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Ecopetrol, Repsol find heavy oil in central Colombia

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Ecopetrol and Repsol have announced the discovery of heavy crude oil at their Tinamú-1 exploration well in central Colombia.

Drilling reached a total depth of 7,832ft and tested for hydrocarbons

in the K1 operating formation at a depth of 7,500ft, according to an Ecopetrol statement. Initial tests produced 7,329b of oil with a water cut of 1%.

"This well has a strategic location, because it is close to the Ecopetrol fields: Castilla and Chichimene in the department of Meta, where a large part of Colombia's oil production is extracted," Colombia's state-run oil company said.

"This feature makes it possible to take advantage of the existing oil infrastructure in the area to facilitate the future development of the discovery."

The Tinamú area forms part of the Llanos basin's CPO 9 block, in which Ecopetrol holds a 55% operating stake and Repsol the remainder.

The companies will submit an evaluation plan to the National Hydrocarbons Agency (ANH) and undertake an extensive testing phase to determine the

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