



Press Release

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OHM launches shallow water survey

As announced on 21 October 2005, Offshore Hydrocarbon Mapping plc has today formally launched its shallow water remote sensing service at the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, International Exposition in Houston, Texas.

The shallow water service marks a step change breakthrough in the application of the electromagnetic technique and widens the market for OHM's services to many sedimentary basins previously viewed to be beyond the scope of the technique, and to many new clients who are not active in deep water exploration.

Previously, the Controlled Source Electromagnetic Imaging (CSEMI) technique, which uses electromagnetic energy to detect the presence and extent of hydrocarbons below the sea-floor before drilling, was only proven in deep waters as airwave interference made getting accurate results in shallow water difficult. After three years of dedicated research, OHM has overcome the technical challenges of applying CSEMI in shallow waters.

Dr. Lucy MacGregor, OHM's Chief Technologist said "Our recent proof of concept survey over a relatively thin, known, North Sea gas reservoir has resulted in a high quality geo-electric image that fits well with the known reservoir parameters and the other geophysical data on the field. Had this been a new exploration project we would clearly have been able to lead our client to a discovery."

OHM's Chief Executive, Dave Pratt said: 'This is a major step forward for OHM. CSEMI is increasingly being used by the oil exploration industry and the ability to use the method in shallow waters can only broaden its adoption. Not only could this breakthrough fundamentally change the approach to exploration, but also to ongoing reservoir management.

If we use drilling activity as an indicator of how much this grows our market, we see 30 - 40 times more drilling in these shallower waters than in our traditional deep water market.'

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For further information, please contact:

Dave Pratt, Chief Executive Officer, OHM Plc, 0870 429 6581

Aquila Financial Limited

Peter Reilly

020 7849 3319

ohm@aquila-financial.com

www.ohmsurveys.com

Notes to Editors

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.

OHM was formed to commercialise technology resulting from extensive academic research at University of Southampton's Oceanography Centre. The company listed on London's Alternative Investment Market in March 2004.