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Bolivia starts airborne oil exploration



The airborne hydrocarbon search will start in Tarija, but it will extend to the nine departments of Bolivia. This method is intended to preserve the environment

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Bolivia started the airborne exploration of hydrocarbon areas utilizing the SFD geophysical method, which will allow to **detect potential deposits from the air** in a non-invasive way, said on Saturday the NOC Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos.

The system was presented in Tarija, where most of the country's proven energy reserves are located, in a ceremony attended by Bolivian president Evo Morales, who noted that this method **"is meant not to disturb the environment"** and to know exactly what we have in this mother earth.

NXT is the Canadian Company awarded with the exploration contract, with a duration of 5 months and a **Budget of US 16, 5 million.**

YPFB's president, Guillermo Achá, explained that the exploration final data will be available in November, although he pointed out that this system "**generates very early results** which can be used to make technical decisions about the investigated exploratory areas "

"Thanks to this method we will be able to secure new reserves of both, gas and liquids" hydrocarbons, Achá added. The airborne exploration **will cover the nine departments** of the country, along 112 flight lines which will cover 8.732 kilometers.

The SFD airborne System acquires data through **groups of sensors that detect anomalies** in the field that are indicative of potential hydrocarbon presence.

The acquired data is subsequently analyzed and crossed with seismic data from the explored areas which "reduce the exploratory risk of a project", said YPFB's president

Also, the Hydrocarbons minister, Luis Alberto Sánchez, highlighted the compliance with the **Hydrocarbon exploration plan** of the NOC, which includes 86 projects in 63 new areas.

According to a certification disseminated in 2014, the **gas proven reserves** of Bolivia are around 10.45 billion cubic feet.

Bolivia, which nationalized the hydrocarbons sector in 2006, has set a goal of intense exploration of new reservoirs to **expand those reserves**, which at current rates of consumption would be enough up to 2023, however, according to industry experts, the deficit will start in 2017.

Selling energy products to Brazil and Argentina markets, is at this moment, the pillar of the Bolivian economy.