

GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS

**MINISTRY OF ENERGY, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**



BARBADOS 2026 OFFSHORE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS

GUIDELINES FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS

UPDATED AUGUST 12, 2026

1. Invitation to Participate in Direct Negotiations for Exploration Licences

- 1.1. The Government of Barbados, through the Minister responsible for Energy (“the Designated Authority”) hereby invites pre-qualified parties to participate in Direct Negotiations for Exploration Licences (“Licences”) to explore for hydrocarbons in the blocks listed in the schedules to this Notice (Attachment I) and shown on the enclosed map (Attachment II).
- 1.2. Any Licence granted in accordance with this Notice and pursuant to Direct Negotiations will be subject to the provisions of the Offshore Petroleum Act Cap. 282A, the Offshore Petroleum (Amendment) Act 2012-28, the Offshore Petroleum (Taxation) Act Cap. 80, the Offshore Petroleum (Taxation) (Amendment) Act 2012-27, the Offshore Petroleum Regulations 2013/111, the Offshore Petroleum (Amendment) Act 2017 and any subsequent amendments made thereto (“the Offshore Petroleum Laws”), together with the provisions detailed in this Notice.
- 1.3. This Notice replaces all previous communications from the Ministry of Energy, Business Development and Consumer Affairs (the “Ministry”) regarding the Barbados 2026 Offshore Direct Negotiations. All interested parties must follow the procedures established in this Notice. Any other representations made by employees or officers of the Ministry or any of its affiliates regarding the terms of this Notice will not be binding on the Ministry or any of its affiliates.

2. Specific Terms for Direct Negotiations

2.1 Pre-qualification

All parties seeking to participate in Direct Negotiations must be qualified before entering Direct Negotiations. One of the parties must be qualified as an operator. Qualification must be in accordance with the Barbados 2026 Offshore Direct Negotiations Pre-qualification Criteria. Pre-qualification documents may be submitted to the Ministry for consideration from June 1, 2026 and no later than 12 noon local time on September 1, 2026.

2.2 Licensing of the Barbados 2026 Offshore Data Package and Multi-client Data

Before entering into Direct Negotiations, qualified companies must license the Barbados 2026 Offshore Data Package or provide proof of licensing previous data packages or purchasing a minimum total of 500 line-km of Multi-Client Data from one of the approved multi-client vendors. Details on the content and availability of the Barbados 2026 Offshore Data Package and the Multi-Client Data are available at www.energy.gov.bb.

2.3 Available Blocks

The available blocks are specified in the attached schedule (Attachment I). The exploration areas available for Direct Negotiations consist of nineteen (19) offshore blocks as shown on the enclosed map (Attachment II). There is no limit to the number of blocks for which negotiations may be held; however, each award will comprise an area equivalent to one (1) block.

2.4 Direct Negotiations

Direct Negotiations may commence directly after the issue of a Qualification Notice pursuant to Section 8(4) of the Offshore Petroleum Act Cap. 282A and subject to the submission of the information required at Section 3 below.

3. Information to be submitted following the Issue of a Qualification Notice to Trigger the Commencement of Direct Negotiations

3.1 Parties that have been issued a Qualification Notice shall be invited to submit the following information to the Ministry:

3.1.1 A cover letter outlining:

- (a) the block(s) to which the Direct Negotiations will relate.
- (b) a request from the company to engage in exclusive Direct Negotiations for the specified block(s).
- (c) the name of the person to be the operator under the Licence.

- (d) the name of the person(s) to be the participant(s) under the Licence.
- (e) the name, address and contact details of the applicant(s) including details of the person who will serve as the liaison with the Barbadian authorities.
- (f) the letter shall be signed by the duly authorised representative of the applicant or of each applicant making up a group application.

3.2 Direct negotiations will be conducted on a first-come first-served basis with applicants that have submitted the letter requested at 3.1.1 above pursuant to the issue of a Qualification Notice. Negotiations will be subject the execution of a suitable Non-Disclosure/Exclusivity agreement between the parties. The name(s) of the block(s) that will be subject to exclusive negotiations will be published on the Ministry's website www.energy.gov.bb. The names of the parties engaging in Direct Negotiations will remain confidential during active negotiations but will be published pursuant to a successful award.

