

20. June 2024

20 June 20)24				
NAV:		\$mm			
Core		9.4			
Dev. & Appr	aisal	76.5			
Exploration		59.4			
Total		145.3			
Per Share		93p			
From Curre	nt Price	305%			
Stock Date	1				
Market Cap):	£28.2mm			
EV:		\$26.5mm			
Shares in Iss	sue	122.8mm			
Change:	lm	26%			
	3m	125%			
	12m	-			
30					
20		J/			
10	J				
-					
Jan-24	Apr-24	Jul-24			
	HEX AIM Allshare (F HEX Relative to				

Corporate Broking

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AK Helix Exploration

HEX-GB

Target 93p

Acquisition Drives Growth

Helix Exploration plc's ("Helix's" or the "Company's") acquisition of Rudyard discovery principally though the issuance of shares adds not only value but provides investors with the benefits of near-term cash flow. We value Rudyard at \$85.5mm, which is comprised of \$76.5mm for the Contingent Resources, with the remainder (\$8.9mm) for the deeper exploration play. Following this news, our valuation is \$145mm (£114mm), or 93p, which reflects the issuance of 510,000 in new shares. The unrisked valuation of the Company's portfolio rises to \$291mm (187p) and represents a significant premium to the current price.

Immediately Value accreting

The acquisition of Rudyard for \$250,000 (\$150,000 in shares) is a significant step forwards for the Company, which sees it leverage its existing Montana asset base with an appraisal/development asset with **2C volumes of 525mm cf of** helium ("He") and 2,176mm cf of natural gas ("CH₄") in the Souris River and Red River formations.

Additionally, there is a further low-cost incremental upside of 67mm cf (2U) of helium possible in the deeper Dry Creek formation.

In meeting the consideration using its shares, it is immediately value accretive to Helix and the shareholders, despite the additional shares in issue.

Rudyard Balances the Portfolio

The Rudyard acquisition provides balance to the existing exploration portfolio, providing the portfolio with Contingent Resources, which will be reclassified as Reserves once a development plan has been agreed and FID taken.

Development and Cash Flow now a Near-Term Feature

Leveraging is equity, management has preserved the allimportant cash resources to focus on the development of Rudyard and the drilling of the exploration well on its existing Ingomar Dome asset.

Given the potentially short timelines involved, the development programme at Rudyard provides the Helix with the prospect of near-term cash flow.

Transaction Immediately Value Accretive

OAK estimates that the transaction adds \$85.5mm, the majority of which (90%) is Appraisal and Development, with the remainder (\$8.9mm) in risk adjusted exploration valuation to the Company's existing valuation of \$60mm.

Consequently, OAK has upgraded its overall valuation to \$145mm (93p), which an represents an increase of 143%.

Contents

Acquisition Drives Growth	1	
Contents	2	
Rudyard Valuation – \$85.5mm	3	
Summary Economic Analysis	3 5	
Research Analyst Disclosures	8	
Dr Zac Phillips BEng (Hons.) MSc PhD MIChemE SPE AAPG DISCLAIMER: Investment Research	8 9	
Notes	12	

NOTE: "m" denotes thousands & "mm" millions

Rudyard Valuation – \$85.5mm

We have valued the acquisition of the Rudyard transaction at \$85.5mm using DCF valuation methodology, adjusting for exploration risk as required for the Prospective Resources using binomial EMV; the development ready Contingent assets dominate the valuation, and are unrisked at \$76.5mm, or 90% of Rudyard's valuation.

Summary

Helix has acquired the Rudyard asset (located in Hill County, Montana) for an implied price of \$250,000 through the issuance of \$100,000 in cash and \$150,000 in shares. In valuing Rudyard, Oak Securities ("OAK") has used discounted cash flow ("DCF") net present value ("NPV") as its primary valuation tool.

This has allowed the study of a range of the critical factors that impact the value of an asset or portfolio of assets, including any risks to commerciality. We consider the Rudyard asset to be development ready, with the next stage of drilling focused on optimising the completion design.

