

Woodside, Inpex in talks on Browse, Ichthys options

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PERTH, AUSTRALIA: Australia's Woodside Petroleum Ltd. and Japan's Inpex Corp. are reportedly discussing a co-operation deal for the development of the Browse liquefied natural gas (LNG) and Ichthys gas projects off Western Australia, according to a Bloomberg report. Woodside's Don Voelte told reporters in Perth the company is in talks with Inpex to "co-locate" operations in Browse Basin in "one of two or three

different ways." The options include an onshore plant in Burrup Peninsula or a floating LNG plant offshore Western Australia.

An Inpex spokesperson told EnergyCurrent the company is in talks with a few oil and gas operators active in Western Australia on "general operational matters." Inpex is considering a number of options for Ichthys gas development, however, a liquefied natural gas plant at Maret Islands or Darwin remains the preferred option for the company, the spokesperson said.

Inpex previously planned to reach a final investment decision on the Ichthys gas project in fourth quarter of this year, while Woodside is expected to reach a final decision on the Browse LNG project in 2010.