

A RECOGNIZED INDEPENDENT CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



## **Cost Analysis**

## James Henderson April 2019

The Economics of Energy Corporations (2)

#### **Key Cost Elements**

#### Main assumptions

- Capital expenditure (initial investment)
- Operating expenditure (ongoing cost of operations)
- Transportation (getting the product to market)
- Taxes (operating taxes and profit tax)
- CAPEX, OPEX, Transport and Tax



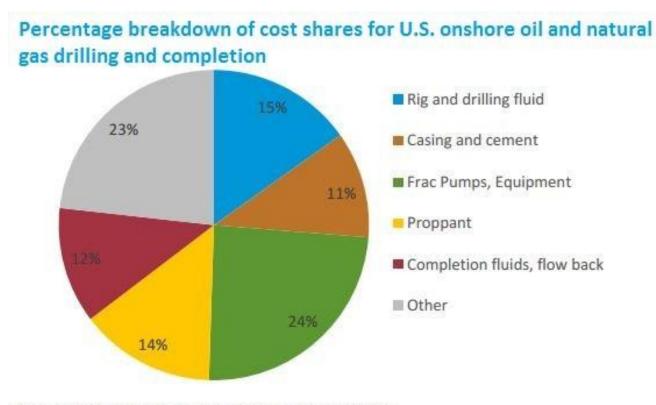
#### Capital Expenditure - CAPEX

#### **Key parameters**

- Size of asset
- Location
- Complexity
- Competition for contractors / availability of local companies



## Breakdown of costs for US onshore fields



Source: IHS Oil and Gas Upstream Cost Study commissioned by EIA

• Different contractors for each element, can costs will vary by region and level of competition



## Complex models are used by engineers

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- Cost estimates based on historical precedent and prices of key inputs today
- Steel price a key input, for example

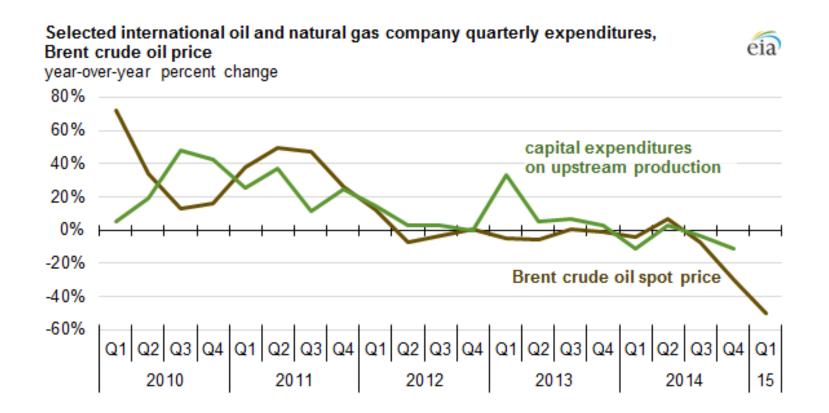


# Timing and planning is vital, with any slippage being potentially very expensive

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80		Phase 2: Design and Specifications	21 days	Mon 1/12/04	Mon 2/9/04	79	1			È														
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84		Formal Requirement Specification	6 days	Mon 1/26/04	Mon 2/2/04	,	1			Ę														
		Design Documentation	4 days	Tue 2/3/04	Fri 2/6/04		1																	
86		Presentation 2	1 day	Mon 2/9/04	Mon 2/9/04	81,82,83,84,85	1																	
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88		Phase 3: Implementation	28 days?	Tue 3/16/04	Thu 4/22/04	87	1																	
89		Implementing the project	10 days	Tue 3/16/04	Mon 3/29/04	7	1			È														
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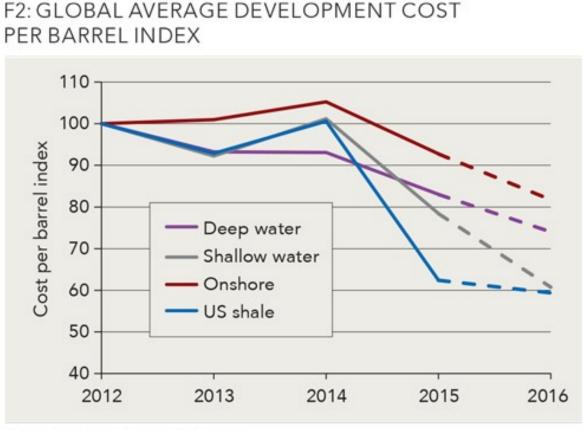
## Spending trends tend to move with the oil price



