

Nighthawk Energy plc
Jolly Ranch Operational Update

The directors of Nighthawk Energy plc (“Nighthawk” or “the Company”) (AIM: HAWK), the US focused hydrocarbon production and development company, are pleased to announce an operational update in respect of the Jolly Ranch Group project, located in Elbert, Lincoln and Washington Counties, Colorado. Nighthawk holds a 50% interest in the project and the operator, Running Foxes Petroleum Inc. (“Running Foxes”), holds the remaining interest.

Highlights

- Jolly 10-5 well encounters hydrocarbons in multiple formations and is cased for production
- Ten commercial wells drilled at Jolly Ranch – 100% success rate
- Craig 15-32 well on three week production test from the Tebo shale bed of the Cherokee formation presently producing 110 to 120 barrels of oil per day
- Four well drilling programme to test the prolific Codell and J Sand formations commencing

The Jolly Ranch Group project is a major hydrocarbon production and development venture which includes Jolly Ranch, currently the core area, Middle Mist and Mustang Creek, to the north and west of Jolly Ranch respectively. The current project area comprises 370,578 gross acres (281,069 acres on a net basis).

Drilling results to date have established Jolly Ranch as a significant new oil and natural gas field, particularly in the Atoka and Cherokee shales. These shales are laterally extensive and are believed to be continuous over the entire project area. In addition, several oil bearing conventional zones have been penetrated during drilling, including the Marmaton, Morrow, Spergen, St Louis and Codell formations.

Jolly 10-5 well

The Jolly 10-5 well, the tenth of the drilling programme, has reached Target Depth and encountered several hydrocarbon bearing formations, both conventional and unconventional. The well has been cased for production and will be put on production in January 2009.

Craig 15-32 well

The Craig 15-32 well commenced production at the start of December from a four foot Tebo shale, a component of the Cherokee shales, the first test applied to this formation on the project. The oil is 38 API gravity, low paraffin sweet crude and has a -10 degree pour point and no sulphur. The well commenced production at 50 to 60 bbls of oil per day and has increased to 110 to 120 bbls of oil per day with less than 10% water.

As a result of this positive result from the Cherokee formation, two previously drilled wells, the Craig 8-1 and Craig 4-4, have been completed in the Tebo shale, are making oil and are presently being swab tested. The wells will then be completed in the V and Excello shales

also within the Cherokee formation during the last two weeks of December and then placed on full production in January 2009.

The Cherokee formation comprises four shales varying from three to six feet thick for a net thickness of 15 to 22 feet. These shales contain 40% to 80% quartz and carbonates which, based on detailed analysis, are heavily fractured and saturated with hydrocarbons. The Tebo B, Tebo, V and Excello shales all have the same reservoir features. In addition, Omnilabs, a division of Weatherford International, has indicated in detailed reports, that both the Atoka and Cherokee shales in the project area are generating and expelling hydrocarbons and showing characteristics typical of a successful shale play.

Codell and J Sand drilling programme

Black Gold Inc., a local drilling company, is commencing a four well drilling programme to test the shallower Codell and J Sand formations, both prolific producing zones in the region. Three wells, the Jolly 9C-1, Jolly 16C-1 and Jolly 7-1 will test the Codell formation and the Fischer 14-20 will test the J Sand formation in the Middle Mist Project.

These formations are of Cretaceous age and are located at depths of between 3,000 and 4,000 feet. The J Sand is a prolific producer in the central part of the Denver Basin.

David Racher B.Sc (Hons) Geology, who is a consultant to Nighthawk and has over 37 years of experience in the hydrocarbons industry and previously managed the Lasmo plc onshore US portfolio in Kansas, Louisiana, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming, has approved the technical information contained in this announcement.

Enquiries:

Nighthawk Energy plc 01271 882160
David Bramhill davidbramhill@nighthawkenergy.net

Hanson Westhouse Limited 0113 246 2610
Tim Feather tim.feather@hansonwesthouse.com
Matthew Johnson matthew.johnson@hansonwesthouse.com

Bishopsgate Communications Limited 020 7562 3350
Nick Rome nick@bishopsgatecommunications.com