

BowLeven plc ("BowLeven" or "the Company")
Operational update – commencement of drilling

BowLeven is pleased to announce that the GlobalSantaFe Adriatic VI drilling rig, which has been contracted by the Company for a four well drilling programme, is now on location and commenced drilling on 8 January 2007.

The initial well being drilled is an Isongo E 2 ("IE 2") location, the first appraisal well on the existing Isongo E discovery in Block MLHP 7 of the Etinde Permit in Cameroon. The primary objectives of the IE 2 well are to appraise the extent and volume of the Isongo Sand 1 in the discovery well IE 1 and explore the deeper Isongo sands which were water wet in IE 1. If successful, the well will be suspended to allow for later re-entry and completion as a gas condensate producer. The well will be drilled to a depth in excess of 8,500 feet and total operational time is currently estimated at approximately 8 weeks.

Further update announcements will be made as appropriate.

Commenting on this, Kevin Hart, BowLeven's Chief Executive said:

"I am delighted that we have now commenced the drilling programme. With the four wells to be drilled over the forthcoming months we have an exciting period ahead."

ENQUIRIES

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Notes to the Editor:

BowLeven is an African oil and gas group, based in Edinburgh and traded on AIM since December 2004. BowLeven holds, through its wholly-owned subsidiary EurOil Limited, a 100% equity interest in the Etinde Permit area being three shallow water blocks in offshore Cameroon, West Africa; namely Blocks MHLP 5, MHLP 6 and MHLP 7. In total BowLeven has approximately 2,300 km² of exploration acreage located across the Rio del Rey and Douala basins in the Etinde Permit. As well as P50 hydrocarbon reserves and contingent resources on Block MHLP 7 (which has had 11 wells drilled in it) the total acreage has very attractive exploration potential. Bowleven has operated in Cameroon since 1999.

The discovery well IE 1 was drilled in 1980 by Total and encountered three sands at the Isongo level (one partially gas bearing). A drill stem test was taken in the top Isongo sand in IE 1 and flow rates of 8 mmscf/d of gas and 1,446 bbl/d of condensate were recorded giving a condensate gas ratio of 180 bbl/mmscf.

The IE 2 well being drilled is located approximately 27 km from the power plant at Limbe in Cameroon.