3.3 Negotiations will be conducted on an exclusive basis under the following terms:

- (a) Exclusivity will begin on the date specified in the Non-Disclosure/Exclusivity Agreement and expire after a period of three (3) months, unless extended by mutual agreement.
- (b) The Ministry reserves the express right to terminate exclusivity if the applicant fails to:
 - (i) negotiate in good faith;
 - (ii) follow confidentiality obligations and data protection laws;
 - (iii) provide required information;
 - (iv) meet agreed upon milestones, or;
 - (v) satisfy legal, technical, financial, beneficial ownership, environmental, health and safety, sanctions or anti-corruption requirements.

4. Key Areas to be Covered During Direct Negotiations

Direct Negotiations will cover the following:

4.1 Financial Commitments

- (a) a minimum annual training expenditure.
- (b) a minimum annual coastal and marine environment research fee.
- (c) a negotiable signature bonus.

NB: The minimum Annual Training Expenditure is BBD \$200,000.00 .

NB: The minimum annual Coastal and Marine Environment Research Fee is BBD \$100,000.00.

4.2 Local Content Commitments

Negotiations will consider the robustness and appropriateness of the proposed local content commitments and provisions, including the procurement of local goods and services for use in respect of petroleum operations; the employment of local persons; and the transfer of technology and skills.

4.3 Health and Safety Plan

Negotiating parties are required to prepare and submit a health and safety plan in respect of the petroleum operations to be conducted in the block. The negotiating party shall ensure that the health and safety plan is based on the health and safety management system of the party.

The applicant shall include in the plan in respect of:

- (a) Safety, training and accident response:
 - (i) the safety measures and procedures to be used by the applicant during the conduct of petroleum operations;

- (ii) the training programmes, frequency of training and safety manuals to be provided to personnel by the applicant during the conduct of petroleum operations;
 - (iii) the accident response facilities to be used and supervisory staff to be responsible for investigations to be performed by the applicant in the event of a major health and safety incident during the conduct of petroleum operations; and
 - (iv) a list of the names, positions or job descriptions, addresses including electronic mail addresses, and telephone numbers, where applicable, of the persons responsible for matters of safety including safety training and emergency response.
- (b) A description of emergency response measures to be organised or performed by the applicant in the event of:
 - (i) a spill or escape of hazardous substances; or
 - (ii) a fire, explosion or other circumstance which involves hazardous substances, during the conduct of petroleum operations; and
- (c) A petroleum facility, a general description of:
 - (i) the plans for the periodical medical examination of personnel and details of all medical and first aid equipment;
 - (ii) the safety equipment and documents; and
 - (iii) the personal protective equipment, to be kept at the petroleum facility.

4.4 Work Programme

Negotiations will consider the relative strength of the work programmes, with particular emphasis on the programme's appropriateness for evaluating hydrocarbon prospectivity and facilitating exploratory drilling during the relevant phases of operation. The work programme should specify the geological, geophysical and other data to be acquired, compiled and assessed. The party

should undertake a comprehensive technical assessment including an evaluation of the geology, structural evolution, stratigraphy and the petroleum prospectivity of the area.

The work programme should also provide a clear description of the work the party proposes to carry out in each phase of the Licence, including the respective minimum investment in United States dollars along with an outline description of evaluation programmes that would be conducted for an exploration well(s). The Work Programme Template in Table 1 below serves as a guide for structuring the work programme.

