

Serica Energy plc

("Serica" or the "Company")

SERICA AWARDED EXPLORATION PERMITS OFFSHORE MOROCCO

London, 19 June 2009 - Serica Energy plc (AIM & TSX-V: SQZ) announces that it has signed with the Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines ("ONHYM") two Petroleum Agreements for the contiguous areas of Sidi Moussa Offshore (Sidi Moussa") and Foug Draa Offshore ("Foug Draa").

The Agreements are valid for up to 8 years and together cover a total area of approximately 12,700 square kilometres in the sparsely explored Agadir Basin, about 100 kilometres south west of the Moroccan city of Agadir. The work programmes during the first 30 month period of the Foug Draa agreement and first 18 month period of the Sidi Moussa agreement comprise seismic reprocessing and geological studies.

The areas of Sidi Moussa and Foug Draa are covered by over 5,200 square kilometres of modern 3D seismic data and over 2,000 kilometres of 2D seismic data. A drill or drop decision will be made at the end of the initial phases of the Agreements.

The Agadir Basin lies offshore in the Atlantic Margin and is geologically analogous to and on trend with the oil producing salt basins of West Africa. Based on the extensive grid of existing seismic data, over 40 undrilled prospects and leads were identified in Sidi Moussa and Foug Draa by previous operators. The areas extend from the Moroccan coastline into water depths reaching a maximum of 2,000 metres.

The Joint Venture Partners in the Exploration Permits are Island Oil and Gas plc (50%), the designated operator, Serica Energy plc (25%) and ONHYM (25%).

Morocco has an attractive fiscal regime relative to other North and West African oil and gas producing countries: State Participation on production of up to 25%; 10% royalty on oil production (first 300,000 tonnes of production exempt) and 5% royalty on gas production (first 300 million cubic metres exempt). Corporation tax of 35% is only payable after a 10 year tax holiday.

Serica CEO Paul Elis said: "Following our recent oil discovery in the Atlantic Margin offshore Ireland, we are delighted to have secured a large and underexplored area of the Atlantic Margin offshore Morocco. With excellent fiscal terms, comprehensive existing 3D and 2D seismic coverage, prospects already mapped by previous operators and several play types, I am confident that Sidi Moussa and Foug Draa will respond to Serica's use of leading edge seismic technology and will provide us with some exciting exploration drilling opportunities."

Mme Benkhadra, the Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment of Morocco, commented: "I am delighted that Island Oil & Gas plc and Serica Energy plc, a new entrant in Morocco, have been awarded Exploration Permits to explore for oil and gas in an important and highly prospective area offshore Morocco. The award of these Permits further demonstrates the success of our 'open-door' policy in relation to the promotion of the large number of opportunities for exploration both onshore and offshore Morocco."

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The technical information contained in the announcement has been reviewed and approved by Peter Sadler, Chief Operating Officer 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.

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 therefrom.

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