



PRESS RELEASE

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Rockhopper Exploration plc

Rockhopper Exploration to conduct electromagnetic surveys

Rockhopper Exploration plc ("Rockhopper" or "the Company") has commissioned Offshore Hydrocarbon Mapping plc (OHM) to undertake an electromagnetic survey programme on the Company's 100% held licences in the North Falklands Basin.

Data gathered from electromagnetic surveys provide exploration companies with information on whether a chosen exploration target has resistive properties sufficient to indicate the presence, or otherwise, of hydrocarbons before drilling.

The surveys are due to take place in early 2006 and will increase the Company's understanding of the prospectivity of the acreage.

Likely targets include, J1, which is a robust 4 way dip closure located in less than 200 metres of water. The Company is also planning to obtain additional 2D seismic data over this prospect in the early part of 2006.

Sam Moody, Managing Director commented: "We are very excited to be moving our exploration programme forward using this new technique. OHM's recent announcement confirming the effectiveness of the electromagnetic method in shallow water was key for us. The Falkland Islands are in a fairly remote location and any future drilling programme has to be as cost effective and de-risked as far as possible.

"We already know that J1 is a good structure in relatively shallow water and the electromagnetic survey combined with additional 2D seismic could result in a significantly de-risked drillable prospect. We have identified a number of other structural closures and work is currently progressing on selecting a second target.

"We believe this OHM survey, combined with our already commissioned 2D survey, will lead to a significant step forward in our understanding of this acreage by the end of the first quarter in 2006."

Ends

Contacts:

Sam Moody, Managing Director Rockhopper Exploration 01722 414 419
www.rockhopperexploration.co.uk

Aquila Financial Limited Peter Reilly 020 7849 3319
rockhopper@aquila-financial.com

Notes to editors

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, which floated on AIM in August 2005, is currently the largest licence holder in the North Falkland Basin and owns 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.