Table 1: Work Programme Template

Work Programme for the First Exploration Phase (Phase 1)					
No.	Activity			Quantity (unit)	Estimated Cost (USD)
1.	2D seismic survey (km)				
2.	Other G&G activities				
	• Reprocessing of existing seismic data				
	• Gravity and Magnetic Surveys				
	• Other studies/data				
3	3D seismic survey (km ²)				
	Total Estimated Cost				
Work Programme for the Second Exploration Phase (Phase 2)					
No.	Activity			Quantity (unit)	Estimated Cost (USD)
1.	Seismic surveys				
	• 2D seismic				
	• 3D seismic				
2.	Number and depth of wells				
	Well	Water depth	True Vertical Depth (TVD)		
	1st well				
	2nd well				

Work Programme for the Third Exploration Phase (Phase 3)

No.	Activity			Quantity (unit)	Estimated Cost (USD)
1.	Number and depth of wells				
	Well	Water depth	True Vertical Depth (TVD)		
	1st well				
	2nd well				
	3rd Well				

5. **Award Criteria**

5.1 A block(s) will be awarded to the negotiating party pursuant to Direct Negotiations provided that the following criteria are met:

- (a) non-negotiable minimum financial commitments as set out in 4.1(a) and (b) above, and;
- (b) all other requirements set out by the Designated Authority in 4.1(c), 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 above, pursuant to this Guideline Document and the Offshore Petroleum Laws.

5.2 Conditions for Direct Negotiations

The conduct of exclusive direct negotiations does not create an obligation on the part of the Designated Authority to grant a Licence in respect of part or all of the area that is the subject of negotiations.

6. **Duration of Exploration Licence**

6.1 Exploration Licences will be valid for a period of up to eight years, divided into two or three phases as follows:

- *Option 1*
 First phase (Mandatory) – Years 1 to 3
 Second phase (Optional) - Years 4 to 6
 Third phase (Optional) - Years 7 to 8

- *Option 2*

First phase (Mandatory) - Years 1 to 4

Second phase (Optional) - Years 5 to 8

6.2 A Licensee may, upon payment of the prescribed fee, apply for an extension to an Exploration Licence to complete activities specified in an appraisal plan approved by the Designated Authority or to locate a market for discovery of non-associated gas, as specified in the Offshore Petroleum Laws.

6.3 A Licensee who has made a commercial discovery during the period of the Exploration Licence (including any extensions to the Licence) may apply for a Production Licence in respect of the discovery, as specified in the Offshore Petroleum Laws.

7. Exploration Obligations

7.1 Each Exploration Licence shall be subject to the following exploration obligations:

(a) During the first phase of the Licence, the licensee must undertake in respect of the whole licensed area, a work programme which shall be agreed with the Designated Authority before the issue of the Licence.

(b) Where exploration drilling is not included in the work programme for the first phase, the licensee will be required to commence logistical planning for drilling, as soon as practicable.

(c) Where applicable, during the second and third phases of the Licence, the licensee must undertake a minimum work programme which shall be agreed with the Designated Authority before the issue of the Licence.

(d) In all phases, the licensee will be required to undertake applicable site-specific environmental studies as specified in the Offshore Petroleum Laws and any other relevant guidelines established by the Government of Barbados.

- (e) In all phases, the licensee will incur an obligation to rapidly and prudently appraise any potentially commercial discovery, as specified in the Offshore Petroleum Laws.
- (f) In all phases, the licensee will incur an obligation to respect the Health & Safety requirements as specified in the Offshore Petroleum Laws and any other relevant guidelines established by the Government of Barbados.
- (g) In all phases, the licensee will incur an obligation to respect the training of Barbadian nationals and local content development as specified in the Offshore Petroleum Laws and any other relevant guidelines established by the Government of Barbados.

8. Relinquishment of Acreage

8.1 Relinquishment of acreage will be applied as follows:

- (a) At the end of the first phase, the licensee will be required to relinquish not less than 25% of the licensed acreage.
- (b) Where applicable, at the end of the second optional phase, the licensee will be required to relinquish not less than 25% of the then licensed acreage.
- (c) By the end of the third or final optional phase of the Licence, the remaining licensed acreage which is not subject to a production licence must be relinquished (subject to extension rights).
- (d) Provided that the licensee has observed all obligations and discharged all liabilities imposed by or incurred under the terms and conditions of the Licence, the licensee may, with the approval of the Designated Authority, surrender interest in any specified part of the licensed area or surrender the Licence.

