

2 December 2003



**ROC OIL COMPANY LIMITED ("ROC")
RELEASE TO
AUSTRALIAN STOCK EXCHANGE ("ASX")**

DRILLING ACTIVITY UPDATE

KEY POINTS

- Offshore Mauritania, the Chinguetti 5-1 (Pouné) exploration well in Block 5 is making up the bottom hole assembly prior to drilling ahead after running 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch casing.
 - Also offshore Mauritania, the Pelican-1 exploration well in Block 7 commenced drilling on 30 November 2003 approximately 150 km north of the Chinguetti Oil Field.
 - Onshore UK, the Saltfleetby-7 appraisal/development well sidetrack has reached Total Depth and is being completed in preparation for testing of the production potential of the Namurian gas reservoir.
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1. OFFSHORE MAURITANIA

1.1 Chinguetti-5-1 (Pouné): Exploration Well, Block 5 (ROC: 2.4%)

Woodside Mauritania Pty Ltd, Operator of the Mauritanian Area B Joint Venture, advises that at 1700 hours (Australian EDST) on 1 December 2003 preparations were underway to start drilling 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch hole in the Chinguetti-5-1 (Pouné) exploration well.

Since the last report, the 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch casing was run, 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch hole was drilled to 2,887 metres and 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch casing was run.

The Chinguetti-5-1 (Pouné) well is located in 926 metres of water approximately 48 kilometres to the north of the Chinguetti Field and 27 kilometres to the northeast of the recent Tiof oil and gas discovery.

1.2 Pelican-1: Exploration Well, Block 7 (ROC: 2.0% plus 3.5% Option)

On 30 November 2003, the deepwater drilling rig, *Jack Ryan*, started drilling an exploration well on the Pelican Prospect on behalf of the Block-7 Joint Venture, offshore Mauritania. At 1700 hours (Australian EDST) on 1 December 2003, the operation was drilling ahead in 26 inch hole at 2,414 metres.

The well, which is in 1,679 metres of water, will be drilled to a Total Depth of about 3,800 metres. It is expected to take between 30 and 40 days to complete. It is located approximately 150 km north of the Chinguetti Oil Field. Despite the recent drilling successes achieved in Mauritania, ROC regards this well as a frontier wildcat well because its primary objective, Paleocene sands, have not



been previously targeted in this region. The collective potential reserves of the Pelican Prospect are estimated in terms of several hundreds of millions of barrels of oil. Woodside Energy Limited will manage the drilling of the well on behalf of the Block 7 Joint Venture.

Participants in the Block 7 PSC are:

Dana Petroleum (E&P) Limited (Operator)	80.0%*
Hardman Resources Mauritania Pty Ltd	18.0%
Roc Oil (Mauritania) Company	2.0% – plus a 3.5% Option*

* **Please note:** Roc Oil (Mauritania) Company has entered into an agreement with Dana Petroleum (E&P) Limited whereby ROC has an option to increase its interest in Block 7 from 2.0% to 5.5% in consideration for paying an additional 3.5% of the cost of the Pelican-1 well. The option must be exercised no later than 30 days after completion of drilling operations at the Pelican location.

2. ONSHORE UK (ROC: 100% and Operator)

2.1 Saltfleetby-7: Appraisal/Development Well

Since the last drilling report (ROC's ASX Release dated 25 November 2003) Saltfleetby-7 has reached a Total Depth of 3,205 metres measured drill depth and preparations are underway to complete the well and to test the long term production potential of the Namurian gas reservoir, which underlies the main Westphalian gas reservoir of the Saltfleetby Field.

The four month well has proved to be challenging. Fortunately, a combination of innovative engineering techniques, including the use of an expandable liner, and subtle geological insights, allowed the well to reach its prognosed total depth after penetrating its three pre-drill objectives: the potential Brinsley Abdy oil accumulation, the main Westphalian gas reservoir and the potential Namurian gas reservoir. The intersection of the Brinsley Abdy confirmed the pre-drill seismic model in relation to a discrete oil accumulation which lies above the main Westphalian gas reservoir (see ROC's ASX release dated 21 August 2003). The main Westphalian gas reservoir is partially depleted, as would be expected after almost four years of Westphalian gas production from the field. The potential Namurian gas reservoir had good gas shows and appears to display reasonable reservoir quality. One of the more compelling statistics to emerge from Saltfleetby-7, which was drilled at a high angle through the Westphalian and horizontally through the Namurian, is that it encountered a total of 235 metres of net gas pay: 135 metres in the main Westphalian gas reservoir and 100 metres in the Namurian gas reservoir beneath it.

At this stage, it is not possible to predict how well, or how long, the Namurian will flow when it is brought into production during December 2003 for what is essentially an Extended Production Test. If the Namurian gas production proves to be short lived, consideration will be given to early recompletion of the well by perforating across the main Westphalian gas reservoir to accelerate production. Alternatively, if the Namurian gas reservoir realises its productive potential it is expected to boost field wide Saltfleetby gas production by 10-15% during the first quarter 2004.

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