



PRESS RELEASE

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OHM delivers preliminary report to Rockhopper Exploration

Offshore Hydrocarbon Mapping plc (“OHM” or The Company”) (AIM:OHM) has delivered a preliminary report to its client Rockhopper Exploration (“Rockhopper”) on the Controlled Source Electromagnetic (CSEM) surveys conducted earlier this year, over two areas within Rockhopper’s North Falkland Basin exploration acreage.

Rockhopper has announced today that the preliminary CSEM results, when combined with the existing seismic data, give a positive indication consistent with the presence of hydrocarbons. Rockhopper has also cautioned, and OHM concurs, that further work is required on merging the recently acquired 2D seismic data, when it is processed and interpreted, with the CSEM data. A final report taking into account the new seismic data will be delivered to Rockhopper after the new seismic data is fully processed.

The two surveys undertaken by OHM demonstrate the advances the Company has made in the CSEM technique. The shallow water depths prevalent in the area necessitated the use of OHM’s advanced survey techniques and severe weather conditions had to be overcome. Complex geology, especially the variability in depth of a resistive geological basement required advanced processing of the data.

In its simplest manifestation, CSEM seeks out “resistive anomalies” in the subsurface geology. Such resistive anomalies are, in the right conditions, indicative of the presence of hydrocarbons. However in many areas like the Falklands, the complexity of the geology means that such “anomalies” could be caused by factors other than hydrocarbons. OHM’s advanced processing techniques produce detailed images of the location of resistive bodies. When integrated with seismic data and the clients’ geological interpretations, these images significantly reduce the risk of “anomalies” being due to factors like shallow non commercial gas or basement variability.

Dave Pratt, OHM’s CEO, commented:

“OHM provides its clients with usable information upon which the client can make informed exploration decisions on whether to conduct further studies, drill a well or discount the prospect. This was the first CSEM survey to be conducted in the Falklands and we are delighted to have overcome the challenges of not only conducting the survey but also interpreting the data gathered correctly. I believe that we have provided Rockhopper with information that will significantly impact on their exploration risks.”

“This is a rare public insight into the highly valuable contribution we can make to our clients exploration projects, since much of the work we conduct for the major oil companies is kept secret. Over the past few years, we have seen excellent correlation between the predictions from our surveys and the outcomes of exploration drilling and we look forward to seeing these results further enhanced using our unique ability to integrate the new seismic data and then, should the prognosis remain positive, ultimately confirmed by a well.”

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Offshore Hydrocarbon Mapping plc, listed on London's Alternative Investment Market in March 2004 (OHM).

OHM's survey method transmits an electromagnetic field into the earth, which is modified by the presence of subsurface resistive layers. These changes in the field are measured and the resulting data is processed to provide information on the resistive structure of the subsurface.

Because hydrocarbon accumulations are generally very resistive, this method can indicate the presence of oil and gas in water depths of as little as 50 metres in certain circumstances, and can detect and map the edges of such accumulations. This reduces the risk of drilling non-commercial exploration wells and can reduce the need for appraisal drilling, thereby creating considerable value for oil explorers.

Rockhopper Exploration plc
www.rockhopperexploration.co.uk

The Rockhopper Group 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 (RKH) 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.