9. General Provisions

9.1 All applicants are required to:

- (a) Have been officially notified in writing through a Qualification Notice from the Designated Authority of the applicant's pre-qualification before submitting the information requested at Section 3.1 of this Notice.
- (b) Provide evidence of purchasing the Barbados 2026 Offshore Data Package, previous data packages or the requisite amount of Multi-client 2D seismic data from the approved vendors, before submitting a proposal.
- (c) Include a non-refundable application fee of BBD \$5,000.00 with each proposal.

10. State Participation

- 10.1 The State Participation, as defined in the Regulations, will be up to a maximum of 10%, 15% or 20%, as listed in Attachment III.
- 10.2 The State shall exercise all or part of the reserved Production Licence interest during the Production Licence application period by a company in accordance with the Offshore Petroleum Laws.
- 10.3 The state will be carried through until first production and assume full responsibility for future work under the Production Licence proportional to this interest.
- 10.4 Exploration costs, excluding dry hole costs, will be reimbursed out of the State's share in production at no more than 25% of net income per year.

11. Requests for Clarification

- 11.1 Interested parties may request clarification on aspects of this invitation via email to barbadosoffshore@energy.gov.bb. Clarifications may be requested no later than August 15, 2026.

- 11.2 A copy of all questions asked and the Ministry's responses will be posted on the Ministry's website, www.energy.gov.bb on a weekly basis commencing the week of June 1, 2026. Responses to all questions asked shall be provided up to September 1, 2026. Details of the party seeking clarification will not be posted on the website.
- 11.3 The Ministry may modify this Notice at any time up to August 15, 2026. Modifications shall apply after being made available on the Ministry's website, www.energy.gov.bb.

12. Security of Information

- 12.1 Applicants are advised that commercially sensitive information provided during Direct Negotiations, such as financial forecasts and proprietary data, will be treated in strictest confidence by the Ministry and will be subject to the execution of an appropriate Non-Disclosure Agreement.

13. Public Disclosure

During Direct Negotiations, the Ministry will only disclose information relating to the name of the block(s) to which the Direct Negotiations apply.

NB: Should there be any conflict between the Barbados 2026 Offshore Direct Negotiation Guidelines and the Offshore Petroleum Laws; the Offshore Petroleum Laws shall take precedence.

