



ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

25 November 2002

Intersuisse to Underwrite Essential Petroleum Resources Options

Essential Petroleum Resources is pleased to announce that Intersuisse Corporate Pty. Ltd. will arrange and manage the underwriting of the exercise of Essential Petroleum's December 1 2002, 20 cent, fully paid share options. Under the underwriting agreement, the Company expects to raise as much as \$7.1 million. The actual amount will be subject to finalisation of sub-underwriting.

The support for the conversion of the 1 December 2002 options will place the Company in a strong position to further its offshore and onshore exploration program, which has made excellent progress in the past 18 months.

Essential Petroleum listed on the ASX on February 2001 raising \$7.5m the company's primary focus is on identifying oil and gas resources on shore and off shore in the Otway Basin where they hold a significant tenement position.

The forward programme over the next six months includes two onshore wells following the discovery of oil and gas in the Port Fairy No. 1 well earlier this year. Koroit West No 1 will be drilled as a follow up to Port Fairy No.1 and is expected to spud on 12th December 2002. Banganna No1 in the neighboring permit will test the Pretty Hill petroleum system and is expected to spud in the first quarter 2003. A re-completion and testing programme of the Port Fairy No. 1 discovery well will be undertaken during the first quarter of 2003 to establish the commerciality of the prospect.

Off shore work is in conjunction with Mitsui via subsidiary Mittwell Energy Resources who is farming into the Vic/P46 earning a 32.5% interest through an agreed work programme. This programme targets gas and oil plays in the Waarre Formation similar to recent discoveries at Thylacene (Origin / Woodside) Geographe (Origin / Woodside / Cal Energy) and Casino (Strike Oil / Santos) some 150 km East of the Essential permits. A 780 kilometre 2D seismic survey was completed on November 24 and processing of the data is due to commence shortly.

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