



Rockhopper Exploration plc

18 August 2006

Executive Directors increase holdings in Rockhopper Exploration

Rockhopper Exploration plc (“the Company”) has been notified that on 17th August 2006 three Executive Directors exercised their options to purchase new Ordinary Shares in the Company at an option price of 10 pence per share. Under the terms of the option scheme the earliest such purchases could occur was 15th August 2006, the anniversary of the Company’s listing on the Alternative Investment Market.

Samuel Moody, Managing Director

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|----------------------------------|---------|
| Number of shares acquired | 75,000 |
| Number of shares now held` | 858,428 |
| Interest in issued share capital | 1.192% |

Peter Dixon-Clarke, Finance Director

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|----------------------------------|---------|
| Number of shares acquired | 75,000 |
| Number of shares now held` | 145,129 |
| Interest in issued share capital | 0.2% |

Keith Williams, Exploration Director

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|----------------------------------|---------|
| Number of shares acquired | 75,000 |
| Number of shares now held` | 147,619 |
| Interest in issued share capital | 0.2% |

Application has been made for the Ordinary Shares to be admitted to trading on AIM on 23rd August 2006.

Following the exercise of the options the revised number of issued shares is 71,999,605.

www.rockhopperexploration.co.uk

For further information, please contact:

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