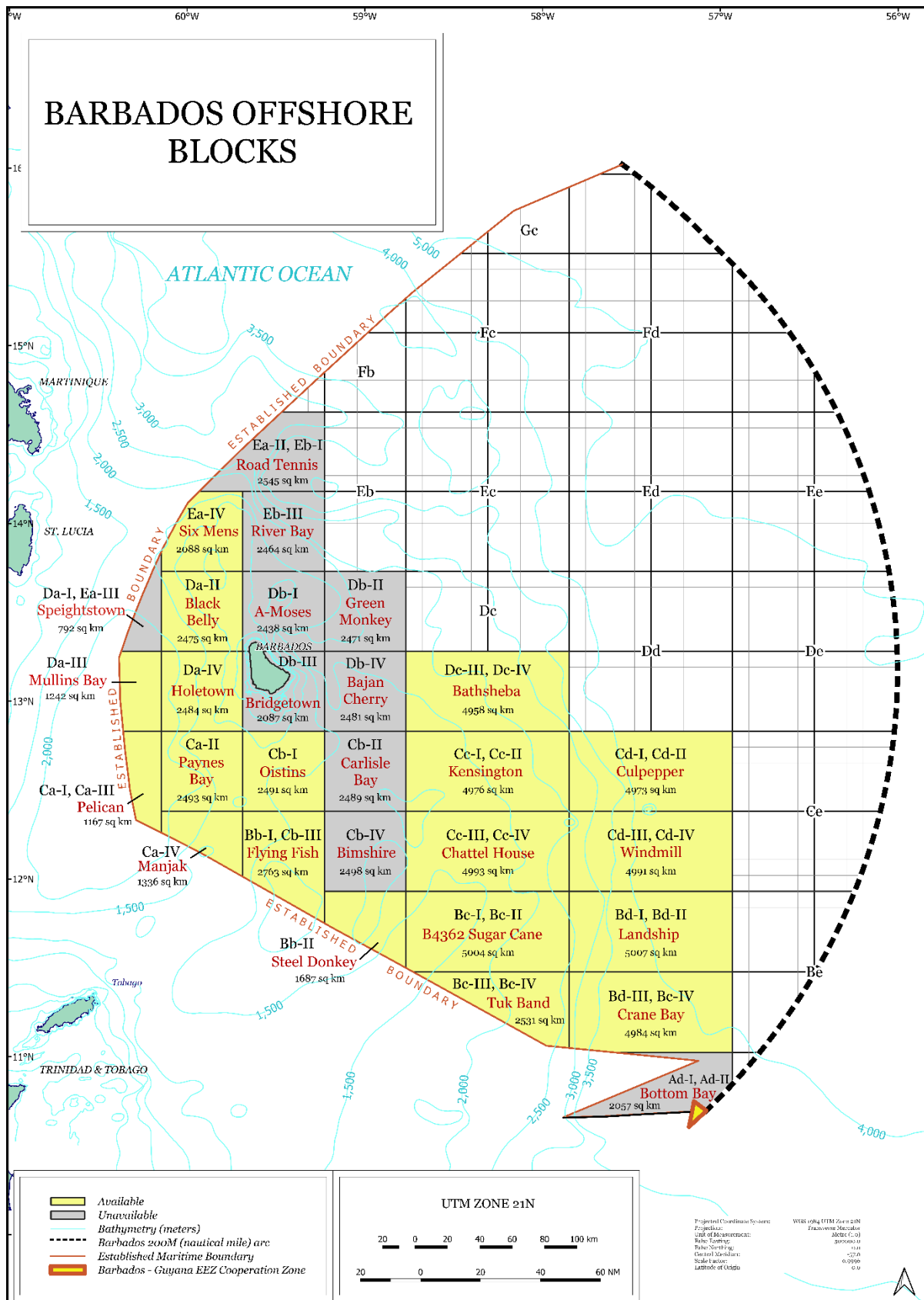
ATTACHMENT I

Block Listing for the Barbados 2026 Offshore Direct Negotiations

Available for licensing:	19 Blocks
Total area:	62,643 sq. km
Average Size:	3,297 sq. km
Maximum size:	5,007 sq. km
Minimum size:	1,167 sq. km

<u>Block Name</u>	<u>sq. km</u>
1. Black Belly	2,475
2. Flying Fish	2,763
3. Steel Donkey	1,687
4. Holetown	2,484
5. Manjak	1,336
6. Mullins Bay	1,242
7. Oistins	2,491
8. Paynes Bay	2,493
9. Pelican	1,167
10. Six Mens	2,088
11. B4362 Sugar Cane	5,004
12. Bathsheba	4,958
13. Chattel House	4,993
14. Crane Bay	4,984
15. Culpepper	4,973
16. Kensington	4,976
17. Landship	5,007
18. Tuk Band	2,531
19. Windmill	4,991

Map of the Available Barbados 2026 Offshore Direct Negotiations Blocks



State Participation

The Government will have the option to take up to a 20% interest in the following blocks:

1. Black Belly
2. Flying Fish
3. Steel Donkey
4. Oistins

The Government will have the option to take up to a 15% interest in the following blocks:

5. Holetown
6. Manjak
7. Mullins Bay
8. Paynes Bay
9. Pelican
10. Six Mens

The Government will have the option to take up to a 10% interest in the following blocks:

11. B4362 Sugar Cane
12. Bathsheba
13. Chattel House
14. Crane Bay
15. Culpepper
16. Kensington
17. Landship
18. Tuk Band
19. Windmill