



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bids Received for Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale

NEW ORLEANS – The bids are in for Western Gulf of Mexico Federal Oil and Gas Lease Sale 207 to be held tomorrow. The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) Gulf of Mexico Region announced that 423 bids were received from 47 companies on 319 tracts offered offshore Texas.

“This sale is an important next step in the journey to ensuring the nation’s energy security,” said MMS Director Randall Luthi. “The participation of the offshore oil and gas industry in this sale shows their commitment to the leasing, exploration, and production of the nation’s energy resources in the Gulf of Mexico.”

Reading of the sealed bids will take place tomorrow, August 20, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Royal Sonesta Hotel, 300 Bourbon Street, New Orleans.

Preliminary sale statistics for Western Sale 207 are posted on the MMS website at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/lseale/207/wgom207.html>

The sales will be Webcast through the Offshore Oil Scouts Association at www.oosa.com. Real Player will need to be installed in order to run the Webcast. Webcast of the lease sale does not imply any endorsement by MMS.

—MMS—

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