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Manager Announcements
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ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

New Zealand Huinga 1B-ST Drilling and Project Status Report

EP 38716, Taranaki Basin.

Pancontinental: 6.6%

At 0600 hrs, 17 July 2002, the well was pulling out of the hole with the bit after cleaning out the hole and conditioning the mud prior to (subject to formal Joint Venture approval) running a 5 inch casing liner.

After the 5 inch casing has been run and cemented, the recommended forward plan, subject to formal Joint Venture approvals, is to run a dual completion over Kapuni sandstone and Murihiku fracture zone perforations. The rig will then be released prior to conducting an acid wash of the test zones and commencing production tests of the Kapuni sandstone and Murihiku fracture zones.

These production tests, scheduled to commence in approximately 2-3 weeks, will provide data on reserves, production rates, reservoir characteristics, quality and nature of the hydrocarbons and formation fluids in the Kapuni sandstones and the extensive fractures within the Murihiku Group metasediments.

These tests will also assist in confirming the interpretation of a (minimum) 237 meter gross oil column from 4263m down to 4500 metres. The 4370-4428 DST recovered oil from the middle of that gross interval. The top of the Kapuni Group is interpreted at 4378 meters.

During the open hole DST of the Kapuni sandstones, fluids did not reach the surface as the test string became plugged with sediment debris during the flow period. Data from the down-hole pressure gauges now indicates that with no plugging, flow rates of approximately 700 barrels per day would have resulted.

It was known prior to the DST that the ability of the Kapuni sandstones to flow would be reduced by the prolonged exposure to lost circulation material (LCM) present in the mud during drilling and subsequent operations. The negative effects of LCM materials are designed to be markedly reduced with a hydrochloric acid wash. The Kapuni zone will therefore be re-tested to determine the enhanced, more representative, oil production rates after running casing, perforating and conducting the acid wash procedure.

As indicated above, it is also proposed to perforate and production test the Murihiku fracture zone, which given the severity of fractures (and lost circulation), presents as a higher rate production zone.

Hydrocarbons are produced at commercial rates from Kapuni sandstone reservoirs as well as the Tariki sandstones in the Taranaki basin. Internationally, and within Australia, many large commercial oil and gas fields produce from fractured reservoirs.

PEP 38716 hosts all or part of three structures related to the eastern bounding fault of the Taranaki Basin, all being similar to that of the major Rimu/Kauri oil and gas discovery 18 kilometres south which is currently under development. The structures are named Huinga and Huinga South, both entirely within the Permit, and Makino, which is partly within the Permit but mostly within PEP38728, which adjoins to the south.

Huinga 1B commenced re-entry: 8 April 2002.

Location of well: NZMG: 2 631 910.93 mE.
6 205 424.34 mN.

Operation since last report: POOH with test string and tools; remove rock debris plugs, recover fluid samples and pressure gauges. RIH with bit and condition hole, clean to 4416m – can't ream deeper; POOH.

Drilling Rig: Parker Rig -188.

Proposed Total Depth: 4,500 metres.

Primary Objectives: Fracture zones within the Murihiku Group.
Sandstones units of the Kapuni Group.

Last hydrocarbon indications: 21 barrels of 42 API, yellow to dark brown oil recovered during drill stem test (DST).

Note: All reported depths are referred to the rig rotary table (mAHRBT).

<i>(ASX* listed) Participants in the PEP 38716 Joint Venture are:</i>	<i>Equity %</i>
*Pancontinental Oil & Gas NL (through subsidiary Euro Pacific Pty Ltd)	6.6%
*Marabella Enterprises Ltd (Operator) (Subsidiary of Bligh Oil & Minerals NL)	24.8%
*AWE (New Zealand) Pty Ltd. (Subsidiary of Australian Worldwide Exploration Ltd.)	12.5%
*Springfield Oil & Gas Ltd (1) (Subsidiary of Impress Ventures Ltd)	4.8%
Preussag Energie GmbH	24.00%
Swift Energy NZ Limited	15.00%
Indo Pacific Energy (NZ) Limited	7.30%
PEP38716 Limited	5.00%

(1)Subject to Joint Venture and government approvals; Springfield Oil & Gas Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Impress Ventures Ltd.

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It is advised in accordance with Australian Stock Exchange Limited Listing Rule 5.11 that the report on the above project has been prepared by Mr Andrew Svalbe, AAPG, PESA, ASEG, FESWA who has had more than the required five years experience and is a competent person as defined in the Listing Rules of Australian Stock Exchange Limited and has consented in writing to the inclusion of this report as it appears here.