



Monday 05 June 2006

Serica Energy plc announces pre-qualification for Norwegian licence round

LONDON, June 5 /CNW/ - Serica Energy plc (TSX Venture: SQZ; AIM: SQZ) announces that it has been pre-qualified by the Norwegian authorities to hold oil and gas exploration and production licences on the Norwegian Continental Shelf. Serica intends to make applications for licences in the forthcoming APA licence round that closes in September, 2006.

Serica is one of only three UK based independent exploration companies that are currently pre-qualified, amongst the 42 companies that have pre-qualified or re-qualified since the new system began in 2000.

Chris Atkinson, Chief Operating Officer, commented:

"Pre-qualifying for the next Norwegian APA Round is an important step for Serica since it gives us access to the significant exploration potential that lies in the relatively under-explored Norwegian sector of the North Sea, which has similar geology to the UK sector and which should respond to the exploration techniques that Serica has developed successfully there."

Background Notes

APA licence rounds are held for allocating exploration blocks in mature parts of the Norwegian continental shelf. The process for Awards in Predefined Areas (APA) was adopted by the Norwegian government in 2003 and APA licence rounds are held annually.

Serica is an international oil and gas exploration company with operations in Indonesia, the UK North Sea and Spain. The Company's ordinary shares are listed in London on AIM and on the Canadian TSX Venture Exchange under the symbol "SQZ". The 2005 Annual Report and Accounts are available [here](#) and www.sedar.com.

Forward Looking Statements

This disclosure contains certain forward looking statements that involve substantial known and unknown risks and uncertainties, some of which are beyond Serica Energy plc's control, including: the impact of general economic conditions where Serica Energy plc operates, industry conditions, changes in laws and regulations including the adoption of new environmental laws and regulations and changes in how they are interpreted and enforced, increased competition, the lack of availability of qualified personnel or management, fluctuations in foreign exchange or interest rates, stock market volatility and market valuations of companies with respect to announced transactions and the final valuations thereof, and obtaining required approvals of regulatory authorities. Serica Energy plc's actual results, performance or achievement could differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, these forward looking statements and, accordingly, no assurances can be given that any of the events anticipated by the forward looking statements will transpire or occur, or if any of them do so, what benefits, including the amount of proceeds, that Serica Energy plc will derive there from.

The TSX Venture Exchange has not reviewed and does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.

To receive Company news releases via email, please contact [heather\(at\)chfir.com](mailto:heather@chfir.com) and specify "Serica press releases" in the subject line.



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