



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: 5 April, 2006

Rockhopper Exploration plc

3D survey – Letter of Intent Signed

Rockhopper Exploration plc (Rockhopper) is pleased to announce the signing of a Letter Of Intent with CGG Marine to conduct a 3D seismic survey on its North Falkland Basin acreage. The survey is planned for the Falkland summer months and is currently scheduled to begin in December 2006. The survey, which consists of a minimum of 685km² over licences PL032 and PL033 is aimed at providing further data over a number of promising leads and prospects, and in addition, better definition of the zones from where oil was recovered and gas detected in the 2 wells drilled in 1998.

Licences PL032 and PL033 lie in less than 500m of water and were the subject of 2 wells drilled during 1998, one of which recovered live oil to the surface. The licences are already covered by 1546 km 2D and 368 km² 3D seismic data and Rockhopper has access to that data. Rockhopper is now targeting a different play type in addition to those early wells, representing an untested oil play.

Sam Moody, Managing Director, commented: “We are very pleased to have one of the worlds leading seismic contractors coming to work in the Islands at a time of tight supply for high quality services in the oil sector. In 2006, we have already completed 2D seismic and CSEM surveys over licences PL023 and PL024, and the completion of this 3D seismic survey will be a further step in progressing our exploration effort. By acquiring, processing and interpreting this data the Company is taking all available steps to ensure that we have the maximum flexibility in planning a future exploration drilling programme.”

For further information, please contact:

Rockhopper Exploration plc
Sam Moody - Managing Director

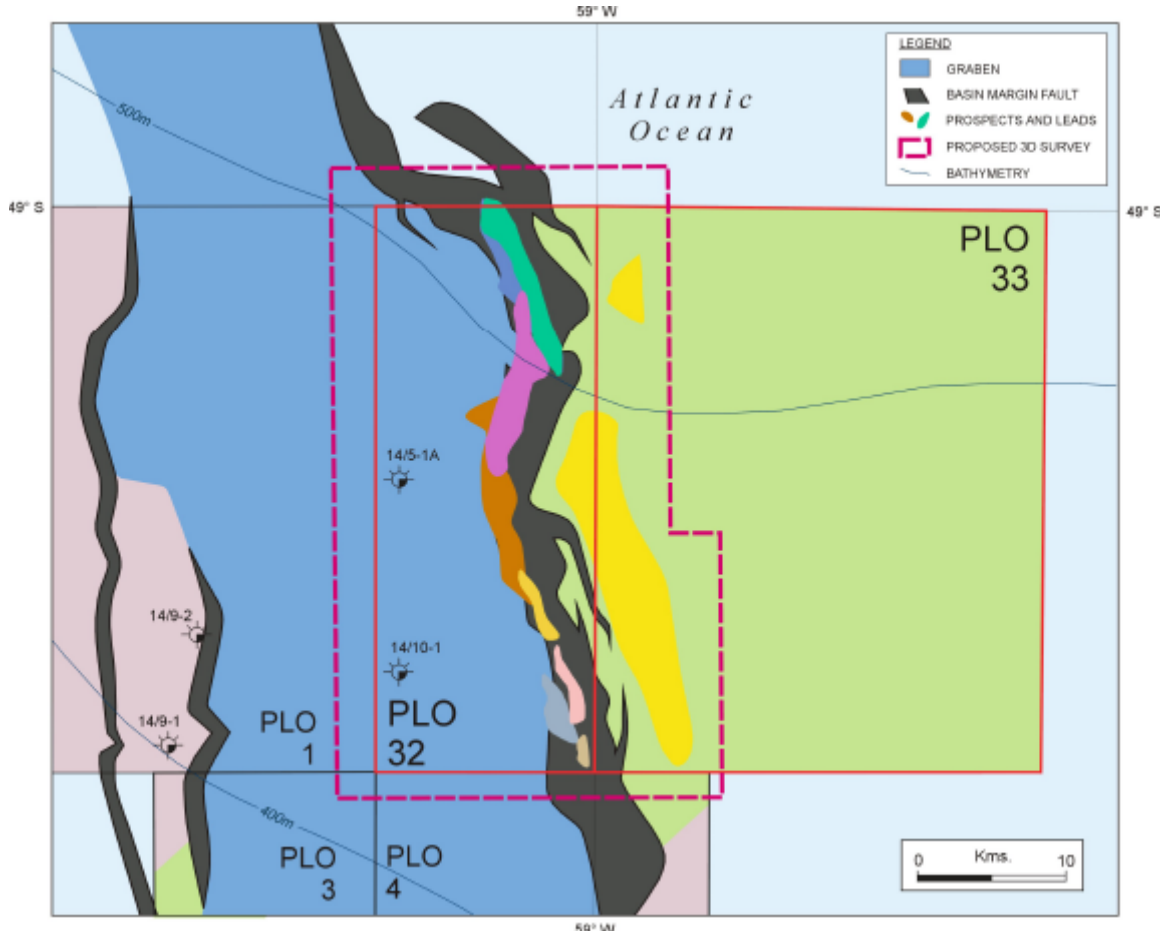
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Notes to editors:

Below is a map showing the location of licences PL032 and PL033, the proposed location of the 3D seismic survey and the existing prospects and leads on the licences.



Rockhopper Exploration plc 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, floated on AIM in August 2005, is currently the largest licence holder in the North Falkland Basin and has 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.