



PRESS RELEASE

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Rockhopper Exploration Limited announce appointment of Pierre Jungels as Executive Chairman

Rockhopper Exploration Limited, a new UK-based oil exploration and production company, has announced the appointment as executive chairman of Dr Pierre Jungels. He will take up his role formally in February 2005.

Dr Jungels, who holds a PhD in Geophysics & Hydraulics from the California Institute of Technology, has over 30 years experience in the oil industry. He is currently chairman of AiM-listed Offshore Hydrocarbon Mapping plc and also holds non-executive directorships at Woodside Petroleum Ltd, Offshore Logistics, Inc, and Imperial Tobacco plc.

Rockhopper Exploration, as Crude Oil and Gas Limited, announced in December that the Falkland Islands Government had awarded it two exploration/production licences in the North Falkland Basin, covering an area of 4,203 square kilometres. The licences, PL023 and PL024, are located in the North Falkland Basin, 50 kilometres to the north of the Islands. The company plans to conduct an extensive work programme over the area in the next few years with a focus on developing the region's exploration potential.

Richard Visick, Executive Director of Rockhopper Exploration Limited, commented: 'We are delighted that Pierre has agreed to join the company. With his vast experience of the oil industry at the highest level in the UK and internationally, Pierre brings enormous expertise to Rockhopper. His appointment forms a key part of our plans as we put together a highly-experienced management team to take the company forward and progress our work programme for the licences.'

Pierre Jungels added: 'I am delighted to be working with Richard and the team at Rockhopper as we look to build the business over the next few years in what is an exciting – and largely undrilled – exploration region. We are actively considering our funding options as we pursue other opportunities in the area that will enable us to grow the business.'

Ends.

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Notes to Editors

Dr Jungels, a geology graduate of the University of Liege, Belgium (1967) and holder of a PhD in Geophysics & Hydraulics at the California Institute of Technology (1973), began his career in the oil industry as a petroleum engineer at Shell International. In 1974 he joined PetroFina SA - initially as a reservoir engineer - where he spent over twenty years in various roles, including those of Managing Director of the company's Angolan operations, and Managing Director & Chief Executive of Fina plc in the UK. In addition, from 1989-1995, he was an executive director of the holding company in Brussels. In 1996 he took up the position of Managing Director of Exploration and Production at British Gas plc. In late 1996, he became Chief Executive of Enterprise Oil plc (then Europe's largest independent exploration and production group) which he led for five years, overseeing the group's expansion in the US Gulf of Mexico and Brazil. He has twice been President of the Institute of Petroleum, now part of the newly created Energy Institute, and was chairman of the Centre for Marine & Petroleum Technology.

Rockhopper Exploration is a UK-based oil and gas exploration and production company, and includes amongst its directors Richard Visick. Mr Visick already has significant business and other interests in the Falkland Islands.

The Rockhopper Penguin is one of the most recognisable features of the wildlife of the Falklands. It is adept at climbing very steep rock faces in a series of bounds with both feet together. Close-packed colonies on rocky cliffs can be enormous, numbering many thousands of breeding pairs. They are opportunistic feeders, with prey including crustaceans, squid and fish. The Falklands is the most important site in the world for this breed of penguin.