

## Executive Interview

# OGEC Braves African Frontiers

Over the past few years Uganda has been the site of a very active drilling program. Aiding the oil and gas firms operating in the East African country is Oil and Gas Exploration Company Krakow, Ltd. (OGEC), a unit of Polish firm PGNiG SA Capital Group. While the company has not been the only drilling firm in Uganda it has most definitely been the busiest since April 2008.

OGEC entered the African market in 2002 drilling for Fusion Oil in Ghana and since then the company has moved across the continent doing time in Mozambique for Sasol International and DNO International. The company entered the Ugandan drilling scene in February 2008 with its IRI-750 drilling rig, and began drilling its first Ugandan well in April 2008, and hasn't stopped since that time.

Petroleum Africa had the chance to ask OGEC's Jacek Rokita, Uganda Country Manager and Robert Kruk, Uganda Operations Manager a few questions on the company's Uganda drilling experience as well as a few on its operations in Mozambique.



Operations at the Buffalo prospect

All images are courtesy of OGEC Krakow, Jacek Rokita

**PA: How many rigs does OGEC have in Uganda at this time?**

Rokita: At the moment OGEC Krakow has one drilling rig, the IDECO IRI-750 in Uganda. The second drilling rig, Skytop Brewster RR-600, is going to arrive in mid-April and work for Heritage Oil. We are also thinking of bringing more rigs to Uganda, but the discussions are still at the initial stage.

**PA: What is the next well you are contracted to drill in the country and for which operator?**

Kruk: Currently we are drilling the Kasamene-3 for Tullow Oil. Tullow has not confirmed the name of the next location yet.

**PA: The drilling of the Avivi-1 well for Neptune Petroleum was delayed due to a hold up on the Tullow well OGEC was drilling; can you tell us what was the cause for the hold up?**

Kruk: The main reasons for the delay in carrying IRI-750 to Neptune were technical and geological issues but thanks to our cooperation with Tullow Oil and other service companies' specialists we managed to solve all the problems.

**PA: What is the deepest well drilled in Uganda by OGEC to date?**

Rokita: The deepest well drilled in Uganda by OGEC Krakow was the Mputa-5 well in the Kaiso-Tonya region. The total depth of this well was 1,231 meters.

**PA: What is the greatest challenge OGEC has faced while drilling in Uganda?**

Rokita: The greatest challenge our company has faced in Uganda is to present OGEC as a professional Polish drilling contractor in a

### Ugandan Wells Drilled by Krakow

Well	Operator
Taitai-1	Tullow Oil
Ngenge-1	Tullow Oil
Karuka-1	Tullow Oil
Kasamene-1	Tullow Oil
Kigogole-1	Tullow Oil
Mputa-5	Tullow Oil
Karuka-2	Tullow Oil
Nsoga-1	Tullow Oil
Awaka-1	Tullow Oil
Kigogole-3	Tullow Oil
Wahrindi-1	Tullow Oil
Ngara-1	Tullow Oil
Kasamene-2	Tullow Oil
Warthog-1	Heritage Oil
Buffalo-1	Heritage Oil
Giraffe-1	Heritage Oil
Avivi-1	Neptune Petroleum

Source: Petroleum Africa



The OGEC crew on location

new unknown market with demanding world-class operators like Tullow Oil and Heritage Oil. We hope that we coped with all required standards and the clients are satisfied with our work.

**PA: Uganda has various types of terrains; has that led to any difficulties for the company?**

Rokita: OGEC works in different parts of the world so the company is experienced and prepared for any terrain conditions. However, we do not have to worry about any difficulties connected with Uganda's land because most of the hard work is done by operators (Tullow Oil, Heritage Oil, Neptune Petroleum) who are responsible for preparing roads, drilling sites, camps, and other facilities.

Because a drilling rig is very expensive, civil engineers must do their job perfectly so as not to lead to any delays or damage of our equipment, it is not so easy. For example, in many cases the distance between two locations is only 2-3 km but, because of the difficult terrain, you have to build the road which is 15 or more km long.

**PA: What do you believe has been the company's greatest achievement in Uganda?**

Rokita: Our greatest achievement is that during an almost two-year drilling operation in Uganda we had fewer than 12 hours of non productive time and no serious accidents. We had an opportunity to show a very competent Polish drilling team, which presented its own experience, knowledge, and skills. We are glad that we can work with people of different nationalities and cultures sharing information, learning from each other, forming a drilling family, and realizing the importance of team work.

**PA: In Mozambique OGEC has drilled for Sasol and DNO, does the company have any other contracts to drill in the country?**

Kruk: We have been invited to tender by Sasol and now we are waiting for their final decision. If we are chosen, we will return to the country with pleasure.

**PA: What was the biggest challenge faced in drilling in Mozambique?**

Kruk: The biggest challenge for us was the climate of the country and new environment. Many of our employees came to Africa for



Mozambique drilling operations

the first time and had to face many new situations including a different culture, local languages, a completely different climate, tropical diseases, and animals roaming the terrain. A new experience for all of us was the hit of the cyclone, but we survived (stated with a smile).

**PA: What type of terrain was the company drilling in?**

Kruk: All wells were drilled in the bush, they were both flat and fold terrains. A big problem was a minefield, left after a civil war, which could have presented a real danger. However, every location was safe and prepared very professionally by Sasol's civil engineers and we did not have any problems there.



Aerial view of Mozambique drilling location

**PA: Any information OGEC would care to add that we have not covered here?**

Rokita: Now OGEC Krakow is working in Poland, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Ukraine, too. Soon we are planning a new campaign in Czech Republic. We hope that Africa, especially Uganda, remains an important drilling market for OGEC Krakow for a long time. **PA**