190	3391	2.30
Wolseley	4239	+29	+0.69	4332	3230	2.20
Worldpay Group	311 ^{1/2}	+2 ^{1/2}	+0.81	316 ^{1/4}	255 ^{1/8}	0.60
WPP	1769	+17	+0.97	1769	1304	2.60

Oil / energy services

Amev Foster Whl	502 ^{1/2}	-18 ^{1/2}	-3.55	839 ^{1/2}	327 ^{3/8}	4.10
Borders&Sthrn Petr	1 ^{3/8}			3 ^{1/2}	1 ^{3/8}	-
BP	423 ^{1/2}	-2 ^{1/4}	-0.52	461 ^{1/4}	310 ^{1/4}	7.20
Cain Energy	193	-2 ^{1/4}	-1.38	231 ^{1/2}	127 ^{1/4}	-
Centrica	233 ^{3/4}	-1	-0.43	268 ^{3/8}	183 ^{3/8}	5.10
Chevron	100 ^{3/8}	- ^{3/8}	-0.65	107	70	4.20
EnQuest	25 ^{1/4}	- ^{3/4}	-2.83	40	11	-
Exxon Mobil (\$)	86 ^{1/4}	-1 ^{7/8}	-2.14	95 ^{1/8}	68 ^{3/4}	3.40
Faroee Petroleum	67 ^{1/2}	-1	-1.46	86	43 ^{1/2}	-
Hess Corp (\$)	55 ^{1/2}			3679	34 ^{3/8}	1.80
Hunting	453 ^{1/4}	+6 ^{1/2}	+1.45	518	239 ^{3/4}	1.20
Ithaca Energy	64	-2	-3.03	74 ^{1/4}	16	-
National Grid	1076 ^{1/2}	- ^{1/2}	-0.05	1130 ^{1/2}	818 ^{3/4}	4.00
Northern Petroleum	2 ^{1/4}			6 ^{1/2}	2 ^{1/4}	-

Parkmead Group	49 ^{1/2}	+2 ^{1/2}	+5.32	99 ^{1/4}	40 ^{3/8}	-
Petrofac	823	+3	+0.37	982	663	5.40
Plexus	57 ^{1/2}			236 ^{1/2}	40 ^{3/8}	3.00
Premier Oil	64 ^{1/2}	-2	-3.01	111 ^{1/2}	19	-
Rockhopper Explrn	29 ^{1/2}	+ ^{1/4}	+0.85	55 ^{1/4}	24 ^{1/4}	-
Ryl Ditch Shell B	1984 ^{1/2}	-10 ^{1/2}	-0.53	2148	1277 ^{1/2}	7.30
Serica Energy	13 ^{1/4}			13 ^{1/4}	4 ^{3/8}	-
Sterling Energy	13 ^{3/4}	- ^{1/4}	-1.79	17	12 ^{1/2}	-
Total (Eur)	43	- ^{3/8}	-0.80	47	35 ^{3/8}	5.60
Tullow Oil	215 ^{1/2}	-4 ^{3/4}	-2.13	281 ^{3/8}	118 ^{1/4}	-
VP	687 ^{1/2}	-17 ^{1/2}	-2.48	780 ^{1/2}	615	2.70
Wood Gp(J)	719 ^{1/2}	+6	+0.84	719 ^{1/2}	534 ^{1/2}	2.90
Xcite Energy	11 ^{1/2}	+3 ^{1/8}	+37.72	31 ^{3/8}	5	-

Local interest

Aberdn Asset Mgt	326 ^{3/8}	-1 ^{1/8}	-0.34	364 ^{1/2}	209 ^{1/4}	5.90
Alliance Trust	580	+1 ^{1/2}	+0.26	580	440 ^{3/8}	2.00
Ashley(Laura)Hldgs	21 ^{1/2}			28 ^{1/2}	20 ^{3/4}	9.30
Aviva	419 ^{1/4}	+ ^{3/4}	+0.17	521	346 ^{1/4}	5.10
Balfour Beatty	237 ^{1/8}	+2 ^{1/8}	+0.89	272 ^{1/2}	190 ^{1/4}	-
Banco Santander	328 ^{3/8}	+3 ^{1/8}	+1.20	429 ^{1/4}	260 ^{1/4}	4.30
Barr (AG)	517	-10	-1.90	614 ^{1/2}	455 ^{1/4}	2.50
Braemar Shipping	407 ^{1/8}	-7 ^{1/8}	-1.72	495	391	6.30
Braveheart Inv Gp	11 ^{1/8}	+ ^{1/8}	+1.06	19 ^{1/4}	5 ^{1/4}	-
Caledonia Invest	2400	-5	-0.21	2511	2112	2.20

