



Bob Dudley press conference remarks at the BP and Reliance Industries press conference 21 February 2011

Thank you Mukesh

Hello everyone and thanks for your interest today. As Mukesh and the Chairman have explained, we are today announcing a transformational partnership with Reliance Industries, India's largest business enterprise.

As we invest in this partnership together over time we will create one of the largest single foreign direct investment in India.

Through this agreement, BP will take a 30% stake in the exploration and production licences for 23 blocks which today produce around a third of India's gas consumption - about 1.8 billion cubic feet per day. Most of these blocks are offshore off the east coast and south west coast of India. They cover 270 thousand square kilometres.

In addition, we will set up a 50/50 joint venture with Reliance to supply, market and trade natural gas, including liquefied natural gas or LNG across India and the entire value chain.

Reliance is the premier energy company in India with a strong portfolio of deepwater assets and an unrivalled track record of exploration in the KG basin. Mukesh and his team at Reliance have developed offshore projects and refineries to world-class standards over the last five years. And I am very pleased that the BP team have already developed a strong working relationship with Mukesh and his colleagues.

For BP, this partnership significantly expands our business in a country where we already have 8,000 employees and a strong presence. This has been established over 100 years through Castrol, India's market leader in the retail automotive lubricant business, and Tata BP Solar, a joint venture with the Tata Group.

The agreement is also very much consistent with the strategic priorities that we presented earlier this month:

- It takes us deeper into the emerging markets where most of the world's growth in energy demand is coming from. BP now has major investments in each of the large, fast-growing economies that will be central to the development of the world economy.

- It plays to BP's strengths – in this case, those of development and production from deepwater reservoirs in the upstream and the gas value chain downstream.
- And it represents a further great partnership with a great energy business - Reliance.

This is also a good deal for investors. Through this agreement, BP gets the chance to apply its value-creating capabilities in a country that represents one of the world's most exciting growth opportunities.

May I conclude by saying that it is gratifying for our two companies to be playing a part in the long-standing relationship between Britain and India. That relationship has always been underpinned by business and the partnership between Reliance and BP creates a new and important link.

I'm delighted that our partnership is in line with the interests of both nations and I thank both governments for their support.