

Background:

In 2003 the Government introduced the system of Awards in Predefined Areas (APA) in mature parts of the Norwegian continental shelf (NCS). This system replaced the annual North Sea Awards. The APA system ensures that very large areas close to existing and planned infrastructure are available for the industry in the years to come. This will lead to efficient use of production and transportation installations on the NCS.

The APA system offers good opportunities to new and smaller players on the NCS.

The APA area will be expanded as new areas mature, but the area is not to be reduced.

Number of production licenses:

2003 - 19 production licenses

2004 - 28 production licenses

2005 - 45 production licenses

2006 - 58 production licenses

Number of companies to receive licence offers:

2003 - 13 companies

2004 - 21 companies

2005 - 26 companies

2006 - 40 companies

Areas to be awarded (km²):

2003 - 9 162

2004 - 10 897

2005 - 15 610

2006 - 22 418