Consequently, we believe that the 525mm cf of He and 2,176mm cf of CH_4 2C Contingent Resources, will be quickly reclassified at Reserves, once the development programme is approved by management. Our valuation also includes 67mm cf of He in 2U Prospective Resources; the Resources breakdown is provided in Table 2.

				mm c	f			
Asset		Не				CH4		
	Low	Best	High	Mean	Low	Best	High	Mean
Contingent Resources								
Souris River & Red River	126	525	1,276	599	350	2,176	6,605	2,784
Total Contingent Resources	126	525	1,276	599	350	2,176	6,605	2,784
Prospective Resources								
Ingomar Dome	248	1,462	4,983	2,053	-	-	-	-
Dry Creek	20	67	158	73	59	273	824	330
Total Prospective Resources	269	1,529	5,141	2,126	59	273	824	330
Total Resources	395	2,054	6,418	2,725	409	2,449	7,429	3,114

Table 1 Helix Contingent and Prospective Resources

Source: Ryder Scott, Aeon Petroleum Consultants and Oak Securities data

Given that the acquisition consideration will be principally met by the issuance of new shares, we have assessed the valuation of the Company on both a dollar basis and on a per share basis, net to shareholders. It is clear that the acquisition of Rudyard is immediately accretive to the dollar value of the Company, but even when accounting for the 510m shares issued to the vendor in the respect of the consideration, the acquisition is accretive to shareholders too; we provide a reconciliation in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Helix Exploration P50 Valuation Reconciliation

📕 Increase 📃 Decrease 📕 Total 100 6 0 93 49 (0)90 (0)80 70 60 50 39 40 30 20 10 Post Transaction Rudyard Contingent payment by shares Pre Transaction Acquisition Cost shares Issued RUdyard...

Impact of Rudyard Acquisition on Per Share Valuation (p/share)

Source: Company and Oak Securities data

Ordinarily, projects at the early stages of appraisal are usually adjusted for the risks associated with failing to meet predrill expectations and the extent of the unknowns ahead of drilling.

In this case, however, given the reported extent of the flow test to date, and the results of subsequent work, we do not consider it necessary to risk adjust the valuation using multi-nodal EMV methodology. OAK has elected to account for the operational risks by applying a higher cost base to allow for any additional drilling and completion complexity that might be required to permit a commercial development to take place.

Furthermore, we have also increased our allowance for maintenance capex, to potentially account for any remedial work over activity or for the wells and associated completions.

For the Prospective Resources, however, we have corrected for geological and commercial risks using the multimodal expected monetary value ("EMV") approach, apply a 73% chance of geological success to the success based NPV_(10%) valuation; we consider trap and seal to be the key risk associated with a technical success.

Nevertheless, we have not applied a technical to commercial risk adjustment as we consider the deeper Dry Creek prospect to be an extension to the existing development and would therefore be an incremental project. In that respect, any saleable He or CH₄ would be recovered using the existing well infrastructure.

In conjunction with the Company's Ingomar Dome asset, Helix has brought balance to its portfolio, and given that the Rudyard assets are largely development ready, it also raises the prospect for early cash flow, at least 18 to 24 months earlier than would have otherwise been expected from its Ingomar Dome asset alone; Helix's overall valuation is summarised in Table 1 and Figure 2.

Economic Analysis

In valuing Rudyard, OAK has followed a nominally identical valuation process to that undertaken on the Ingomar Dome prospect and disclosed in the Initiation note dated April 16, 2024.

That notwithstanding, in valuing the Rudyard asset, we have reversed out the costs associated with the functioning of the "plc," which are borne by the Ingomar Dome asset, so there is no double counting of SG&A costs.

The Rudyard and Ingomar Dome assets are too far apart to realise any benefits that might accrue from Ingomar and Rudyard being co-development opportunities. Following the development of the Rudyard, Ingomar would open up a second development hub.

Consequently, the development ready horizons (Souris River and Red River) will bear the costs of the establishment of the gas treatment infrastructure. The costs associated with the deeper Dry Creek formation (exploration) will therefore be incremental the wider development costs and limited to the costs associated with the deepening of an existing well.

The valuation of the exploration asset (Dry Creek) specifically excludes any fixed operating and well costs, which remain with the development ready horizons (Souris River and Red River).

We expect any development of the exploration asset to be achieved through leveraging the existing well stock installed for the development of the Souris River and Red River horizons.