- As prices and revenues rise, so companies are keen to spend more and contractors are able to charge more
- The oil industry is renowned for not being very cost efficient



## Recent low prices have forced a re-think on costs

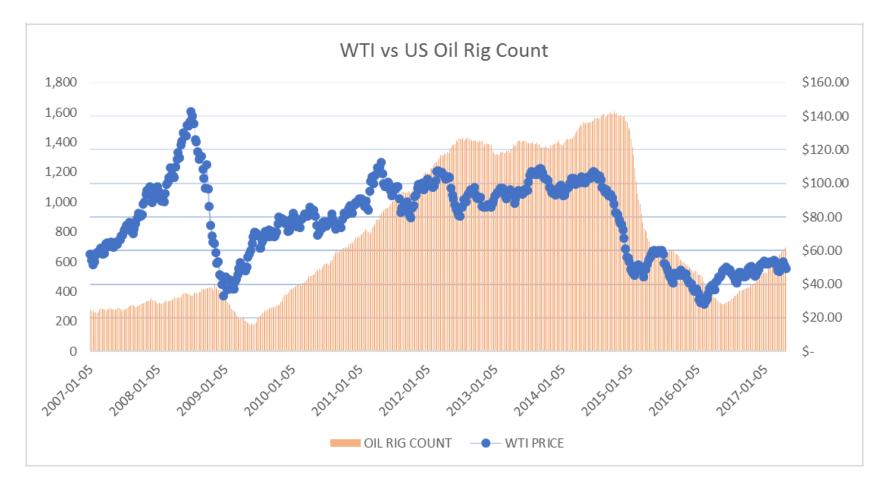


Source: DW250 - Capital Cost Briefing

- Upstream costs have been brought down by 30-40% in many countries
- Breakeven oil price for planning purposes now generally \$50 per barrel



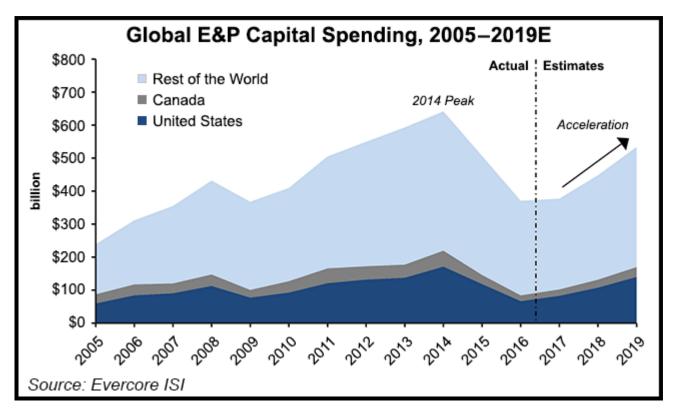
## Availability of equipment also a key driver



- Competition for equipment drives prices up
- US shale rig count a key indicator
- Australian LNG project cost inflation in 2011-2015



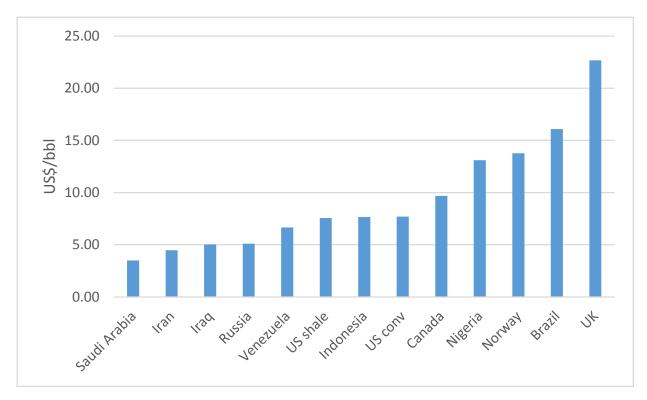
# The rebound in oil price had encouraged more spending



- Are we heading for another boon bust cycle?
- Can the oil industry control costs as oil prices rise?



