

# Iraq Inks Deal With Bashneft

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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BAGHDAD — Iraq's Oil Ministry said it had finalized a deal with a consortium led by oil company Bashneft to search for oil in the country's south.

Ministry spokesman Assem Jihad said Bashneft and its British partner, Premier, will explore the 8,000-square-kilometer Block 12, shared by the provinces of Muthana and Najaf. They will be paid \$5 for each barrel of oil equivalent.

The contract is one of four deals Iraq awarded in its latest bidding round to hunt for oil and gas.

*(AP)*

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