

# This is BP

## Interactive resources

Visit [www.bp.com/investortools](http://www.bp.com/investortools) to chart our key financial and operating information for the past five years, on an annual or quarterly basis, for the BP group as a whole or by business segment.

BP p.l.c. is the parent company of the BP group of companies. Unless otherwise stated, the text does not distinguish between the activities and operations of the parent company and those of its subsidiaries.

BP is a leader in our industry and that position is reflected in our standards of social responsibility, corporate governance and financial and sustainability reporting, of which this document is part. For a complete view of BP's performance, this document should be read in conjunction with *BP Annual Report and Accounts 2008*, *BP Annual Report on Form 20-F 2008* and *BP Sustainability Review 2008*. Copies may be obtained free of charge (see page 71).



These yellow boxes highlight sources of information you might find helpful. They refer to other general BP content available online, which does not form part of *Financial and Operating Information 2004-2008*.

BP is one of the world's largest oil and gas companies, supplying millions of customers in more than 90 countries across six continents. Our business segments are Exploration and Production and Refining and Marketing. Through these business segments, we provide fuel for transportation, retail brands and energy for heat and light.

BP's three priorities are safety, people and performance. We have great positions in many of the major hydrocarbon basins of the world. We also have great market positions in the key economies and are preparing for the future by building a new low-carbon energy business.

## Overview

# BP history at a glance



### 1. Anglo-Persian Oil Company

BP was incorporated in 1909 as the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. This followed several years of very demanding exploration, including the test drilling shown in this photograph at Chiah Siurkh, Persia in 1902.

### 2. Alaska

250 miles north of the Arctic Circle, our Endicott field was the world's first offshore Arctic oilfield.

### 3. Thunder Horse

On 14 June 2008 the world's largest floating platform processed oil for the first time.

1909

The company is incorporated in England as the Anglo-Persian Oil Company Limited. The incorporation focuses on the commercialization of Masjid-i-Suleiman in Iran, the first commercial oil discovery in the Middle East.

1920s-1930s

The Anglo-Persian Oil Company Limited becomes the pre-eminent oil producer in the Middle East. The company enters into international marketing in continental Europe, Africa and Australia.

1922

After eight years of majority share ownership, the British government begins offering ordinary shares of Anglo-Persian Oil Company stock for sale to the public.

1954

The company name becomes The British Petroleum Company Limited. Marketing activities extend to New Zealand, parts of Africa and more countries in Europe. A consortium agreement for Iranian oil gives BP a 40% stake.

1969

BP enters North America with its discovery and major share of the Prudhoe Bay oil field on Alaska's North Slope. This leads in the following year to BP's taking a sizeable interest in Standard Oil of Ohio.

1978

BP gains a majority interest in Standard Oil. The company acquires the chemicals and plastics interests in Europe of Union Carbide and, in 1979, of Monsanto.

1987

Privatization of BP shares is completed. Following periodic public offerings of a minority of its shareholdings over the previous 65 years, the British government disposes of nearly all the remaining 32% shareholding in BP. In December, BP makes an offer to purchase Standard Oil and the deal is completed the following year.

1997

In response to mounting evidence and concern regarding greenhouse gas emissions and the rising temperature of the earth, BP becomes the first in its industry to state publicly the need for precautionary action on climate change.

1998

BP merges with Amoco, the world's largest industrial merger at the time, becoming one of three leaders in the oil and gas industry. The merger gives the combined companies the opportunity to compete through a highly distinctive set of people, assets and market positions.

2000

ARCO joins the BP group in a \$34-billion transaction that provides coast-to-coast coverage of the US fuels market. BP's acquisition of Burmah Castrol strengthens BP's market-facing business with one of the world's great brands.

2002

Acquisition of Veba's retail and refining assets in Germany and central Europe makes BP the market leader in Germany and Austria. BP markets under the Aral brand in Germany.

2003

TNK-BP, the joint venture between BP and AAR (the Alfa Group and Access-Renova), operating in Russia, is finalized. The venture gives BP a major stake in one of the world's great hydrocarbon provinces.

2005

BP sells its Innovene business, including its olefins and derivatives business and refineries in Grangemouth, UK and Lavéra, France, for \$8.3 billion cash. BP Alternative Energy, a new business dedicated to generating low carbon power, is launched.

2007

Tony Hayward succeeds Lord Browne as group chief executive. BP's deepwater projects – Atlantis in the Gulf of Mexico, and Greater Plutonio in Angola – start up. BP buys out the minority shareholding of its refinery in Rotterdam in the Netherlands from Chevron and sells its refinery in Coryton, UK.

2008

Thunder Horse – the largest semi submersible facility in the world – comes onstream, and BP achieves resource replacement of more than 200% and reported reserves replacement of more than 100% in 2008. This is 15th consecutive year reserves replacement has exceeded 100%.