



NEWS RELEASE

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Central Gulf of Mexico Sale 206 Nets \$ 3.67 Billion in High Bids

Summary of Results

NEW ORLEANS — The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has accepted high bids valued at \$ 3,671,052,702.40 and awarded 603 leases to the successful high bidders who participated in Central Gulf of Mexico Oil and Gas Lease Sale 206. Funds from the total high bids will be distributed to the general fund of the U. S. Treasury, shared with the affected States, and set aside for special uses that benefit all fifty states.

The leases were awarded following the completion of an extensive, two-phase bid evaluation process to ensure that the Federal government receives a fair monetary return for the public mineral resources it makes available.

Eighty-five companies submitted 1,057 bids on 615 tracts in the sale, held March 19, 2008. The total for high bids submitted on all tracts was \$3,677,688,245. Using the bid evaluation process, MMS rejected high bids totaling \$6,477,661 on 11 tracts as insufficient for fair market value.

In addition, one company withdrew a bid, thereby forfeiting the lease and the 1/5th bonus which was submitted with the bid. As a result, \$39,470.40 of the \$197,352 bid on the forfeited tract has been collected.

Companies have 11 business days from the date they are notified by MMS that a bid is officially accepted to make full payment of the bonus. MMS holds the 1/5th bonus paid in advance if full payment is not made or if a company declines the lease.

The highest bid accepted on a tract was \$105,600,789 made by Anadarko E&P Company, Murphy Exploration & Production Company USA, and Samson Offshore Company for Green Canyon Block 432. This tract is in deep water (5,240 – 6,562 feet or 1,600 - 2,000 meters) and received 3 bids.

Top five companies with the highest number of accepted high bids for Sale 206:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Number of High Bids Accepted</u>	<u>Sum of High Bids Accepted</u>
BP Exploration & Production Inc.	61	\$335,998,589
Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	49	\$240,987,863
BHP Billiton Petroleum (Deepwater) Inc.	42	\$95,652,498
Cobalt International Energy, L.P.	35	\$387,961,635
Devon Energy Production Company, L.P.	31	\$93,133,740

Top five companies with the highest bonus amount accepted for Sale 206:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Number of High Bids Accepted</u>	<u>Sum of High Bids Accepted</u>
Hess Corporation	25	\$437,541,152
Cobalt International Energy, L.P.	35	\$387,961,635
BP Exploration & Production Inc.	61	\$335,998,589
ConocoPhillips Company	20	\$323,891,298
Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	49	\$240,987,863

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