Baraka Petroleum Limited

ABN 80 112 893 491
Suite 4, 29 Ord Street WEST PERTH 6005
PO Box 1574 WEST PERTH WA 6872
Tel +618 9486 7001 Fax +618 9486 7003
mail@barakapetroleum.com
www.barakapetroleum.com

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Mauritanian Drilling Update: Heron 1 (Block 20) Testing Continues

Australian based oil and gas exploration company **Baraka Petroleum Limited (ASX: BKP)** has been provided with an update on the drilling of Heron-1 within Coastal Block 20 in Mauritania by the operator and joint venture partner CNPC International Mauritania Limited (CNPCIM).

This update is as follows:

The land-drilling rig ZJ50LDB operated by drilling operator GWDC (Great Wall Drilling Company) is still on the site of the CNPCIM operated Heron-1 exploration well in coastal Block 20 on-shore Mauritania, West Africa (see Figure 1).

As at 2:00 pm (AWST) on 12 March 2007 the operation was setting a cement plug in preparation for well test #2. The past week has been spent preparing for and conducting well test #1.

Test interval #1 at 2152 – 2159 metres in Turonian limestone reservoir failed to flow to surface and this is interpreted to be due to poor quality reservoir. Test #2 will be at 1856.5 – 1863.5 metres in Lower Campanian sandstone reservoir. The well originally encountered gas shows (C1-C5) and fluorescence over this zone from 1857 – 1875 metres. The main objective of the test is to confirm the existence of movable hydrocarbons that, if present, may be produced at potentially economic flow rates.

Should test #2 flow hydrocarbons, the well will be shut-in for pressure monitoring for several days.

The results of Heron-1 and its implication for the prospectivity of Block 20 will be assessed by the Joint Venture and a meeting will be held in early Quarter 2 2007 to agree the forward work programme in the permit.

CNPCIM is a wholly owned subsidiary of CNPC International Limited (CNPCI) and is Operator of Block 20 with 65% interest. Baraka Petroleum's interest in Block 20 is 35%.

ENDS

For further information please contact:

Max de Vietri, Managing Director/ CEO
Baraka Petroleum Limited
Tel: +61 8 9486 7001

Em: m.devietri@barakapetroleum.com

David Tasker
Professional Public Relations (WA)
Tel: +61 8 9388 0944
+61 433 112 936
Em: dtasker@pprwa.com.au

Website: www.barakapetroleum.com

ABOUT BARAKA PETROLEUM

Baraka Petroleum Limited is a public company, established to acquire, consolidate and develop oil and gas assets and activities, located initially in the potential hydrocarbon basins in West Africa.

Baraka has one of the largest oil and gas exploration assets in West Africa. The Company has secured rights to explore and develop eight tenement areas covering over 272,000 km² in Mauritania and Mali.

The Company's corporate strategy is to maximise the possibility of success and minimise risk by sharing exploration expenditure on its tenements through farm-outs and joint-ventures, thereby allowing it to aggressively pursue further high-value near-field opportunities and undervalued production assets.

ABOUT CNPC INTERNATIONAL LTD

China National Petroleum Corporation International is a major investor in the global petroleum sector, with interests in oil and gas exploration, development and production spread over 20 countries in Asia, Africa, North America and South America.

Figure 1: Block location map