



Embargoed: 0700hrs 19 October 2011

Rockhopper Exploration plc

("Rockhopper" or the "Company")

Statement Re. Ocean Guardian Drilling Rig

Rockhopper Exploration plc confirms that a loss of power occurred on the Ocean Guardian drilling rig on 16 October 2011 whilst the rig was preparing to move to its next well location following the successful plugging and abandonment of well 14/10-8.

As a result of the loss of power onboard, all non-essential personnel were down-manned, as a precautionary measure, by helicopter to Stanley. Power has now been re-established and appropriate checks are currently being undertaken prior to the expected re-manning of the rig and resumption of normal operations within approximately one week. Rockhopper remains in close communication with the Falkland Islands Government. The incident has had no environmental impact and resulted in no injuries to personnel onboard.

A further announcement will be made on spudding of well 14/10-9.

Enquiries:

Rockhopper Exploration plc
Sam Moody – Chief Executive
Tel. +44 (0)20 7920 2340 (via M: Communications)

M: Communications
Patrick d'Ancona or Ben Simons
Tel. +44 (0)20 7920 2340

Canaccord Genuity Limited
Charles Berkeley / Henry Fitzgerald-O'Connor
Tel. +44 (0) 20 7050 6500