Capital & Regional	59 ^{1/4}			71	46 ^{1/2}	5.30
Carrs Group	140 ^{1/2}	-1 ^{1/2}	-1.06	172 ^{1/2}	137	2.60
Clarke (T)	67 ^{1/8}	+1 ^{1/4}	+1.90	90 ^{3/8}	65 ^{1/4}	4.70
Devro	240	+4	+1.69	317	236	3.70
easyJet	1070	-6	-0.56	1808	989 ^{1/2}	5.10
FirstGroup	101 ^{1/4}	-1 ^{1/2}	-1.46	117 ^{3/8}	80 ^{1/4}	-
Genus	1932	+31	+1.63	1968	1281	1.10
Goals Soccer Cntrs	95	-1	-1.04	200	87	0.70
Greene King	802 ^{1/2}	-10	-1.23	977 ^{1/2}	728	3.90
Greggs	1053	+3	+0.29	1314	884	2.90
Hays	119 ^{1/8}			168 ^{3/8}	94	2.30
Iomart Group	308	+10 ^{1/2}	+3.53	312 ^{1/2}	214	1.10
Johnston Press	10 ^{1/4}			108	9 ^{1/8}	-
Ladbroke	149 ^{1/2}	-2	-1.32	151 ^{1/2}	93 ^{3/8}	2.00
Low & Bonar	64			71 ^{3/4}	55	4.40
Macfarlane Group	64	+ ^{1/2}	+0.79	68 ^{1/4}	43	2.90
Menzies (John)	601 ^{1/2}	-3 ^{1/2}	-0.58	605	366 ^{1/4}	2.80
Pennon Group	883 ^{1/2}	+ ^{1/2}	+0.06	945 ^{1/2}	713	3.80
Royal Mail	513	+ ^{1/2}	+0.10	541	413 ^{1/4}	4.30
Ryanair Hldgs	11 ^{1/8}	- ^{1/4}	-1.91	15 ^{3/8}	10 ^{1/2}	-
Scot American Inv	301 ^{1/2}	+4 ^{1/2}	+1.52	301 ^{1/2}	230	3.60
Stagecoach	210 ^{3/4}	-1 ^{1/4}	-0.61	401 ^{1/2}	196	5.40
STV Group	334 ^{1/2}	- ^{1/2}	-0.15	515	304	3.00
Wetherspoon (J.D)	874	-16 ^{1/2}	-1.85	890 ^{1/2}	609	1.30

KEY
xd: ex dividend
xr: ex rights
xa: ex all

S: dividend yield excludes a special payment

Commodities

Gold	\$1347.70	(troy oz)	up \$6.70
Krands	\$1366.26		up \$21.61
Silver	\$1555.26p		up 37.66p
Nickel	\$10725.00	(per tonne)	dn \$60.00
Zinc	\$2270.50		dn \$9.00
Copper	\$4778.50		dn \$17.00
Lead	\$1790.00		dn \$2.50
Aluminium	\$1625.75		dn \$18.75
Sugar (Tate & Lyle)			1.6994
Export Trade	\$549.40		dn \$3.70
Natural Gas			1.7999
Bacton	\$33.03p		dn 0.28p

Currencies

Euro/Pound	0.8592
Pound/Euro	1.1638
Pound/Dollar	1.2997
Pound/Danish Kroner	8.6570
Pound/Norwegian Kroner	10.7605
Pound/Yen	131.6850
Pound/Canadian Dollar	1.6994
Pound/Swedish Kroner	11.0068
Pound/Australian Dollars	1.6854
Pound/Chinese Remnimb	8.6154
Pound/New Zealand Dollar	1.7999
Pound/New Taiwan Dollar	40.3169

Summary

FTSE-100	6866.42	up 15.12	(+ 0.22%)
FTSE-250 Index	17699.68	up 12.28	(+ 0.07%)
FTSE A1share	3732.38	up 7.54	(+ 0.20%)
Dow Jones (6pm)	18503.95	dn 29.10	(- 0.16%)
Nikkei	16735.12	dn 29.85	(- 0.18%)

Government stocks

STOCK	PRICE	VAR	HIGH
Treasury 4.75% 2020	116 ^{3/32}	- ^{1/32}	117 ^{1/8}
Treasury 8% 2021	138		138 ^{3/32}

UK Companies earnings data supplied by **Hemscott** tel: 020 7847 0017
Prices in pence unless otherwise stated.