Brazil is the largest country in South America and one of the most attractive growth regions for the oil and gas industry worldwide: the country’s offshore region is considered to be one of the most promising. Wintershall Dea is working towards building up a resource base in Brazil over the coming years.

In spring 2018, Wintershall Dea was awarded seven exploration licences by the National Agency for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels (Agência Nacional do Petróleo, Gas Natural e Biocombustíveis, ANP). The licences are located off the country’s northeast and southeast coasts.

In October 2019, Wintershall Dea was awarded two further offshore blocks in the Santos and Campos basins with its partners Repsol and Chevron (operator).

Wintershall Dea currently holds interests in nine exploration licenses offshore Brazil and is operator in four blocks.

Promising deep water projects in the South Atlantic Margin

Deep-water drilling technology has made enormous progress in recent years. The latest deep-water drilling rigs on modern ships, for example, can drill in water depths of up to 3,600 metres.
Successful market entry

With its successful participation in the 15th Offshore Licensing Round in Brazil, Wintershall Dea has made an impressive market entry. The operated licences are located in the Ceará (Wintershall Dea 100%) and Potiguar (70% Wintershall Dea, operator, 30% Murphy Oil Corporation) basins off the north-eastern coast of Brazil. In Brazil’s 16th bidding round Europe’s largest independent gas and oil producer was awarded two additional offshore blocks in the Santos and Campos basins. Wintershall Dea holds stakes in five licences there and works together with its partners Repsol (Spain) and Chevron (USA). Wintershall Dea’s share of the blocks is 20 percent.

Initial exploration activities in the Atlantic Ocean

A 3D seismic data survey in Brazil’s Potiguar basin, was successfully acquired. The survey was carried out covering a marine area of roughly 8,200 square kilometres. It covered not only Wintershall Dea’s blocks, but also collected data from the adjacent areas. This will ultimately enable a more regional evaluation of the western part of the deep-water basin’s exploration potential.

A detailed 3D model of the subsurface is now being created from the data, in order to provide more information about the geology and exploration potential of the Potiguar basin.

Huge oil and gas reserves

Brazil’s potential for oil and gas production is extraordinarily high. There are enormous quantities of hydrocarbons in the pre-salt reservoirs in the Santos and Campos basins. With 83 per cent of the country’s 2P liquid reserves, the Santos basin holds particularly large quantities of commercial oil reserves. Also promising are the 2P gas reserves which represent 65 per cent of the total reserves in Brazil. The Campos basin in the southeast is said to hold 27 per cent of the countries gas reserves.*

Wintershall Dea in Brazil: at a glance

- **Country entry:** 2018
- **Offshore:** Ceará basin, Potiguar basin, Santos basin, Campos basin
- **Brazil’s oil reserves:** 13.4 billion barrel**
- **Brazil’s gas reserves:** 400 billion cubic metres**

* Wood Mackenzie, “Brazil upstream summary”, April 2019
** BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2019