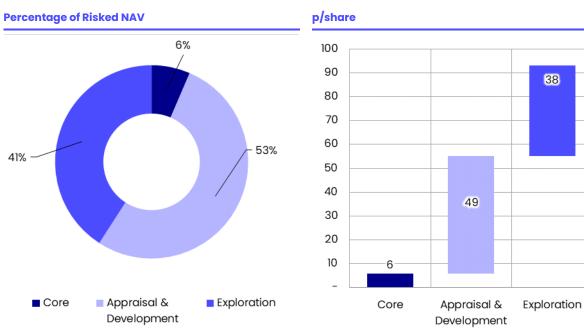
The results of OAK's analysis suggests that the Rudyard assets are valued at \$85.5mm, 90% (\$76.5mm) of which is contributed by the appraisal and development Souris River and Red River horizons; we summarise this in Table 3 to Table 4 (Dry Creek EMV).

Table 2 Helix Exploration P50 Valuation Summary

Field	mmcf				NAV			
	Heliu	m	Natural	Gas	(\$mn	n)	(p/sho	are)
	Unrisked	Risked	Unrisked	Risked	Unrisked	Risked	Unrisked	Risked
Core								
Balance Sheet Items	-	-	-	-	9.4	9.4	6	6
Core NAV	-	-	-	-	9.4	9.4	6	6
Appraisal & Development								
Rudyard Souris & Red River	525	525	2,176	2,176	76.5	76.5	49	49
NAV Contribution	525	525	2,176	2,176	76.5	76.5	49	49
Exploration								
Ingomar Dome	1,462	437	-	-	192.5	50.5	123	32
Rudyard Dry Creek	67	47	273	191	12.8	8.9	8	6
Exploration NAV	1,529	484	273	191	205.2	59.4	132	38
Total NAV	2,054	1,009	2,449	2,367	291.1	145.3	187	93

Source: Company and Oak Securities data

Figure 2 NAV Summary



Source: Oak Securities data

Table 3 Rudyard Success-Based NPV(10%)

Forecast Name	P90	P50	P10	Mean
Souris River and Red River				
Pre-Tax Undiscounted Net to HEP	15.3	153.4	550.3	222.8
Pre-Tax NPV Net to HEP	5.9	76.5	215.2	93.4
Post Tax NPV Net to HEP	3.2	53.4	151.8	65.4
Dry Creek				
Pre-Tax Undiscounted Net to HEP	7.5	32.0	83.2	37.1
Pre-Tax NPV Net to HEP	1.6	12.8	32.8	14.2
Post Tax NPV Net to HEP	1.0	9.0	23.5	10.1

Source: Company & Oak Securities data

Table 4 Rudyard EMV

Forecast Name	P90	P50	P10	Mean
Souris River and Red River [†]				
Pre-Tax Undiscounted Net to HEP	12.3	150.4	547.3	219.8
Pre-Tax NPV Net to HEP	5.9	76.5	215.2	93.4
Post Tax NPV Net to HEP	3.2	53.4	151.8	65.4
Dry Creek				
Pre-Tax Undiscounted Net to HEP	4.0	21.9	59.2	25.6
Pre-Tax NPV Net to HEP	0.8	8.9	23.6	10.0
Post Tax NPV Net to HEP	0.3	6.2	16.7	7.0

Source: Company & Oak Securities data

Note: Souris River and Red River NPV_(10%) and EMV are identical due to the zero-risk associated with Contingent Resources associated with the development.

Contingent Resources are risked in cost ands complexity adjustments

Research Analyst Disclosures

Dr Zac Phillips BEng (Hons.) MSc PhD MIChemE SPE AAPG

Zac has in excess of 29 years' experience in oil & gas and finance, working for companies such as BP, Chevron, Merrill Lynch and ING Barings. His wide experience base, allied with his deep background and experience in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, has uniquely positioned him to undertake both finance and technical roles, enabling him to focus on the economics of investment in oil & gas, and its assessment, on a range of projects from process change implementation, to operating plants and companies.

Zac's extensive oil & gas financial and technical experience has ably lent itself to the valuation of exploration and producing Oil & Gas assets, especially where complex financial structures define companies' access to the economic benefits of ownership. Latterly, Zac was the CFO to Dubai World's Oil & Gas business (DB Petroleum), with responsibility for risk management, valuation and the authoring of investment proposals. During this time, Zac valued in excess of 152 transactions with a combined transaction value of in excess of \$63bn.

Zac has an Honours Degree in Chemical Engineering from Wales, a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Bath University and a MSc in Petroleum Engineering from Heriot Watt. He is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the Association of International Energy Negotiators.

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