

Woodside denies talks with Inpex over Browse, Ichthys

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PERTH, AUSTRALIA: Woodside Petroleum Ltd. today denied having any plans to co-locate its Browse LNG project with Inpex Corp.'s Ichthys gas project.

Woodside responded to an earlier Bloomberg report which claimed the duo are in talks to co-locate operations for Browse and Ichthys projects in "one of two or three different ways", including an onshore plant in Burrup Peninsula or a floating LNG plant offshore Western Australia.

Two of the five options, the Burrup and the Kimberley, have emerged as the preferred options as the evaluation progresses, a Woodside spokesperson told Energy Current.

Last Friday, an Inpex spokesperson told Energy Current 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.