



## NEWS RELEASE

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### OCS Lease Sale 196 Phase I Decision

The Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico Regional Office, announces its OCS Lease Sale 196 Phase 1 Decision. The Phase 1 Decision was finalized on September 30, 2005, with the acceptance of 90 high bids, totaling \$28,230,701, submitted on tracts offered for lease in Sale 196. The Final Phase 1 Decision Matrix details the Phase 1 Bid Evaluation criteria and those tracts with high bids accepted under those criteria. The Final Phase 1 Acceptances report details the tracts with high bids accepted under Phase 1 by the companies submitting the high bids (in MMS Company Number order). These documents can be obtained through our Public Information Office and at the following Internet links:

The Phase 1 Decision Matrix for Sale 196 is located at

<http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/lseale/196/FinalPhase1DecisionMatrix196.PDF>

The Sale 196 Phase 1 Acceptances by Submitter is at

<http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/lseale/196/FinalPhase1Acceptances196.pdf>

MMS, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, oversees 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf, managing offshore energy and minerals while protecting the human, marine, and coastal environments. The OCS provides 30 percent of oil and 21 percent of natural gas produced domestically, as well as sand used for coastal restoration. MMS collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands, and contributes to the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other special use funds, with Fiscal Year 2004 disbursements of about \$8 billion and more than \$143 billion since 1982.

**MMS Main Website:** [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov)  
**Gulf of Mexico Website:** [www.gomr.mms.gov](http://www.gomr.mms.gov)

\*\*\*MMS: Securing Ocean Energy & Economic Value for America\*\*\*