Shallow Gas Play in the Netherlands Takes Off

Introduction
In the northern part of the Dutch offshore many amplitude anomalies can be identified on seismic. These bright spots often indicate the presence of shallow gas, defined as gas in unconsolidated sediments of Miocene-Pliocene age. Depth ranges typically from 300 to 800 m. The traps are generally low relief anticlines related to salt domes. Shales act as seal. Venting to shallower units often creates a stacked pattern of bright spots with separate gas columns.

Sediments include clean or finely laminated sandstones and shales that are part of a large-scale fluvio-deltaic delta system, the Eridanos Delta. This system developed during the Late Cenozoic due to the uplift of the Fennoscandian shield. Sediments were transported from the NE towards the SW into the present-day North Sea area.

Why exploring for Shallow Gas now?
Currently there are 3 producing shallow fields in the Dutch offshore amongst 5 other proven accumulations. There is significant potential for more shallow E&P activities. The area is largely covered by 3D seismic, incl. a large, new multiclient survey (2012). A marginal field tax incentive is applicable to all shallow fields.

For all information and data on Exploration and Production in the Netherlands, see the Netherlands Oil and Gas Portal www.nlog.nl & www.ebn.nl
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