From International Oil Company to Integrated Energy Company: bp sets out strategy for decade of delivery towards net zero ambition

4 August 2020

New strategy sees bp:

Pivoting to low carbon energy and customer focus

- 10-fold increase in low carbon investment by 2030, with up to 8-fold increase by 2025
- partnering with 10-15 cities and 3 core industries in decarbonization efforts and doubling customer interactions to 20 million per day, all by 2030

Focusing resilient hydrocarbon business on value:

- capital intensity decreasing as major project wave completes, combined with continued efficiency focus, to drive earnings and ROACE growth
- production declines by 40% by 2030 through active portfolio management
- no exploration in new countries

Delivering on net zero ambition

- emissions from bp’s operations 30-35% lower by 2030
- emissions associated with carbon in upstream oil and gas production 35-40% lower by 2030
- carbon intensity of products bp sells lower by more than 15% by 2030

Delivering long term value for shareholders

- reset resilient dividend of 5.25c/share per quarter, with commitment to return at least 60% of surplus cash as share buybacks
- profitable growth with 7-9% annual growth in EBIDA per share to 2025
- sustainable value with increasing investment in low carbon and non-oil and gas
bp today introduces a new strategy that will reshape its business as it pivots from being an international oil company focused on producing resources to an integrated energy company focused on delivering solutions for customers.

Within 10 years, bp aims to have increased its annual low carbon investment 10-fold to around $5 billion a year, building out an integrated portfolio of low carbon technologies, including renewables, bioenergy and early positions in hydrogen and CCUS. By 2030, bp aims to have developed around 50GW of net renewable generating capacity – a 20-fold increase from 2019 – and to have doubled its consumer interactions to 20 million a day.

Over the same period, bp’s oil and gas production is expected to reduce by at least one million barrels of oil equivalent a day, or 40%, from 2019 levels. Its remaining hydrocarbon portfolio is expected to be more cost and carbon resilient.

By 2030, bp aims for emissions from its operations and those associated with the carbon in its upstream oil and gas production (addressed by Aim 1 and Aim 2 of bp’s net zero ambition) to be lower by 30-35% and 35-40% respectively.

bp also today sets out a new financial frame to support a fundamental shift in how it allocates capital, towards low carbon and other energy transition activities. The combination of strategy and financial frame is designed to provide a coherent and compelling investor proposition – introducing a balance between committed distributions, profitable growth and sustainable value – and create long-term value for bp’s stakeholders.

As part of the investor proposition, bp’s board has introduced a new distribution policy, with two elements:

- the dividend reset to a resilient level of 5.25 cents per share per quarter, and intended to remain fixed at this level, subject to the board’s decision each quarter, supplemented by
- a commitment to return at least 60% of surplus cash to shareholders through share buybacks, once bp’s balance sheet has been deleveraged and subject to maintaining a strong investment grade credit rating.

“Energy markets are fundamentally changing, shifting towards low carbon, driven by societal expectations, technology and changes in consumer preferences. And in these transforming markets, bp can compete and create value, based on our skills, experience and relationships. We are confident that the decisions we have taken and the strategy we are setting out today are right for bp, for our shareholders, and for wider society.”

**Helge Lund, chairman**
New strategy

Earlier this year bp announced its new purpose, net zero ambition and aims, and its determination to reimagine energy and reinvent bp. Building on the purpose, together with bp’s beliefs about the future of energy systems and changing customer demands, the strategy sets out how bp expects to deliver its ambition.

“bp has been an international oil company for over a century - defined by two core commodities produced by two core businesses. Now we are pivoting to become an integrated energy company - from IOC to IEC. From a company driven by the production of resources to one that that’s focused on delivering energy solutions for customers.

“We believe our new strategy provides a comprehensive and coherent approach to turn our net zero ambition into action. This coming decade is critical for the world in the fight against climate change, and to drive the necessary change in global energy systems will require action from everyone.

