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## BP to fast-track Atoll gas field

LONDON (Reuters) – BP has signed a preliminary deal with Egypt to rapidly develop the Atoll offshore gas field that is now expected to produce first gas in 2018, the company said yesterday.

BP's signing of the Heads of Agreement with Egypt's Minister of Petroleum followed discussions on Wednesday between President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, who is on a visit to Britain, and BP chief executive Bob Dudley.

"We are pleased to be making rapid progress towards the development of Atoll less than eight months after the announcement of its discovery," Dudley said in a statement yesterday.

BP said it would likely sanction the Atoll project next year.

In March, BP first announced the Atoll discovery, a relatively large find estimated to hold 1.5 trillion cubic feet of gas and 31 million barrels of condensates.