

# DEAL

## Digital Energy Atlas and Library

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In June 2000, the BGS, in partnership with ESRI (UK) Limited, was awarded a contract by Common Data Access Limited (CDA) to develop and run a comprehensive Internet-based exploration and production data service. CDA is wholly owned by the United Kingdom Offshore Operators Association (UKOOA), who have promoted the concept of DEAL as one of the initiatives developed from the Oil and Gas Industry Task Force, and its replacement PILOT. This government-industry partnership is charged with developing new ways to increase the competitiveness and efficiency of the UK hydrocarbon industry.

The central theme of DEAL will be a public web-enabled Geographical Information System (GIS) that will allow users to access data via a map-based interface. The DEAL database

will become the definitive metadatabase for the oil industry, and is intended to become a single virtual repository for UK data. Users will be able to select data and be directed to the data vendor web site or e-mail contact.

The current contract runs for three years and is subdivided into three phases. Phase 1 went live in September 2000 and may be accessed via a public website ([www.ukdeal.co.uk](http://www.ukdeal.co.uk)). Phase 2 will be developed in the next few months and will provide a service for subscribers to ascertain what data they have entitlement to, and also select new data for purchase. Phase 3 will be ongoing throughout the initial three years and will be the main phase of data capture.

DEAL may be divided into three complementary services:

### iDEAL: The information service

This will provide the definitive source of reliable basic data, including:

- coastlines and international boundaries
- quadrants, blocks and licences
- well location data
- 3D seismic outlines
- 2D seismic outlines
- field outlines and surface infrastructure locations
- pipeline and other subsurface infrastructure

In many cases, where the data are clearly in the public domain, users will be able to download the data directly from the DEAL web site. This service alone is seen as a significant step forward for the UK, where despite many years of exploration and production, there is no definitive source of well coordinates, for example.

### uDEAL: The data market place

The aim for the DEAL site is to provide a comprehensive catalogue of geoscientific data on one site. Users will be able to see the full extent of available well, seismic and other data for a given area, and be directed rapidly to the relevant data vendors. Data vendors will be able to advertise their products to the entire industry. Users will be able to see a full range of data available for a specific area, and companies new to the UK will be able to enter the market place with ease.

### eDEAL: The unified data network

Phase 2 will see the data market place extended and DEAL will become the entry to a network of linked data repositories. Subscribers will be able to use an entitlements and ordering system to obtain copies of data as required. This will enable the industry and DTI to maintain one set of data and generate significant savings in the cost of data storage.

A medium-term goal is to provide as much data as possible, including well and seismic trace data, by electronic means.

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Flow-chart showing the DEAL GIS.