“So, in the years ahead, bp is going to significantly scale-up our low-carbon energy business and transform our mobility and convenience offers. We will focus, and reduce, our oil, gas and refining portfolio. And, as we drive down emissions on our route to net zero, we are committed to continuing to deliver long-term value for our stakeholders.

“We bring with us over 100 years of experience steeped in the world of energy. We understand energy markets deeply, and have developed unique capabilities in trading, marketing, technology and innovation. And we are not starting from scratch in this new world. From our Lightsource bp joint venture – now in 13 countries – to our electric vehicle charging partnership with DiDi in China, and our industry-leading convenience partnerships with M&S in the UK and REWE in Germany – we are already building scale and capability.”

Bernard Looney, chief executive officer

The strategy is built around three focus areas of activity and three distinctive sources of differentiation, underpinned by a new sustainability frame and advocacy for policies that support net zero.

The focus areas are:
• **Low carbon electricity and energy**: building scale in renewables and bioenergy, seeking early positions in hydrogen and CCUS, and building out a customer gas portfolio to complement these low carbon energies.

• **Convenience and mobility**: putting customers at the heart of what bp does, helping accelerate the global revolution in mobility, redefining the experience of convenience retail, and scaling bp’s presence and fuel sales in growth markets.

• **Resilient and focused hydrocarbons**: maintaining an absolute focus on safety and operational reliability, bp intends to drive capital and cost productivity up and emissions down. bp intends to complete the ongoing wave of major projects, decreasing capital intensity, and to continue to high-grade the portfolio, resulting in significantly lower and more competitive production and refining throughput. bp will not seek to explore in countries where it does not already have upstream activities. Rosneft is a fundamental part of bp’s broader portfolio and provides bp with a strong position in Russia.

The three sources of differentiation to amplify value are:

• **Integrated energy systems**: along and across value chains, pulling together all bp’s capabilities to optimise energy systems and create comprehensive offers for customers.

• **Partnering with countries, cities, and industries**: as they shape their own paths to net zero.

• **Digital and innovation**: to enable new ways to engage with customers, create efficiencies, and support new businesses.

Delivering the strategy will see bp become a very different company by 2030. By then, bp aims for:

• investment in low carbon energy to have increased from around $500 million to around $5 billion a year;
• developed renewable generating capacity to have grown from 2.5GW in 2019 to around 50GW;
• bioenergy production to have risen from 22,000 b/d to more than 100,000 b/d;
• hydrogen business to have grown to have 10% share of core markets;
• global customer interactions to have risen from 10 million to 20 million a day;
• electric vehicle charging points to have increased from 7,500 to over 70,000; and
• energy partnerships with 10-15 major cities around the world and three core industries.

Over the same time:

• Upstream oil and gas production is expected to reduce from 2.6 million barrels of oil equivalent a day (mmboe/d) in 2019 to around 1.5mmboe/d; and
• refining throughput is expected to fall from 1.7 million barrels a day (mmb/d) in 2019 to around 1.2mmb/d.

Through this change, bp will continue its commitment to performing as it transforms – maintaining its focus on safety, operational excellence and financial discipline.

Delivering bp’s net zero ambition

The introduction of the new strategy and transformation of bp are expected to deliver material progress towards its ambition to become net zero by 2050 or sooner and its supporting aims. By 2030, bp aims to have delivered significant progress against its first five Aims:

• **Aim 1** – emissions from operations, 30-35% lower than in 2019;
• **Aim 2** – emissions associated with the carbon in bp’s upstream oil and gas production, 35-40% lower than in 2019;
• **Aim 3** – carbon intensity of marketed products, more than 15% lower than in 2019;
• **Aim 4** – measurement of methane in place by 2023, and progress underway to halve its intensity;
• **Aim 5** – investment in low carbon increased from $0.5 billion to around $5 billion a year and to $3-4 billion by 2025.

