



## Offshore oil development sparks joint venture in Newfoundland

The clock is ticking on the countdown toward the first production of offshore oil from Hibernia and other massive reserves off Canada's Atlantic coast.

Against that background, a transatlantic joint venture company has sprung up in St. John's, Newfoundland, to provide logistical and other support to the oil, gas and mining companies operating in Atlantic Canada and elsewhere.

Owned 50/50 by A. Harvey and Company of St. John's and Consolidated Supply Management (CSM) of Aberdeen, Scotland, the joint venture's clients include Hibernia Management and Development Co. Ltd., HMOOC, Mobil, Chevron and Petro Canada.

A.J. Harvey has diversified in the 1970s and 1980s into support for energy exploration and drilling activities and, with a staff of 500, is one of Newfoundland's largest employers.

CSM owns, manages and operates oilfield support and marine supply bases in Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia. The company's services range from materials handling and storage to the design of warehouses and pipeyards and technical support for ships and aircraft.

Gordon Meilis of Harvey CSM, tells *Canada Investment News* that the partnership is a natural fit. "What we bring to the table is worldwide experience in this field, including work on the establishment of a Newfoundland supply base for Hibernia. Our partner with whom we have worked before on oil exploration support projects has been in business in Newfoundland for over 130 years. They have the local expertise, contacts, facilities and reputation."

Meilis says that, prior to the joint venture, CSM Harvey had invested \$7 million in a new supply base at St. John's. Currently the joint venture employs 15 people in logistics, procurement, materials management and other specialist functions. ♦

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