### Comparison of capex by countries

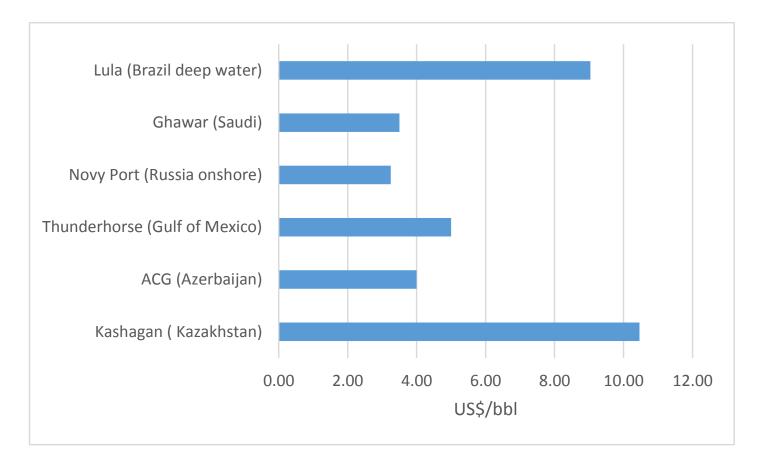


Source: Rystad Energy

- Low investment costs in Middle East thanks to huge reserves and easy conditions
- Highest costs offshore, especially in deep water



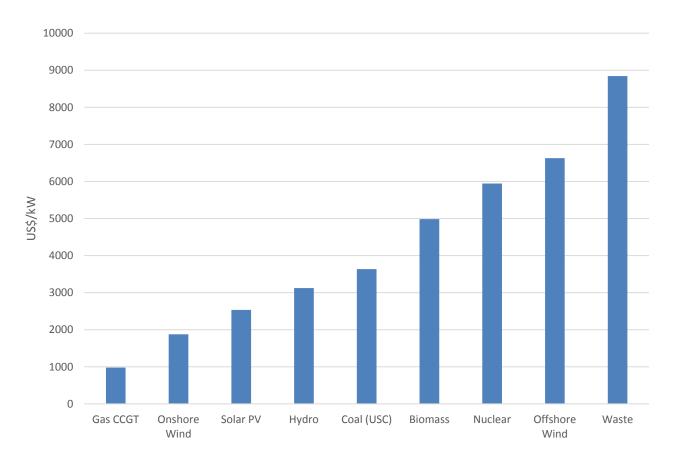
## Comparison of field capex



- Specific fields exemplify the country trends
- Offshore fields are more expensive (Lula), as are those with complex geology (Kashagan)
- Onshore conventional fields (Ghawar, Novy Port) are lower cost



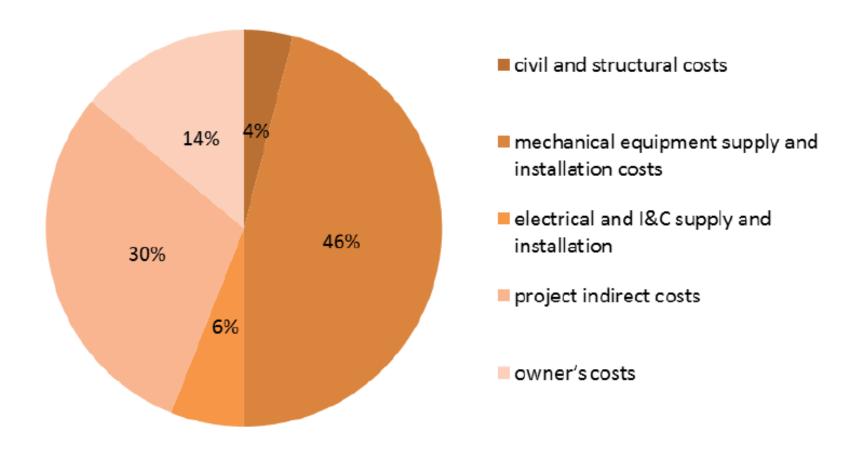
## CCGT costs tend to be low by comparison with other fuels



