

CASE STUDY

Intermap® facilitates better decisions in Indonesian oil and gas exploration project.

Challenges

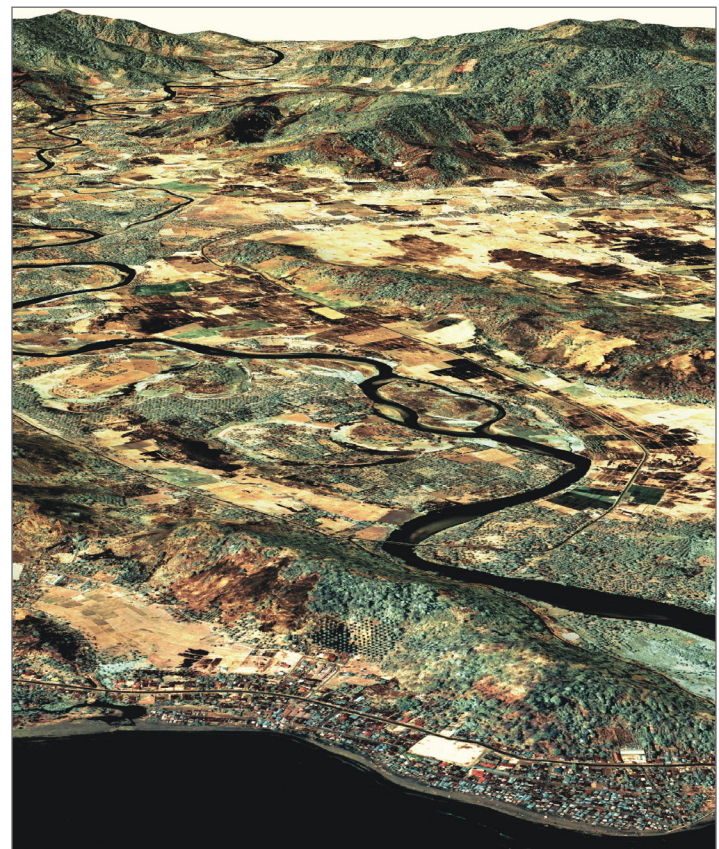
Marathon Oil Corporation, the fourth-largest U.S.-based integrated oil and gas company, includes Indonesia as part of its primary deepwater exploration program. In 2006, Marathon was awarded a 1.2 million-acre block off the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia. The company needed the most up-to-date topographical information to study the onshore portion of its block.

“We committed to conduct a field geological survey program onshore,” said Geologist Stephen Calvert, Marathon International Petroleum Indonesia Limited, a subsidiary of Marathon. “This was the biggest exploration project conducted on the island in more than 10 years.”

In the 1990s, Calvert had studied the area in and around Marathon’s block extensively with elementary tools – a global positioning systems (GPS) device, notebook, pen, compass, and bags to collect geological samples. He later used synthetic aperture

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Project delays
REDUCED
by six months



Perspective view of Sulawesi created by draping Quickbird Pan-Sharpener Satellite Imagery from DigitalGlobe over an Intermap digital elevation model.

radar imagery to build hard copy geological maps, which was fit-for-purpose at the time. But when Calvert joined Marathon a decade later, he decided better imagery was needed and he searched to find a solution.

Solution

Marathon purchased digital elevation models (DEMs) created by Intermap's proprietary interferometric synthetic aperture radar (IFSAR) technology and used NEXTMap® products, including digital surface models (DSMs) and orthorectified radar images (ORIs), for the Indonesian exploration project. The Intermap datasets gave Marathon modern and precise elevation models and geographic images that could also help the company's field professionals determine

where to drill, route a pipeline, or build related facilities before breaking new ground.

Results

"They had exactly what we needed," Calvert said. "I knew we could first use the data to help us make better decisions and guide us to outcrops that we wouldn't have found if we'd wandered around using traditional hard-copy maps and GPS devices."

Calvert and his team used their laptops and GPS devices to maneuver in the field. "Intermap's GIS products helped us stay safe while we were out there," he said. "When we entered remote areas by truck, horse or on foot, we always knew where we were and used Intermap's imagery to enhance our surveying efforts."

“Using the data was a massive leap for our Indonesian exploration project. We were able to interpret remotely sensed geological information in the field and reduce interpretation delays because we had Intermap's data.”

Stephen Calvert
Geologist
Marathon Oil Company

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