



NEWS RELEASE

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Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale Receives 1,428 Bids on 723 Tracts

NEW ORLEANS – The bids are in for the upcoming federal oil and gas lease sale in the Central Gulf of Mexico. The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) Gulf of Mexico Region announced that 1,428 bids were received from 73 companies on 723 tracts offered in Lease Sale 205.

“The number of bids received for this sale reaffirms the strong commitment of the offshore oil and gas industry to develop the nation’s oil and gas resources in the Gulf of Mexico,” said Randall Luthi, MMS director.

Reading of the sealed bids for Lease Sale 205 will take place tomorrow, October 3, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Sheraton New Orleans, 500 Canal Street, Grand Salon C in downtown New Orleans, Louisiana.

Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne will open the sale, and Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management C. Stephen Allred, and MMS Director Randall Luthi will be available after the sale to discuss the results.

Preliminary sale statistics are posted on the MMS website at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/lseale/205/cgom205.html>

This sale will be WebCast through the Offshore Oil Scouts Association at www.oosa.com. Real Player will need to be installed in order to run the WebCast. Webcasts of the lease sale does not imply any endorsement by MMS.

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