New financial frame, investor proposition and distribution policy

bp also today introduces a new financial frame that will support this transformation and delivery of the strategy. It sets out bp’s clearly defined priorities for capital allocation:

• supporting a resilient dividend;
• deleveraging and maintaining a strong investment grade credit rating;
• investing at scale into the energy transition;
• investing in bp’s resilient hydrocarbons assets to maximise value and cash flow; and
• returning cash to shareholders through buybacks.

bp intends to maintain its financial discipline with a rigorous business plan, including strengthening its balance sheet, maintaining strict discipline on capital spending and deleveraging to reduce net debt to $35 billion.

bp intends to maintain annual capital expenditure -- including inorganic investment — in a range of $14-16 billion to 2025; keeping within the lower end of the $13-15 billion range until net debt has been reduced to $35bn. As it high-grades its portfolio, bp is also targeting $25 billion of divestment proceeds between the second half of 2020 and 2025.

Based on expected growth in profitability, and its focus on disciplined investment allocation, bp aims to deliver strong and growing returns, with ROACE rising to 12-14% in 2025(1). It also expects to rebalance its sources and uses of cash, on average over 2021-25, to a balance point of around $40/bbl Brent, assuming an average bp refining marker margin around $11/bbl and Henry Hub at $3/mmBtu in 2020 real terms.

bp is committed to delivering attractive returns to shareholders. Therefore, as part of the financial frame, bp’s board has put in place a new distribution policy, comprising two elements:

• a resilient dividend of 5.25 cents per share per quarter, with an intention that this level will remain fixed, subject to the board’s decision each quarter; and
• a commitment to return at least 60% of surplus cash flow to shareholders via share buybacks once net debt is reduced to $35 billion and subject to maintaining a strong investment grade credit rating(2).

The board believes setting a dividend at this level takes into account the current uncertainty regarding the economic consequences of the COVID pandemic, supports bp’s balance sheet and also provides the flexibility required to invest into the energy transition at scale. The commitment to return surplus cash as buybacks offers investors benefits from potential cash flow upside, while also reinforcing bp’s commitment to investment discipline.

The combination of this frame and the new strategy creates bp’s new investor proposition:
• **Committed distributions**: a resilient dividend, supplemented by a commitment to distribute surplus cash through share buybacks.

• **Profitable growth**: underlying business performance expected to drive growth in EBIDA per share at an average compounded annual growth rate of 7-9% to 2025(3), supported by the share buyback commitment.

• **Sustainable value**: with increasing investment in non-oil and gas, by 2025 more than 20% of bp’s capital is expected to be employed in transition businesses, including low carbon. This is expected to diversify and improve the resilience of bp’s cash flow.

“We believe that what we are setting out today offers a compelling and attractive long-term proposition for all investors -- a reset and resilient dividend with a commitment to share buybacks; profitable growth; and the opportunity to invest in the energy transition.

“I want to acknowledge the impact the reset dividend will have on many – whether individual retail investors or large holders. However, it is a decision that we wholeheartedly believe is in the long-term interest of our stakeholders.”

**Bernard Looney**

bp will give more detail on its strategy, business plans and investor proposition in its capital markets day presentations on 14-16 September.

**Notes:**

This announcement includes inside information as defined in Article 7 of the Market Abuse Regulation No. 596/2014. The person responsible for arranging the release of this announcement on behalf of BP p.l.c. is Ben Mathews, Company Secretary.

(1) This ROACE figure is based on $50-60/bbl (2020 real).

(2) Following the end of the first quarter in which net debt is reduced to $35 billion, and subject to having surplus cash flow, the board will announce the quantum of share buybacks, returning at least 60% of the surplus cash flow arising in such quarter. Thereafter, and subject to maintaining a strong investment grade credit rating, the amount to be allocated to buybacks will be calculated on a cumulative basis, including surplus cash flow and the quantum of buybacks in previous quarters. Once a full four quarters have been reached, the calculation will be limited to the preceding four quarters, on a rolling basis.

(3) This EBIDA figure is based on $50-60/bbl (2020 real).
Other:

- bp’s net zero ambition and aims are set out in BP Annual Report and Form 20-F 2019, pages 6 and 7; further information on Aims 1, 2 and 3 is provided in BP Annual Report and Form 20-F 2019, page 40.

