

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ACT 2021

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



ORIGINAL

PETROLEUM PROSPECTING LICENCE



THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



PETROLEUM PROSPECTING LICENCE No. 273, granted pursuant to the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021

THIS LICENCE is granted on this ND 2 Day of MAY 2024

By

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, acting through the **Honourable Minister of Petroleum Resources** (or any person designated by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as having responsibility for overseeing the petroleum industry), whose address is at NNPC Towers, Central Business District, FCT, Abuja (hereinafter referred to as the **"Government"**);

In favour of

FIRST ARIES PETROLEUM LIMITED, a company incorporated under the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with RC No. 198383, whose registered address is at 25A Lugard Avenue, Ikoyi, Lagos (hereinafter referred to as the **"Licensee"** which expression shall, where the context so admits include the successors-in-title and assigns).

WHEREAS the property and ownership of Petroleum within Nigeria, its territorial waters, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone is vested in the Government of the Federation of Nigeria.

WHEREAS under the Petroleum Industry Act 2021 (Act), the Minister is vested with the power to grant Petroleum Prospecting Licences on behalf of the Government; while the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (**Commission**) is responsible for the technical and commercial regulation of the upstream petroleum industry in Nigeria, including the determination and recommendation of applicants who have fulfilled the conditions for the grant of petroleum prospecting licences.

WHEREAS the Licensee was awarded Oil Prospecting Licence 235 on a discretionary basis on 10th August 1993.

WHEREAS Oil Prospecting Licence 235 was revoked on 27th January 2000 and consequently, the Licensee instituted an action against the Federal Government of Nigeria, the President of the Federal Government of Nigeria, and the Attorney-General of the Federation (the Defendants) challenging the revocation.

WHEREAS by virtue of a Terms of Settlement dated 30th June 2022, a Consent Judgement was issued on 13th July 2022 in Suit No: FHC/ABJ/CS/385/2005, and Oil Prospecting Licence 235 was restored to the Licensee.

WHEREAS to implement the Judgement, the Commission has recommended to the Minister that, in accordance with the Act, the Licensee be granted **PETROLEUM PROSPECTING LICENCE (PPL) 273** subject to new terms and conditions and the Minister on behalf of the Government has accepted the Commission's recommendation and has agreed to grant the Licence to the Licensee based on the terms contained herein.

AND WHEREAS the Licensee has represented that it has the required financial capability, technical competence and resources necessary to continue to undertake Upstream Petroleum Operations within the Licence Area and has fulfilled all other statutory conditions as contained in the Act for the grant of this Licence

NOW THEREFORE:

1. In this Licence all capitalised words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them in the General Licence Conditions hereinafter attached as Schedule A.
2. The following documents shall be deemed to form and be read and construed as part of this Licence:
 - 2.1. **Schedule A** – General Licence Conditions
 - 2.2. **Schedule B** – Licence Area Description
 - 2.3. **Annexure 1** – Concession Contract
 - 2.4. **Annexure 2** – Work Programme
 - 2.5. **Annexure 3** – WP Performance Security
3. In consideration of the Licensee agreeing to be bound by the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021 and for other good and valuable consideration, the Government as beneficial owner of any Petroleum within the Licence Area, hereby grants this Licence to the Licensee, subject to the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021 and any subsidiary legislation thereunder now in force or which may come into force during the continuance of this Licence, and subject to the terms and conditions contained in this Licence, its Schedules and Annexures, the following rights:
 - 3.1. to carry out Petroleum Exploration Operations within the Licence Area on a non-exclusive basis;
 - 3.2. to drill exploration and appraisal wells and undertake corresponding test production within the Licence Area on an exclusive basis;
 - 3.3. to carry away and dispose of crude oil or natural gas won or extracted during the activities in 3.2 above.
4. The term of this Licence shall be *three (3)* years commencing from this ^{2ND} Day of **MAY** 20**24** (the "**Licence Commencement Date**") and may be extended in accordance with the terms of the General Licence Conditions.
5. Consequent on the grant of the Licence, participating interest in the Licence is as follows:
 - 5.1. **FIRST ARIES PETROLEUM LIMITED – 100%**
provided that the Licensee shall have an undivided interest in the Licence Area.
6. The Licensee hereby accept the grant of the Licence and covenant to abide by the restrictions and

conditions as contained in Schedule A and Annexure 1 as well as all legislations and directives pertaining to this Licence, both existing and issued by the Commission from time to time.

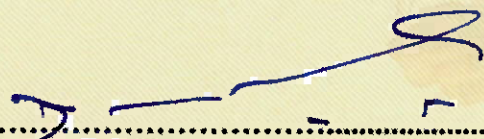
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed and delivered this document the date and year first above written.

SIGNED AND DELIVERED



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**BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA**

IN THE PRESENCE OF:

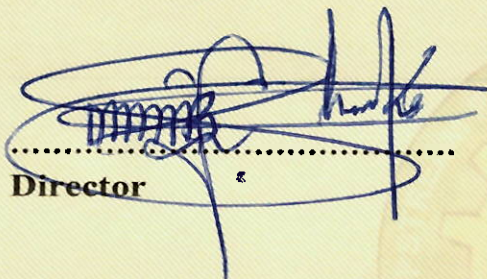


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**ENGR. GBENGA KOMOLAFE FNSE
COMMISSION CHIEF EXECUTIVE
THE NIGERIAN UPSTREAM PETROLEUM REGULATORY COMMISSION**

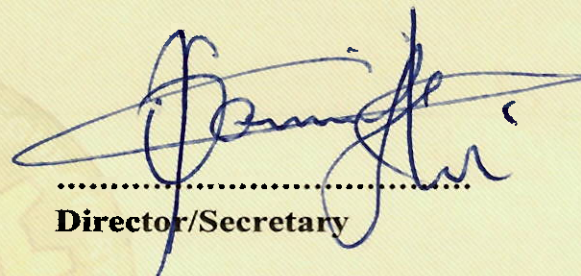
ACCEPTED BY THE WITHIN NAMED LICENSEE

FIRST ARIES PETROLEUM LIMITED

Acting by

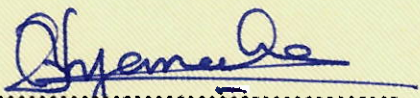


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Director

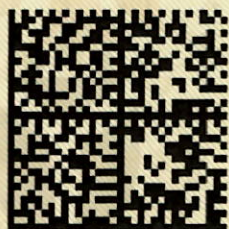


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Director/Secretary

**AUTHENTICATED BY THE NIGERIAN UPSTREAM PETROLEUM
REGULATORY COMMISSION THIS 2ND DAY OF MAY 2024**

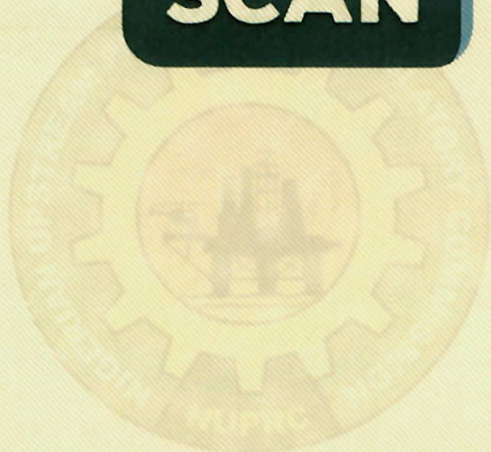


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**OLAYEMI ANYANECHI
COMMISSION SECRETARY AND LEGAL ADVISER
NIGERIAN UPSTREAM PETROLEUM REGULATORY COMMISSION**



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