

Serica Energy plc

("Serica" or the "Company")

JX Nippon to farm-in to Serica's block 22/19c, UK Central North Sea

London, 18 September 2012 – Serica Energy plc (AIM & TSX: SQZ) announces that it has reached agreement with JX Nippon Exploration and Production (U.K.) Limited ("JX Nippon") for the farm-out of UK Central North Sea Block 22/19c (Licence P.1620), in which Serica presently holds a 100% interest. The agreement is subject to UK government approval.

Under the agreement, JX Nippon will acquire an operated 85% interest in the licence, with Serica retaining 15%. As consideration, JX Nippon will pay to Serica US\$250,000 and carry Serica's share of all future costs associated with the licence up to and including, at JX Nippon's discretion, the drilling of an exploration well to the Jurassic or deeper.

Serica had previously participated in the drilling of the Oates, Palaeocene Forties sand prospect in 22/19c, with its costs carried by Premier Oil plc ("Premier"). Following lack of success at Oates, Premier relinquished their interest in the licence which was retained by Serica. It is the prospectivity of deeper, older strata which is now being pursued.

Tony Craven Walker, Serica's Chairman and Interim Chief Executive said:

"We are very pleased to have partnered with JX Nippon in pursuing these technically exciting and relatively new deeper plays in the Central North Sea. Although not a commitment in the current licence term, such wells can be physically challenging if drilled and so we have prudently managed that risk by exchanging equity for a carry on the well cost."

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Serica Energy plc

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The technical information contained in the announcement has been reviewed and approved by Peter Sadler, Business Development Director of Serica Energy plc. Peter Sadler is a qualified Petroleum Engineer (MSc Imperial College, London, 1982) and has been a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers since 1981.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Serica Energy was formed in 2004 and, since then, has drilled 19 wells in locations as diverse as the UK Offshore, the Atlantic margin offshore Ireland, offshore Indonesia (North West Sumatra, East Kalimantan and Java) and offshore Vietnam. Seventeen of these wells were drilled by the Company as Operator, fourteen of the wells encountered oil or gas and six of these were commercial. The first of the commercial discoveries, the Kambuna field in North West Sumatra, was developed by the Company. The second, the Columbus field in the UK North Sea, is now in the pre-development stage with project sanction pending. The Company also

has a residual economic interest in the Bream oil field offshore Norway, which will be crystallised when the field is developed, and licence interests offshore Ireland, Morocco and Namibia.

The Company is listed on both the Toronto Stock Exchange and the London AIM under the ticker SQZ.

To receive Company news releases via email, please contact nick.elwes@collegehill.com and specify "Serica press releases" in the subject line.

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: geological, geophysical and technical risk, 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 therefrom.