ExxonMobil and Kufpec are reportedly going to team up with Total to explore in South Sudan. The French firm holds title to Block B in South Sudan but has not done any work on the block since the mid-1980s due to Sudan’s civil war; the company has however been paying its fees for the block over the years.

Late last year the government of South Sudan was rumored to be dividing the block up into three separate blocks (Block B1, B2, and B3) and bringing in two other companies, namely US supermajor ExxonMobil and Kuwait’s state-run firm Kufpec. Total has preempted the move by bringing the two into its portion of the divided block itself.

Henry Odwar, chairman of South Sudan’s parliamentary committee on energy and mining, said that “now Total has gone ahead and, with a nudge from the (oil) ministry, engaged certain partners”.

“Exxon Mobil and Kufpec have been brought in to be a partner in Block B1,” he told Reuters. Another industry insider told the news service that while the deals were not yet finalized, the partnership for Block B2 would likely be made up of the same companies.

The government has yet to come to a decision on who will explore B3.