

# Unveiling Potential in a Frontier Basin through Play Based Exploration

---

**Area of Expertise:**  
Exploration

**Enterprise Solution:**  
ThinkOnward Projects

---

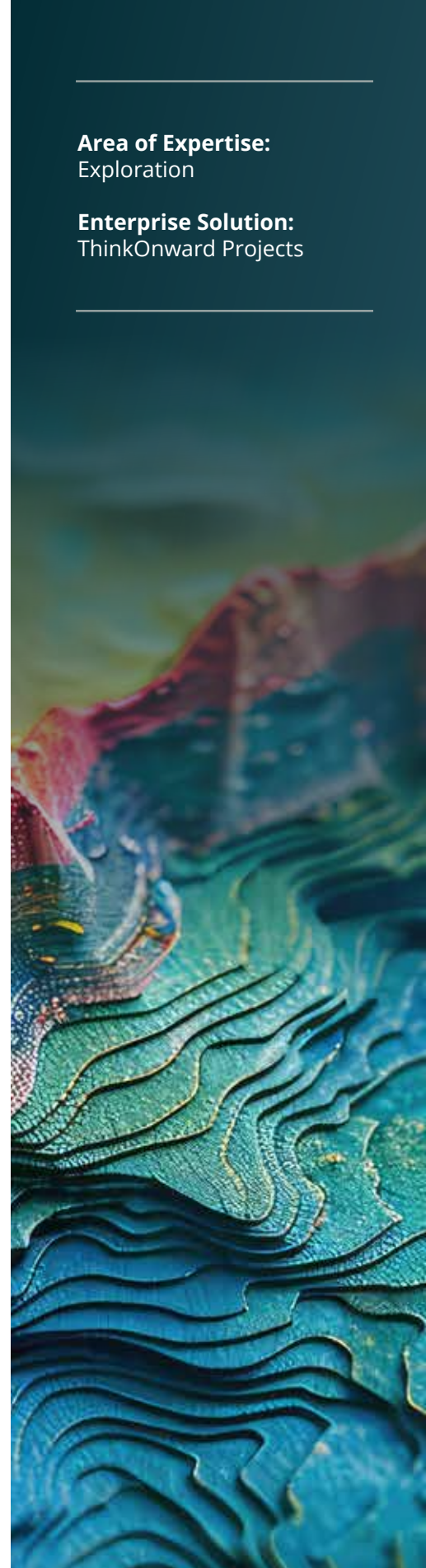
Unlocking the potential of frontier basins poses significant challenges in the exploration sector. The ultimate goal of this project was to balance the risk versus the reward in uncharted territories. The client sought outside expertise to accelerate decision timelines and the ThinkOnward team to minimize resources spent on project management. This case study delves into the rigorous assessment of the basin's viability, highlighting the critical insights provided, the value generated, and the strategic implications for future exploration endeavors.

## Challenge

In the dynamic world of oil & gas exploration, identifying promising opportunities in uncharted territories poses significant challenges, potential risks as well as the potential for big payoffs. A super major client sought external perspective for play based exploration screening of a frontier basin to establish viability for further investment. Sparse data and limited well control added complexity to the assessment, necessitating a comprehensive yet agile approach to exploration.

## Solution

To address the challenge, a super major enlisted ThinkOnward and its project offering to conduct a rigorous play-based exploration screening of the basin. The offering leveraged the expertise of ThinkOnward's project managers, who are seasoned geologists and geophysicists, and a dedicated expert in residence (XiR), who was hand-selected by the project team from the ThinkOnward community to work on the project. Leveraging expertise in play based exploration and deepwater stratigraphy, the project aimed to deliver critical insights into the basin's potential. A veteran explorer, re-entering the workforce after a hiatus, was selected as the XiR bringing regional experience and a fresh outlook to the exploration endeavor.



## Implementation

The XiR embarked on a 12-week part-time engagement, utilizing 2D seismic data, wells, and additional published/public information to conduct the exploration assessment. The project culminated in the delivery of a regional framework interpretation, annotated play maps, identified play/lead concepts, and a comprehensive summary report. The XiR's flexible work hours facilitated seamless integration into the project, ensuring timely and insightful deliverables.

## Result

The project yielded significant value to the super major, estimated at \$12M, alongside a notable acceleration of three months in decision-making timelines. By providing an unbiased assessment, the XiR confirmed the initial instincts of the client, enabling informed decision-making regarding further investment in the basin. The delivered regional framework, play maps, and lead concepts laid the groundwork for future exploration endeavors, guiding the client's strategic direction with clarity and confidence.

## Conclusion

The impact of the project extended beyond immediate decision-making, influencing broader strategic considerations within the super major. The XiR's work also informed the scope for a potential phase two study. By leveraging ThinkOnward's crowdsourcing model and the project team, the super major optimized resource allocation and minimized unnecessary expenditures, demonstrating the value of agile exploration methodologies in navigating complex and uncertain exploration landscapes.

- **Strategic Direction and Clarity** - Quality of insights optimized future investment pathways for the basin
- **Critical Insights for Decision-Making** - Provided critical insights into the frontier basin's potential, informing the scope of a potential subsequent study
- **Optimized Resource Allocation** - Yielded significant value by helping to optimize resource allocation and minimize unnecessary expenditures, enhancing overall cost-effectiveness

Learn more at [ThinkOnward.com](https://ThinkOnward.com)

Follow us on LinkedIn 