- They are becoming very popular in the US because the capital cost is low and gas prices are also now very low
- They have been displacing coal-fired plants even without any environmental incentives



### Breakdown of costs for CCGT



• Different contractors for each element, can costs will vary by region and level of competition



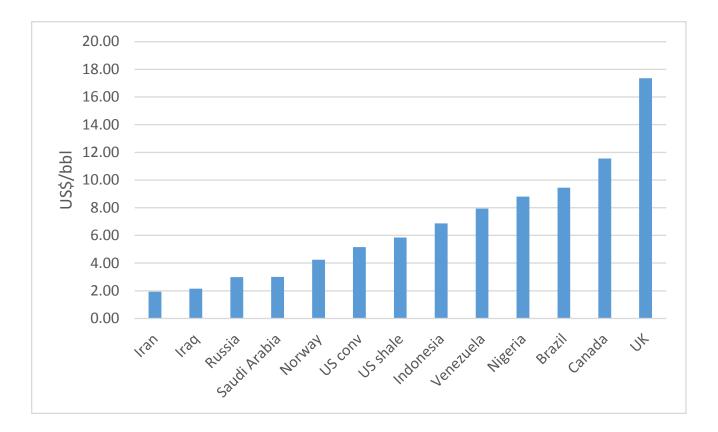
#### **Operating Costs**

#### **Key Assumptions**

- Lifting costs getting the oil out of the ground
  - Electricity
  - Rig costs
  - Employment costs
- Transportation moving the oil to market
  - Pipeline distance and tariffs
  - Shipping costs and distance
  - Truck or rail freight
- Operating taxes
  - Royalties
  - Export tax
  - Production sharing agreement
  - Other local taxes



## Lifting Costs



- Generally calculated by local experts with knowledge of specific environment
- If a general assumption is needed, then company or country metrics can be used

## Contrasting operating costs



#### Saudi Arabia

- Huge reserves located in close proximity
- Potential for large synergy benefits
- Relatively benign operating environment
- Low costs per barrel

#### **North Sea**

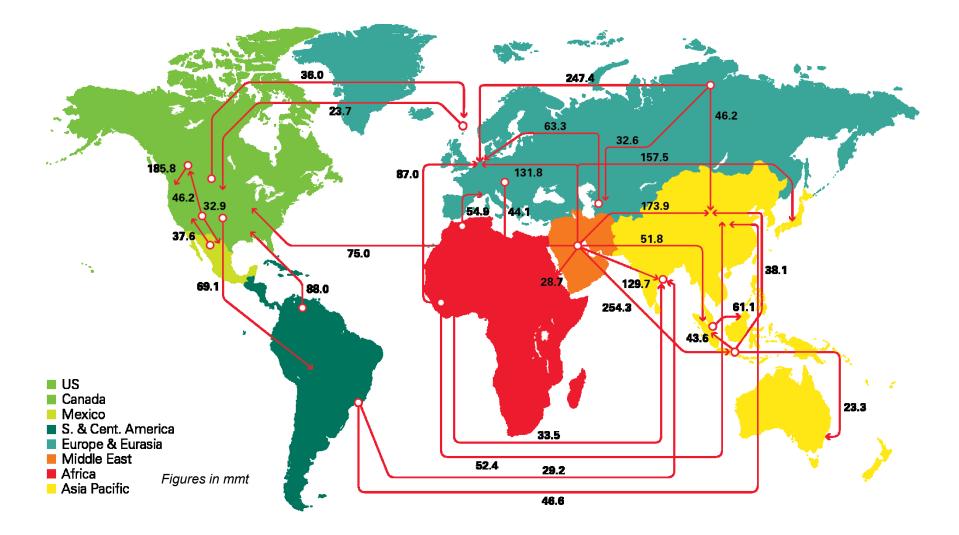
- Tough environment
- Remote location
- Relatively small reserves
- Higher costs per barrel



