

Ghana sounds conciliatory note in Jubilee spat

Accra, 23 March (Argus) — **Ghana's** oil minister Joe Oteng-Adjei has struck a conciliatory note in his government's spat with Kosmos Energy over the US company's move to sell its stake in the Jubilee oil field development to ExxonMobil.

The minister told *Argus* on the fringes of a conference in the Ghanaian capital Accra that the government's decision on whether to block the sale or not would be taken with the interests of the country in mind.

The oil ministry wants to work with Kosmos, Oteng-Adjei said. "We have given Kosmos the necessary options and it could decide to stay or sell its shares and we would be happy to work with them."

Negotiations should move away from discussions in the press and "we would expect the parties involved to be talking so that a beneficial decision would be taken", he said.

The government is awaiting more information from Kosmos on the deal it has signed with ExxonMobil, Oteng-Adjei said.

South Korean state-owned oil company KNOC is in **Ghana** to explore investment opportunities, Oteng-Adjei said. KNOC has expressed interest in the Jubilee field, but Oteng-Adjei denied that this was the main reason for the firm's arrival in the country. "We discussed the Jubilee field in addition to other issues," he said. ENDS