

Woodside sets time-table for Sunrise, Browse LNG

By Hwee Hwee Tan

Filed from Singapore 2/22/2008 4:58:22 PM GMT



AUSTRALIA: Woodside plans to make a final investment decision on the Browse LNG and Sunrise LNG projects in the next two years.

Woodside CEO Don Voelte said the company plans to commit to the Sunrise LNG project by 2009, with an eye on first LNG shipment by 2013. ConocoPhillips and Shell, the partners for the Sunrise LNG development, expressed support

towards Woodside's decision to accelerate the project, although the partners have yet to sort out their differences over the development options.

ConocoPhillips previously indicated a preference for a tie-in to the company's production facilities at the Bayu-Undan project, while Shell is reportedly keen to pursue a floating LNG concept. The East Timor government, however, is pushing for the gas to be exported onshore via a 180 kilometre (112 mile) pipeline in 3,300 metres (10,827 ft) of water.

While Woodside deliberates on the options for Sunrise, the oil and gas producer appears to have narrowed down the options for its Browse LNG project. Voelte hinted the joint venture could be adopting either one of the two options to transport gas from the Browse fields to an onshore plant located along the Kimberley coast or the Burrup Peninsula.

Voelte's comments came after the Western Australian government evaluated a proposal for a single liquefied natural gas (LNG) hub in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Woodside previously said the proposal would support the company's evaluation of the five development options to determine the best development concept for the Browse LNG project.

Voelte said the Browse LNG joint venture would reach a final decision on the project in 2010 with first LNG exports expected between 2013 and 2015.