

BP signs MoU with Venezuela for Loran field



Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodríguez AP PHOTO

BP and the Venezuelan government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the exploration of natural gas in the Loran offshore area, international news agencies reported yesterday.

The MoU establishes “potential areas for co-operation in material gas and future exploration,” BP said yesterday in an emailed statement. Venezuela state firm Petroleos de Venezuela SA also announced the pact.

The deal followed an energy conference in Caracas that drew a large turnout from international companies and investors.

European oil companies have been particularly keen to advance in Venezuela. Italian major Eni SpA announced an oil project on Tuesday and has a plan to start exporting natural gas with Spain's Repsol SA starting in 2031.

“The return of BP is a clear sign of the future we want to chart for Venezuela and for international energy relations— relationships based on respect, cooperation grounded in a win-win approach, and shared benefits that contribute to the development of the Venezuelan people,” acting President Delcy Rodríguez said at the signing ceremony.

BP executive William Lin said the company was pleased to be partners with Venezuela on the exploration of the Loran area, as well as other projects, including the commercialisation of gas.