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pipeline system.

Scott Kerr, managing director BP Norge, said: "BP holds a non-strategic, non-operating minority stake in the Ormen Lange field and we prefer to use our resources in projects that are strategic for BP."

The Ormen Lange field, discovered in 1997, is the second largest gas field on the Norwegian continental shelf. The field is located 120 kilometres off the west coast of Norway, covering an area of 350 square kilometres in water depths of 800-1200 metres. The field's development plan is based on 14 trillion cubic feet (397 billion cubic metres) of gas resources.

Gas from the field will be exported to UK and European markets via the new 1200 kilometre Langeled pipeline.

Development of the field was approved by the Norwegian parliament in April 2004 and first production is expected in 2007.

JPMorgan Chase & Co have been retained by BP to advise on the planned sale.

Notes to editors:

- The partners in the Ormen Lange development are: Norsk Hydro (18.07 per cent and development phase operator), Shell (17.04 per cent and production phase operator), Petoro (36.48 per cent), Statoil (10.84 per cent), BP Norge (10.34 per cent) and Exxon Mobil (7.23 per cent).

Further information:

Jan Erik Geirmo, BP Norge press spokesman: +47 52 01 3205.  
 Olav Fjellsa, manager Government & Public Affairs, BP Norge: +47 52 01 3490.  
 David Nicholas, BP press office, London: +44 20 7496 4708.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BP p.l.c.  
(Registrant)

Dated: 19 October 2004

/s/ D. J. PEARL  
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 D. J. PEARL  
 Deputy Company Secretary