

Business:
NOBEL UPSTREAM

A Primer on
OIL AND GAS
TERMS



A PRIMER ON OIL AND GAS TERMS

Discussions around the energy sector and landscape for the future has focused on various items, including shale gas, natural gas and hydraulic fracturing, among others. However, with all the technical terms surrounding this topic, it's easy to lose track of what each term means.

Here are a few definitions to help you understand more:

- **NATURAL GAS:** Natural gas is a fossil fuel that is made up of various compounds and is formed over a long period underground. It is odourless and accounts for a huge portion of the world's energy supply.
- **SHALE GAS:** Shale gas is found in shale rock, and is extracted through hydraulic fracturing. Shale rock is quite abundant in the world,



with estimates putting it at more than 30 percent of the world's surface rocks.

- **HYDRAULIC FRACTURING:** Hydraulic fracturing - more commonly known as 'fracking' - is a process of extracting hydrocarbons by injecting a mixture of water, sand and chemicals at high pressure into horizontally-drilled boreholes to crack open shale rock.



- **SHALE OIL:**

In addition to using fracking for getting gas, the process can also be used to extract oil. Shale oil is estimated to form about 10 percent of the crude oil resources worldwide.





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