



The oil and gas resources of the Arctic shelf as the basis for the social and economic development of the Russian Arctic

Oleg Suprunenko and Maria Minina

The All Russia Scientific Research Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources of the World Ocean

The development of the fuel and energy industry is one of key elements of the sustainable development of the modern Country. Russia has the unique Arctic zone - 4 million km² onshore and 8.4 million km² offshore. According to the "Strategy for the development of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation until 2020", the Arctic is designated as the strategic reserve for hydrocarbon resources.

The first, but very important steps had already been taken in developing of oil and gas resources of the Arctic shelf and coastal Arctic territories. The shipments of oil from the Varandey terminal in the Pechora Sea, the development of the Prirazlomnoye oil field using the unique ice-resistant platform, the first tanker with liquid natural gas (LNG) from the port of Sabetta, discovering of the Pobeda large oil and gas condensate field in the Kara Sea, the first coastal-marine wells in the Khatanga Bay are among these first steps.

Further work should be concentrated in exploration and consequent development of the predominantly oil-bearing areas of the Arctic shelf. Further development of the Yamal-LNG project will consist in the increasing of the supply of LNG volumes along the Northern Sea Route, aiming to the Asia-Pacific region. This will contribute to the development of a powerful infrastructure at the coastal areas, to the growth of shipbuilding and, finally, will ensure the socio-economic development of the Russian Arctic, especially in the N-E part of the Russian Federation.