

# *Cuba Advances Modern Oil Drilling Techniques*

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Havana, September 11 (RHC) — Cuba's Oil Company CUPET is currently advancing horizontal oil drilling in an effort to exploit new reserves and contribute to the country's economic development. The oil sector has thus far advanced the initiative with prospects to drill the first multilateral well soon.

"We are meeting our well drilling schedules, we have thus far concluded six wells with satisfactory results particularly this year with the horizontal drilling technique, and we are now drilling our first multilateral well," said Julio Jimenez Drilling Director of the Cuban Oil Company Cupet in statements to local television.

Horizontal drilling from land allows more efficiency in reaching oil reserves located at over 4 500 meters offshore and lowers the cost and time of each action, according to specialists.

As technology allows reaching from land the reserves located under the marine platform it makes it much cheaper than mounting a rig that could cost four or five times higher, said Jimenez and added that any pollution risk during the oil collection and production would be significantly reduced.

Most drilling actions in Cuba are targeting the marine platform from systems based onshore that may reach from 5 to 8 kilometers offshore. Seven wells are currently in production, with a new one currently in the works.

Specialists of oil companies from different countries have visited the Cuban region and ongoing works, and they have agreed that what has been achieved in terms of horizontal drilling on the island is significant if compared to other actions in Latin America.

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