

Poland Ministry of the Environment Approves PolandSPAN Research Project

HOUSTON and WARSAW – September 12, 2011 -- ION Geophysical Corporation (NYSE: IO) today announced that its GX Technology subsidiary has been granted formal approval by the Poland Ministry of the Environment to proceed with a large regional geological and geophysical research project that will cover all of Poland. The project, known as PolandSPAN™, is the result of the collaborative efforts and collective expertise of the Polish Geological Institute – National Research Institute (PGI), Institute of Geophysics – Polish Academy of Sciences (IGF), Institute of Geological Sciences – Polish Academy of Sciences (ING), and ION Geophysical.

PolandSPAN will consist of four phases and will integrate 10,000 kilometers of newly-acquired high-end 2D seismic data with reprocessed existing seismic data, new magnetotelluric data, and existing gravity, magnetic, and well data to create the most comprehensive and regionally extensive picture of Poland's subsurface to date. Phase I, scheduled to begin later this year, will involve the acquisition of 2,200 kilometers of new data extending from the Baltic Basin in northern Poland through the Podlasie Depression and into the Lublin Basin of eastern Poland. The primary focus of Phase I is the Lower Paleozoic shales of the East European Platform, where significant questions still remain about structural control and other factors impacting shale distribution and gas potential.

Piotr Krzywiec, Geophysicist and Professor at the Polish Geological Institute, commented, "PolandSPAN will be the highest quality regional seismic dataset ever acquired in Poland - and in continental Europe, as a matter of fact - and will provide unparalleled opportunity to image the entire sedimentary cover and its basement with the best possible resolution. Though Poland has large amounts of existing well and seismic data, this is the first truly integrated project that will tie it all together, adding enormous extra value to the existing geological and geophysical information."

Vinton Buffenmyer, European Program Manager for ION Geophysical, commented, "PolandSPAN is a great example of collaboration amongst industry and academia in the name of good science. The knowledge that comes out of this regional project is going to redefine the current geologic thinking in Poland. PolandSPAN will provide the foundation of integrated geologic knowledge and a consistent seismic framework from which to build future studies."



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