Petroleum energy markets of Central Europe are materially influenced by present-day geopolitical stresses between Russia and the so-called 'West'. These stresses, and the commercial opportunities created by them, have origins anchored within the history of the 20th Century of this region.

In the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) of eastern Germany, petroleum activity has been historically hampered by both the domination, prior to 1990, of a communist national petroleum company (EEG) and, since German reunification, German Mining Law which greatly restricts public access to subsurface data and information.

In Poland, after the end of communist rule three national petroleum companies were created and these dominate conventional upstream activity in the country. One company operates solely offshore while the other two operate solely onshore; there is little exchange between offshore and onshore entities regarding data exchanges, exploration techniques, and reservoir management.

In spite of the foregoing, a potentially large liquids-rich gas discovery has recently been made by the Canadian company, Central European Petroleum (CEP) in the eastern German state of Brandenburg at the Guhlen-1a location. The discovery was facilitated by access to legacy data combined with a sophisticated assessment of recently acquired 3D seismic data based on successful approaches to seismic acquisition, processing and interpretation employed by geoscientists in post-communist Poland. In western Poland, forensic work conducted by CEP upon historic and recently released public archives in Germany, combined with the discovery of a geographic/geologic gap in the activity spectrum covered by Polish national petroleum companies, has resulted in the creation of a substantial conventional gas opportunity in the Wolin region where substantial gas infrastructure is in place. Access to this opportunity has been facilitated by the new EU rules governing the disposition of petroleum licenses in Poland combined with the onerous rules of pre-qualification put in place by the Polish authorities to effectively discourage Russian participation within Poland's upstream industry.

From the preceding, it is concluded that substantial commercial opportunities in the upstream portion of the petroleum industry are available in this part of Central Europe and can be created by:

1. An understanding of 20th history dealing with border adjustments, land use changes, national and supra-national legal structures, and the evolution in corporate structures and ownership.
2. The state of current energy market dynamics and geopolitical stresses.
5. Application of modern geophysical techniques to areas having not experienced any field activity for decades.
6. Patience to take advantage of evolving circumstances governing acreage access.