



The Resource Potential of Tatarstan and the Ways to Replenish Hydrocarbon Reserves

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Tatarstan has the largest initial hydrocarbon resources in the Volga-Ural petroleum province, which amount to 31% of the province's approved reserves and are contained in 13.1% of its fields. Specific oil and bitumen contents per unit area in Tatarstan exceed those of all other oil regions of European Russia. Highly prospective lands of Eastern Tatarstan remain the major exploration targets both geologically and economically. However, the exploration results show that their potentials are all contained in small deposits with average reserves of 200 to 250 thous. tonnes confined to areas between the known fields. The prospective and low-potential lands occupy more than 40% of Tatarstan's territory. Western Tatarstan is believed to be of low potential due to insufficient data on the area but is geologically characterised as promising for the formation and preservation of small oil deposits. The exploration target was represented by oil fields and prospects of the South Tatarstan Arch where some new direct oil exploration technologies were tested in 2005-2006. The operations resulted in the preliminary evaluation of the efficiency of these technologies and allowed the commencement of the integrated data correlation for reference areas. The new oil exploration technologies can be used in highly prospective oil regions of the Volga-Ural area with regular and supplementary exploration activities in oil and gas fields and deposits.