- For the purpose of this announcement, the terminology below has the meaning given to it on the specified page in BP Annual Report and Form 20-F 2019:

  Carbon intensity of products bp sells; carbon intensity of marketed products: pages 40 and 338 (“Average emissions intensity of marketed energy products”)

  Emissions from bp’s operations; emissions from operations: page 40.

  Emissions associated with carbon in bp’s upstream oil and gas production: page 38 (“emissions from the carbon in our Upstream oil and gas production”)

  Methane intensity: page 34.

  Net zero: page 338.

- For the purpose of this announcement, the terminology below has the following meanings:

  EBIDA - underlying replacement cost profit before interest and tax, add back depreciation, depletion and amortization and exploration expenditure written-off (net of non-operating items), less taxation on an underlying replacement cost basis.

  EBIDA per share – share buybacks are modelled across a range of share prices in this calculation and EBIDA is after impact of planned divestments

  Low carbon energy; low carbon technologies: Low carbon (renewable) electricity; bio-energy; electrification; future mobility solutions; carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS); “blue” or “green” hydrogen; and trading in low carbon products. Note that, while there is some overlap, these terms do not mean the same as bp’s strategic focus area of “low carbon electricity and energy”, as described in this announcement.

  Low carbon investment; investment in low carbon energy; investment in low carbon: Capital expenditure on low carbon energy or technologies.
Low carbon and other energy transition activities: Low carbon energy / technologies as described above, together with convenience; integrated gas and power; bp Ventures and Launchpad.

Developed net renewable generating capacity; developed renewable generating capacity: the aggregate quantity, net to bp, of renewable generating capacity that has been developed, whether before or after the date of this announcement, to the point of Final Investment Decision. This figure is calculated irrespective of any subsequent sell-down; it represents the quantity developed up to the relevant date (e.g., 2030) rather than the quantity held at that date.

Bioenergy production: production of bioenergy on an ethanol equivalent production basis for sugarcane ethanol and biopower production as well as refining bio co-processing production; net to bp.

Surplus cash flow - refers to surplus of sources of cash including operating cash flow, JV loan repayments and divestment proceeds, over uses, including leases, Gulf of Mexico oil spill payments, hybrid servicing costs, dividend payments and cash capital expenditure.

ROACE - return on average capital employed as defined in BP Annual Report and Form 20-F 2019 (page 342).

