

23 August 2005



ROC OIL COMPANY LIMITED ("ROC")

STOCK EXCHANGE RELEASE

MAURITANIA OFFSHORE DRILLING UPDATE

ROC advises that the following release was made earlier today by Woodside Petroleum Ltd:

"Woodside Mauritania Pty. Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Woodside Petroleum Ltd., reports the following activity offshore Mauritania since the last report issued on 16 August 2005.

PSC Area A: Sotto-1 ST1 Exploration Well

The '*Stena Tay*' drill rig drilled Sotto-1 ST1 to a final total depth 3,279 metres.

At midnight on 22 August 2005, preparations were underway to commence wireline logging. Logs and other data acquired while drilling suggest that the well has not encountered any significant hydrocarbons.

Following completion of wireline logging, the Sotto-1 ST1 well will be plugged and abandoned and the '*Stena Tay*' will move to the Espadon-1 exploration well in PSC-B.

Chinguetti Development Wells

The '*West Navigator*' drillship continues to perform completion work on Chinguetti Development wells. Woodside does not plan to issue regular announcements regarding operations on Chinguetti development wells, but will do so if necessary to comply with its continuous disclosure obligations under the ASX Listing Rules.

General

All reported drilling depths are referenced to the rig rotary table and all times are Universal Time (UTC) (Mauritanian time).

Joint Venture Participants have approved the drilling of 4 exploration wells subsequent to Sotto. These are Espadon-1, Tevet-2, Labeidna-1 and Colin-1. Tevet-2 will target a stratigraphically deeper reservoir than the Tevet-1 discovery well. The locations of these wells and the Chinguetti Oil Field are shown on the attached map."

Participating Interests in the Chinguetti Joint Venture and relevant PSC areas are:

Company	Chinguetti Joint Venture	PSC-A	PSC-B	PSC-C, Block 6
Woodside group companies (Operator)	47.38448%	53.846%	53.846%	37.578%
Hardman group companies	19.00800%	24.3%	21.6%	22.422%
Groupe Project Chinguetti	12.00000%	--	--	--
BG group companies	10.23440%	13.084%	11.63%	--
Premier group companies	8.12328%	--	9.231%	--
Roc Oil group companies	3.24984%	4.155%	3.693%	5.0%
Fusion group companies	--	4.615%	--	--
Petronas Carigali Overseas Sdn Bhd	--	--	--	35.0%

Michelle Manook
General Manager – Corporate Affairs

For further information please contact:

Dr John Doran on

Tel: +61-2-8356-2000

Fax: +61-2-9380-2635

Email: jdoran@rocoil.com.au

Or visit ROC's website: www.rocoil.com.au

