

# GUNTINGAN BERITA

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## A consortium starts oil exploration

MOSCOW: A trilateral consortium of Russian, Vietnamese and Japanese companies has begun oil exploration work on the continental sea shelf off Vietnam, the *Itar-Tass* news agency reported Wednesday from Hanoi.

The Russian foreign economic association Zarubezhneft, the Vietnamese state oil and gas company Petro-Vietnam and Japan's Idemitsu corporation are test drilling 150 kilometers south of the Vietnamese port of Vungtau.

The US\$15 million exploration project, which is half funded by the Russian side, hopes to tap into an estimated 50 million tons of oil deposits. — *DPA*