



17 December 2009

ROCKHOPPER EXPLORATION PLC (The 'Company')

Issue of Equity

The Company announces that, following the exercise of options, it has issued 990 new ordinary shares of 1p each in the Company ("Ordinary Shares") at an exercise price of 10p per share.

Application has been made for the admission of 990 new Ordinary Shares to be admitted to trading on AIM. It is expected that admission will become effective and that dealings will commence on 23 December 2009. On admission, the Company will have 173,108,103 Ordinary Shares in issue.

Rockhopper Exploration plc

Sam Moody - Managing Director

01722 414 419

M: Communications Ltd

Patrick d'Ancona / Ben Simons

0207 920 2340

Canaccord Adams (NOMAD and Broker)

Jeffrey Auld / Elijah Colby

Henry Fitzgerald-O'Connor

020 7050 6500