

DOVE ENERGY SYRIA – CONTINUING EXPLORATION STORY by Paul King



Dove Energy Inc Syria (Dove) has been active in the field of oil and gas exploration in Syria since the ratification of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for Block VI in March 2005. The two years since the ratification of the PSC have been an extremely busy period for **Dove** and culminated in the drilling of the Maree#1 exploration well at the end of 2006.

In these two years, **Dove** has been instrumental in introducing a new seismic data acquisition technique to

the Syrian oil and gas exploration arena and in importing a medium capacity drilling rig into Syria.

Because of the environmentally sensitive and mountainous nature of the area north-west of Aleppo, in which the new seismic data was to be acquired, **Dove** employed the "pop shot" acquisition technique. This technique had been successfully used in **Dove's** operations in Yemen. The technique requires the drilling of multiple shallow holes, which

are then packed with smaller than normal parcels of dynamite, causing much reduced environmental impact. This was the first time that this technique had been used in Syria.

The Maree #1 exploration well, which was located near Kiljbreen, 35km to the NNW of Aleppo, was successfully drilled to a depth of 1830m in 26 days in October 2006. There were encouraging shows of oil in several horizons and the well is due to be tested later in 2007. The results of Maree #1 offer