## Long Run and Short Run Costs

- Long Run Marginal Cost = total cost of oil extraction over life of field
- Short run Marginal Cost = cash cost of extracting a barrel of oil today
- LRMC of conventional oil (especially offshore) is high because of significant upfront capital costs
- However, SRMC is low because once costs have been incurred companies will extract oil as long as they can cover operating costs
- For unconventional (shale) oil LRMC is low because capital costs are low
- However, the bulk of costs are on-going operating costs (continuous drilling of new wells) so SRMC is high
- Shale oil more likely to react to low oil prices faster reaction time an higher short-run costs

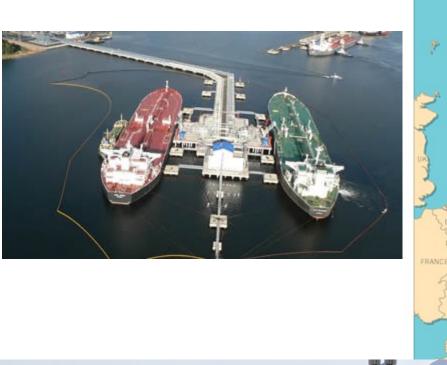
#### Oil is a global commodity



- Oil is traded in multiple directions across the globe
- Much of the trade originates from the Middle East and flows West and East
- Prices are set relative to a set of global benchmarks



## Russia's huge pipeline system



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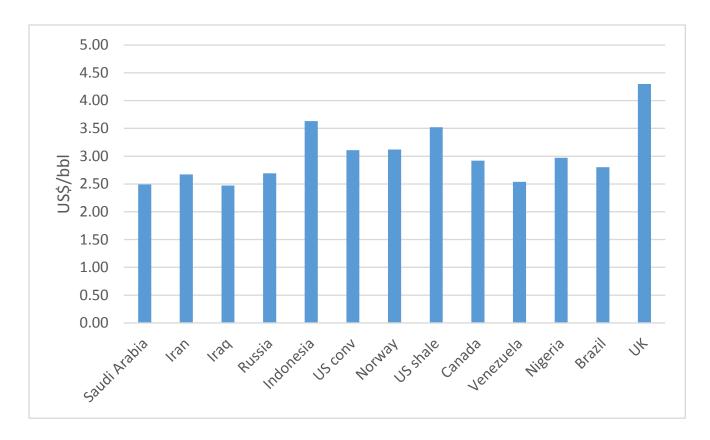


#### Oil tanker and the Panama Canal





#### **Transportation Cost**



- Main driver of cost is distance
- Mode of transport also important onshore pipelines versus offshore tankers
- Most expensive is rail or truck transport, due to lower individual volumes

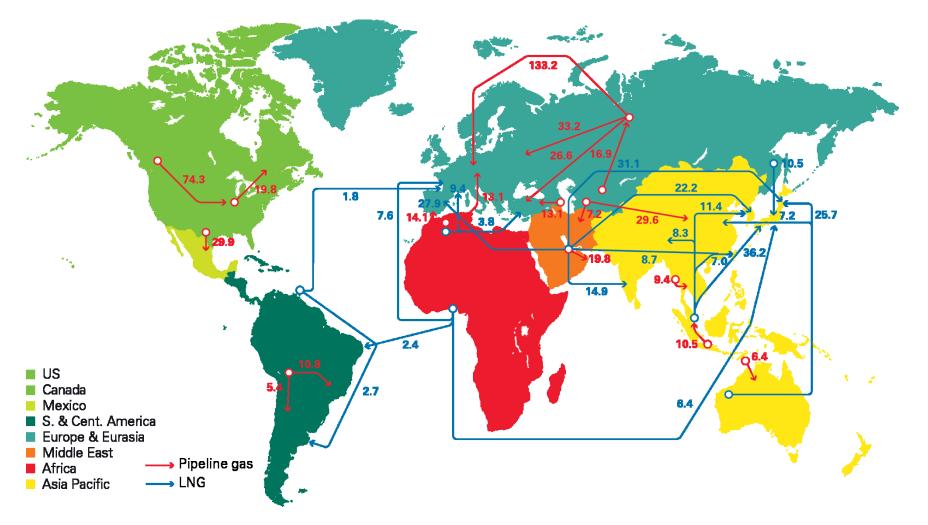


#### Gas transportation can get complex

- Gas is also transported by pipeline and ship
- Pipelines have dominated, but LNG is globalising the gas market
- Liquefaction and regasification then become an integral part of the value chain
- Costs are increased, but new markets can be accessed
- From a modelling perspective, LNG plants are included in capex, while shipping and regas costs are generally included in transport
- Shipping tariffs are based on journey time (days) multiplied by freight rates, which can vary significantly over time



