



25 July 2007

Exploration Update

2D prospects and leads volumetric work
3D data – initial interpretation

Rockhopper Exploration plc (“Rockhopper” or “the Company”) the North Falkland Islands explorer, is pleased to announce that volumetric work has been completed on the Company’s leads and prospects in licences PL023 and PL024. The work suggests unrisks P50 recoverable reserves of in aggregate 2.5 billion barrels providing encouragement against the backdrop of an easing rig market.

Rockhopper is also pleased to report that it is further encouraged following an initial review of 3D seismic data covering licences PL032 and PL033, from where oil was recovered in 1998. The survey is the most modern 3D project undertaken in the Falkland Islands to date. Significantly, both structural closures and fan type bodies can already be seen.

2D data – PL023 & PL024 – target sizes

Rockhopper has now completed volumetric work using the 2D seismic data collected in 2006 on a number of targets in licences PL023 and PL024 which suggests unrisks P50 recoverable reserves of in aggregate 2.5 billion barrels.

All of these targets are in relatively shallow water depths of less than 200m. The potential range of target sizes is listed below. The minimum economic size is likely to be 35 to 50 million barrels recoverable. The Company believes that the net present value of a single 100 million barrel recoverable oil field would be between US\$750 million and US\$1 billion.

Name	Recoverable oil Millions of barrels (unrisks)		
	P10	P50	P90
Beauchene	216	145	98
Bleaker	387	193	119
Concordia	60	44	20
Dolphin	543	287	49
Ernest	300	130	50
Golding	125	49	4
Keppel	812	580	365
Pebble	298	186	97
Saunders	679	434	171
Usborne	290	220	150
Weddell	394	254	108

These represent the best 11 structural targets in the opinion of the Directors. There are a number of smaller additional leads which have not been listed. The names are taken from Falkland place names. No reserves have been attributed to any stratigraphic leads which are likely to mature with further data acquisition.

Ernest, which is a 4 way closure with a positive CSEM anomaly, located in the North of PL024, remains the most attractive prospect.

3D Data – PL032 & PL033

Rockhopper expects to receive the final processed 3D volume at the end of July. This 3D covers an area of over 800 square kilometres and extends along some 30km of the untested eastern basin margin. Data acquisition took place between November 2006 and January 2007 and the survey is the largest of the three 3D surveys carried out in the North Falkland Basin.

The Company has already received the initial Quality Control (“QC”) volume. These data are of high quality and represent the most modern 3D undertaken in the Falkland Islands to date. The QC data volume is the entire data volume, delivered prior to the completion of processing. It allows the Company to make an initial interpretation of the data and also to finalise the processing work required.

The initial interpretation of the QC volume reveals a number of structural closures and two large fan bodies that can clearly be seen even at this early stage.

Once interpretation of the final processed 3D data is completed, prospects will be ranked and drilling locations will be decided.

Pierre Jungels commented:

“The data we have available to us is extremely encouraging and further reduces our exploration risk in the North Falkland basin. The target sizes in licences PL023 and PL024 provide confidence in the potential upside should any discovery be made in the area and with the rig market easing, our work will now focus on selecting the best targets for drilling.

Oil has already been recovered on licences PL032 and PL033 so the fact that we can see structural closures and possible fans on our 3D seismic in this area is highly significant and increases our confidence in the prospectivity of the acreage.

NOTE

While most of the targets listed above are entirely within Rockhopper acreage, others straddle the boundary between Rockhopper acreage and unlicensed acreage, or acreage licensed to other operators. For example, while approximately 95% of target Ernest (P10) is within Rockhopper acreage, the analysis above relates to 100% of the target.

No risking has been performed in calculating the numbers above. Where targets are basement structures, a 30m net pay has been assumed. Where targets are shallower closures, a net to gross of 0.65 has been applied to the volume. Conservative reservoir parameters have been applied throughout.

NB: This statement has been approved by the Company's geological staff who include David Bodecott (Exploration Director), who is a Member of Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain (PESGB) and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) with over 30 years of experience in petroleum exploration and management, for the purpose of the Guidance Note for Mining, Oil and Gas Companies issued by the London Stock Exchange in respect of AIM companies, which outline standards of disclosure for mineral projects.

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The Rockhopper Group started trading in February 2004 to invest in and carry out an offshore oil exploration programme to the north of the Falkland Islands. The Group, floated on AIM in August 2005, is currently the largest licence holder in the North Falkland Basin and has a 100 per cent. interest in four offshore production licences which cover approximately 5,800 sq. km. These licences have been granted by the Falkland Islands government.

Licences PL023 and PL024 Prospects

