

# Ecopetrol, Petrobras make Colombia deepwater gas discovery

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Colombian state-run oil company Ecopetrol and Brazilian partner Petrobras announced a new natural gas discovery amid efforts to kickstart offshore drilling in the Andean country.

The companies identified the accumulation while drilling the Uchuva-1 exploratory well in deep waters around 32km off Colombia's Caribbean coast, near the northern port city of Santa Marta, Ecopetrol said in a statement on

#### Friday.

"The opening of this new frontier is in line with **Ecopetrol**'s strategic pillar to maximize the value of its portfolio, with a focus on exploration of deep and ultra-deep water assets," it said.

"The result increases the possibility for the development of a new exploration and production frontier in the north of the Colombian Caribbean Sea."

Uchuva-1 is part of the Tayrona block, in which Petrobras has a 44.4% operating stake with Ecopetrol holding the balance.

Ecopetrol said it would continue activities to verify the size of the discovery.

Ecopetrol and Petrobras are among several companies that have embarked on exploration campaigns in Colombia's Caribbean Sea this year following the introduction of new incentives

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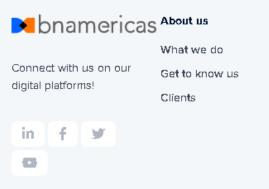
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