

Ophir Energy Plc

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Ophir rejects £360m takeover offer from Indonesian oil giant

Ophir Energy Plc (LON:OPHR) has rejected a £362m takeover offer from Medco Energi, claiming the Indonesian energy giant's bid "undervalues" the company.

The pair had opened talks before Christmas after Medco suggested it would consider tabling an offer nearer to £430m, before reducing this to £401m shortly after.

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Ophir said the board had met to discuss the offer, which was made on Friday and had "unanimously agreed" to turn it down, without giving any further details.

Under City takeover rules, Medco now has until 28 January to either make a firm offer or walk away from a deal altogether.

Ophir, which is due to publish a trading update on Tuesday, lost more than half of its value last year after failing to find financing for a liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Equatorial Guinea.

The company is expected to write down the value of that project by US\$300m and also move its headquarters from London to Asia, where it bought a package of oilfields last year which doubled its annual production.

Ophir shares were down 2.6% to 43.8p in early deals on Monday.

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Share Information

Code: OPHR
Listing: LSE
Sector: Energy
Website: www.ophirenergy.com

Company Synopsis:

Ophir Energy plc (Ophir) is the UK incorporated holding company of a group of companies (the Group) with oil and gas exploration assets in a number of African locations. The Group's headquarters are located in London (England), with operational offices in Perth (Australia), Malabo (Equatorial Guinea) and Dar es Salaam/Mtwara (Tanzania).

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