



## Total-Led Consortium Acquires 49% Interest in Algeria's Ahnet License

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**Paris, December 22, 2009** - Total today announces that the consortium it has formed with Partex has been awarded a 49% interest in the Ahnet license, as part of the second bid round held by the Algerian National Oil and Gas Development Agency (ALNAFT).

Located near In Salah in southwestern Algeria, the Ahnet exploration and development acreage covers an area of 17,358 square kilometers in which twelve natural gas formations have already been discovered.

Total holds a 47% interest and will appraise and develop the Ahnet finds with partners Partex (2%) and Sonatrach (51%).

A development plan will be submitted for approval before mid 2011, with first gas scheduled for 2015. The Ahnet license contains significant reserves (approximately 500 billion cubic meters of gas) which should produce at least 4 billion cubic meters a year, as per the contract with Sonatrach.

This latest project is a developmental milestone in the new southwestern Algeria gas province, which is also home to the Timimoun project operated by the consortium Sonatrach, Total and Cepsa. It further cements Total's commitment to investing in Algeria in both the natural gas upstream and petrochemicals.

### Total Exploration & Production in Algeria

Total's production in Algeria comes from direct interests in the Tin Fouyé Tabenkort gas field, and from the Group's 48.83% stake in CEPESA, which is partnered with Sonatrach on the Ourhoud and Rhourde El Krouf fields.

In Algeria, as in all host countries, Total is involved in a number of community development and environmental programs, in particular in the areas of education, health care and heritage preservation.

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