

Kupe production station close to completion

22 May 2009 - The Kupe gas condensate project construction at its onshore south Taranaki production station is nearing completion.

Work on testing commissioning the first of the many systems involved at the station located west of Hawera, has also begun.

Kupe operator Origin Energy said in its first quarter report that construction of the production station was around 94% complete.

Origin said the plant remains on track for first commercial gas sales to commence in September 2009.

Construction of the two storage tanks and associated facilities at the Omata tank farm south of New Plymouth is progressing well with one tank already at full height. Laying of the 3.6 km export pipeline to carry light oil from the tanks to Port Taranaki is progressing.

New Zealand Oil & Gas, a 15% partner in the Kupe project, said in its first quarter report that around 800 workers were working on site, involved in work such as welding pipes, installing electrical connections, and providing all the finishing touches.

Origin said reservoir modelling and simulation of the Kupe South Field is ongoing with updated reserves expected by the end of June 2009.

Sources: Origin Energy, NZOG and Lindsay Clark