#### Gas trade flows (bcm)



- Gas trade flows via two transport methods pipeline and LNG
- Historically pipeline flows have dominated, leading to regionalisation
- LNG is now turning gas into a more global commodity





#### **Long Distance Pipeline**





#### Yemen Liquefaction Facility





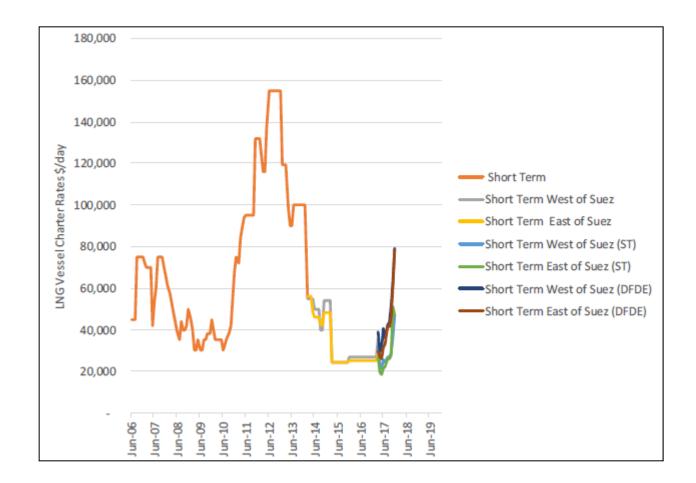
#### **LNG Tankers**







## LNG tanker freight rates



• Significant volatility driven by LNG demand and ship-building investment





### LNG Import and Regas Terminal Jurong Island, Singapore



#### Taxation

#### Tax and Royalty Regime

- The most common tax regime includes operating taxes and profit tax
- Operating taxes are normally taken from revenues
  - Export tax (on export revenues only)
  - Royalty (on all production)
  - Specific local or regional taxes (for regional government support)
- Revenue taxes are simple to collect, but can be penal because they do not take investment costs into account
- Sometimes governments alleviate the risks of revenue taxes by introducing a sliding scale relative to the oil price



## Types of taxes

#### • Export Tax

- Normally a % of export revenues
- Occasionally banded by oil price ranges
- Focus tax on premium market and prices
- Royalty
  - Ensures that government gets a minimum amount of revenue
  - Can be a % of overall revenues or a fixed amount per barrel of production
  - Very regressive, as takes no account of cost recovery, but very easy to collect to favoured in countries with dubious accounting regulation
- Regional taxes
  - Levied by local governments to support regional infrastructure
  - Often used to fund schools, hospitals etc.
  - Can be open to significant negotiation
- Corporate Tax (Profit Tax)
  - Levied after all costs have been taken into consideration (including other taxes)
  - Often a complex calculation, but does allow for reclaiming of expenses



#### The Key is Cost Recovery

- Can you get your money back before you start paying higher taxes
- The sooner you recover your money the better for your project economics
- Revenue taxes do not allow for cost recovery
- Depreciation offers some element of cost recovery in a tax and royalty scheme
- Another term for it is "cost oil", which is used in Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs)



#### Depreciation

- Depreciation is an allowance against profit tax
- An accounting calculation to reduce "pre-tax profits"
- Has no cash impact
- Reduces corporation (profit) tax and effectively allows cashflow to the company to be increased
- Encourages a faster recovery of costs, although not perfect
- PSA Cost oil has the same impact, and is a subject of fierce negotiation



## **Production Sharing Agreements**

- Specific tax and legal regimes for individual projects
- Negotiated with government before first investment is made
- Legally guaranteed for the life of a project (although this is not always the case)
- Normally based on a split of **cost oil** and **profit oil**, although can also include a royalty payment
- Cost oil allows the company a larger share of revenues until costs are recovered
- Profit oil is the split of revenues after costs have been taken into account it tends to increase in importance once costs have been recovered
- Governments sometimes also demand a royalty in order to guarantee a minimum amount of revenue immediately



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