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Santos appoints new head of exploration

Santos has promoted Mr Trevor Brown to the position of Vice President Geoscience and New Ventures. He succeeds Mr Jacques Gouadain who is retiring from the position after five years with Santos.

As Vice President Geoscience and New Ventures, Mr Brown will be responsible for leading Santos' domestic and international exploration and new ventures efforts. In 2006 Santos is planning to spend \$225 million on a high-impact, 25-well exploration program which includes a record 17 wells outside Australia.

Mr Brown is also responsible for building Santos' growth options by identifying and developing new venture opportunities and establishing a reputation for Santos as partner of choice in the Company's areas of operation.

Mr Brown, who was most recently Santos' Manager Growth Projects, joined the Company in 2001 from US independent oil company Unocal.

He has over 20 years experience in the oil and gas industry in Australia and overseas, including 11 years in Indonesia managing both onshore and offshore exploration programs. During part of this time, Mr Brown was a principal member of Unocal's successful deepwater exploration team in East Kalimantan which discovered several hundred million barrels of oil equivalent. He has also consulted to projects throughout South East Asia, the USA, Brazil and Australia.

Mr Brown is a geologist by training and holds a BSc (Hons.) from the University of Melbourne.

"Exploration leadership is a critical role for an exploration and production Company and so we are delighted to retain someone of Mr Brown's considerable international experience and successful track record for this position," said Mr John Ellice-Flint, Santos Managing Director.

"The appointment comes at a time of unprecedented exploration and development activity at Santos – across a range of operational areas not seen previously in the Company's history."

A photograph is available of Mr Brown.

Santos stock symbols: STO (Australian Stock Exchange), STOSY (NASDAQ ADR), Ref #82-34 (Securities Exchange Commission)