DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

Contribution to supply security

Wintershall Dea has its roots in Germany – and has been producing natural gas and crude oil there for many decades. The company will continue to play its part in ensuring Germany’s supply security, develop sophisticated production technologies and set standards in health, safety and the environment. We export the know-how acquired at home all over the world.

It is Wintershall Dea’s conviction that securing the supply of energy starts on our own doorstep. Whether industry, transportation, heating or agriculture – Germany needs domestic energy resources and we supply them. To produce gas and oil, great technological expertise and prudence are required. Wintershall Dea has acquired its outstanding technological competence in Germany, the country of engineering skill. In particular, Wintershall Dea sets standards when it comes to research into natural gas production and increasing the recovery rate from crude oil reservoirs.

Germany’s federal states and municipalities also benefit from domestic production. After all, Wintershall Dea as an employer, tax payer and customer is an important economic factor. The company has strong roots at all its German locations and a tradition of nurturing open and transparent dialogue with neighbours and citizens.
Domestic natural gas

Lower Saxony is the centre of natural gas production in Germany. Bötersen, Hemsbünder and Völkersen, the natural gas fields in this federal state, are among the ten most productive in the country. With some 20 wells, Wintershall Dea has produced natural gas from the "Völkersen/Völkersen North" reservoir since 1992. However, production is now declining. The Gas Nord production facility at Langwedel-Holtebüttel in the district Verden an der Aller is responsible for producing and processing the natural gas.

Since 1965, Wintershall Dea has been recovering sour gas in the Lower Saxony municipality of Staffhorst near Nienburg, making it one of the global pioneers in the production of this type of natural gas. A new well was completed in 2020. At the Barrien gas field in Weyhe, Lower Saxony, Wintershall Dea produces natural gas from variegated sandstone at a depth of 2,200 to 2,600 metres.

Germany's only offshore natural gas production platform is located in what is known as the "Duck's Bill" in the extreme tip of the German North Sea. Wintershall Dea produces the natural gas from the rig A6-A, which is located in the sea some 300 kilometres north-west of the Elbe estuary. The platform is a pioneering project with great potential: The infrastructure created with it allows for further natural gas deposits in the adjacent sea areas to be developed.

Domestic crude oil

On the southern edge of the Wadden Sea National Park in Schleswig-Holstein, seven kilometres off the coast, the Mittelplate drilling and production island can be found. Wintershall Dea has been producing oil from what is by far Germany’s most important crude field for more than 30 years – safely and without incidents. That is attributable to responsible conduct, the use of cutting-edge technology, highly qualified employees, and complex monitoring and safety systems. Our track record shows: Crude oil production and protection of the environment can also be reconciled in a sensitive ecosystem.

Since 1987, Wintershall Dea has produced over 260 million barrels of oil equivalent in Mittelplate. To ensure that Mittelplate can continue making an important contribution to domestic production in the future, Wintershall Dea initiated a further drilling campaign in 2017. In addition to the successful offshore operation, Wintershall Dea also recovers oil from the eastern parts of the reservoir from the shore using extended reach production wells, which are some of the longest of their kind worldwide.
In **Emlichheim** at the German-Dutch border Wintershall Dea has been producing oil at a constantly high level for 75 years. This is thanks to the globally unique and continuously improved steam flooding technology employed here. Steam with a temperature of 300 degrees makes the oil in the Emlichheim reservoir less viscous and easier to produce, meaning that one of world’s oldest crude oil fields will keep on setting standards in the future. The objective is to maintain the level of output for decades to come.

Wintershall Dea launched a new drilling campaign there in the autumn of 2019. Two of the in total four new wells will be used to produce crude oil, while hot steam will be injected into the reservoir through the other two. In addition, two existing production wells will be sidetracked to other areas of the reservoir.

**Barnstorf** in Lower Saxony is Wintershall Dea’s central technology and training location and boasts various underground services, the recently opened technology centre, and the global drill core warehouse. In 2018, Wintershall Dea expanded the technology centre, equipping it with state-of-the-art digital technologies. Around 5,000 samples from production regions worldwide are analysed here each year. The centrepiece of the new lab is a micro-computed tomography system assisting the 35-person team with the analyses. Using the new high-tech equipment, the so-called digital rocks method, Wintershall Dea’s experts produce high-precision 3D images of drill cores from natural gas and crude oil reservoirs.

Wintershall Dea also has a long tradition of producing crude oil at its Barnstorf location (Diepholz district) and in the **Hankensbüttel** region (Gifhorn district). In Hankensbüttel, Wintershall Dea recently completed and put into operation two new wells successfully.

Natural gas and crude oil from Germany provide a decisive home advantage for our energy supply. Every cubic metre and litre produced at home means a bit of independence and strengthens the domestic economy.

---

**Wintershall Dea in Germany: at a glance**

- **Market entry**: 1894
- **Onshore**: Lower Saxony
- **Offshore**: Schleswig-Holstein
- **Natural gas and oil production (in 2019)**: 25 mboe per day / 24 mboe per day
- **Ratio of natural gas to oil**: 51% natural gas / 49% oil