Further information:
bp press office, London: bppress@bp.com, +44(0)7831 095541

Cautionary statement:
In order to utilize the ‘safe harbor’ provisions of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the ‘PSLRA’) and the general doctrine of cautionary statements, BP is providing the following cautionary statement: The discussion in this results announcement contains certain forecasts, projections and forward-looking statements - that is, statements related to future, not past events and circumstances - with respect to the financial condition, results of operations and businesses of BP and certain of the plans and objectives of BP with respect to these items. These statements may generally, but not always, be identified by the use of words such as ‘will’, ‘expects’, ‘is expected to’, ‘aims’, ‘should’, ‘may’, ‘objective’, ‘is likely to’, ‘intends’, ‘believes’, ‘anticipates’, ‘plans’, ‘we see’, ‘focus on’ or similar expressions.
In particular, the following, among other statements, are all forward looking in nature: BP’s new strategy to focus on low-carbon electricity and energy, convenience and mobility, cost and carbon resilient and focused hydrocarbons, including statements regarding its aims to increase low-carbon investment 10-fold by 2030 and up to 8-fold by 2025, decrease capital intensity as major project wave completes, lower oil and gas production 40% from current levels by 2030 through active portfolio management, develop around 50GW of net renewable generating capacity by 2030, scale BP’s presence and fuel sales in growth markets, maintain focus on safety and operational reliability, drive capital and cost productivity up, increase bioenergy production to 100,000 b/d, increase hydrogen business to 10% share of core markets, begin no exploration in new countries, build partnerships with countries, cities and industries in decarbonisation efforts and double customer interactions to 20 million per day by 2030 and increase electric vehicle charging points to over 70,000 and to amplify value through digital and innovation; plans and expectations to reduce Upstream oil and gas production to around 1.5mmboe/d and refining throughput to 1.2mmb/d by 2030; BP’s new ambition to be a net zero company by 2050 or sooner including statements regarding its aims by 2030 for emissions reductions across operations, the carbon content of its oil and gas production, a 50% cut in the carbon intensity of products BP sells, methane measurement at major oil and gas processing sites by 2023 and subsequent reduction of methane intensity of operations, and aims to increase the proportion and amount of investment into non-oil and gas businesses over time; BP’s expectations regarding shifts in energy markets; and BP’s new financial frame to support a shift in allocating capital towards low carbon and other energy transition activities and for the combination of strategy and financial frame to provide a coherent and compelling investor proposition and create long-term value for BP’s shareholders, including statements regarding BP’s disciplined priorities for capital allocation, maintaining financial discipline with a rigorous business plan, strengthening the balance sheet, maintaining strict discipline on capital spending in a range of $14-16 billion to 2025 and within the lower end of the $13-15 billion range until net debt has been reduced to $35 billion, targeting $25 billion of divestment proceeds between the second half of 2020 and 2025, delivering strong and growing returns, with ROACE rising to 12-14% in 2025, rebalancing sources and uses of cash, on average over 2021-2025 to a balance point of around $40/bbl Brent, assuming an average bp refining marker margin around $11/bbl and Henry Hub at $3/mmBtu in 2020 real terms, resetting to a resilient level of dividend per quarter subject to the board’s decision each quarter, a commitment to return at least 60% of surplus cash through share buybacks once net debt is reduced to $35 billion and subject to maintaining a strong investment grade credit rating, deleveraging and maintaining a strong investment grade credit rating, investing at scale into the energy transition as well as in BP’s resilient hydrocarbons assets to maximize value and cash flow; and to drive growth in EBIDA per share at an average compounded annual growth rate of 7-9% to
2025 supported by the share buyback commitment and that by 2025 more than 20% of its capital is expected to be employed in transition businesses, including low carbon.

By their nature, forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainty because they relate to events and depend on circumstances that will or may occur in the future and are outside the control of BP. Actual results may differ materially from those expressed in such statements, depending on a variety of factors, including: the extent and duration of the impact of current market conditions including the significant drop in the oil price, the impact of COVID-19, overall global economic and business conditions impacting our business and demand for our products as well as the specific factors identified in the discussions accompanying such forward-looking statements; changes in consumer preferences and societal expectations; the pace of development and adoption of alternative energy solutions; the receipt of relevant third party and/or regulatory approvals; the timing and level of maintenance and/or turnaround activity; the timing and volume of refinery additions and outages; the timing of bringing new fields onstream; the timing, quantum and nature of certain acquisitions and divestments; future levels of industry product supply, demand and pricing, including supply growth in North America; OPEC quota restrictions; PSA and TSC effects; operational and safety problems; potential lapses in product quality; economic and financial market conditions generally or in various countries and regions; political stability and economic growth in relevant areas of the world; changes in laws and governmental regulations; regulatory or legal actions including the types of enforcement action pursued and the nature of remedies sought or imposed; the actions of prosecutors, regulatory authorities and courts; delays in the processes for resolving claims; amounts ultimately payable and timing of payments relating to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill; exchange rate fluctuations; development and use of new technology; recruitment and retention of a skilled workforce; the success or otherwise of partnering; the actions of competitors, trading partners, contractors, subcontractors, creditors, rating agencies and others; our access to future credit resources; business disruption and crisis management; the impact on our reputation of ethical misconduct and non-compliance with regulatory obligations; trading losses; major uninsured losses; decisions by Rosneft’s management and board of directors; the actions of contractors; natural disasters and adverse weather conditions; changes in public expectations and other changes to business conditions; wars and acts of terrorism; cyber-attacks or sabotage; and other factors discussed elsewhere in this report, and under “Risk factors” in BP Annual Report and Form 20-F 2019 as filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.