

PANCONTINENTAL OIL & GAS NL

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ASX Companies Announcement Office

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PANCONTINENTAL GRANTED INTERIM INJUNCTION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

Interim Injunction Granted and Court Hearing Scheduled
Pancontinental Oil & Gas NL ("Pancontinental") advises that, on behalf of a joint venture of itself and Sun Resources NL (ASX: SUR) ("Joint Venture"), an application to the Court in Malta for an injunction sought to be served on the Government of Malta ("Government") has been appointed for hearing on the 9th December 2011 at 11.30 am.

In the meantime the Court has issued an interim injunction in favour of the Joint Venture to preserve the status quo pending the hearing and issued the application for service with the respondents (the Government) having four days to file a reply.

Background

Prior to seeking the injunction, the Joint Venture had for some time been in discussions with the Government about, amongst other things, whether or not its existing exploration study agreement ("ESA") with the Government has expired as alleged by the Government or whether the obligations under the ESA are suspended pending the ending of the event of force majeure which was the subject of a notice to the Government by the Joint Venture on 12 September 2005.

The ESA covers Area 5 and Block 3 of Area 4 offshore Malta, held by the Joint Venture since 2001.

The event of force majeure is a border dispute between Libya and the Government over an area offshore Malta within the area of the ESA which prevented, and continues to prevent, the Joint Venture from conducting an extensive seismic programme.

The parties have been attempting to negotiate revisions to the ESA and at a meeting with representatives of the Government the Joint Venture thought that substantial progress toward a resolution was made. However, notwithstanding the state of those negotiations and the Joint Venture's position that the ESA is still in force, the Government, without any warning to the Joint Venture, has called for bids ("Bidding Regime") from interested companies for the grant of petroleum rights over certain offshore areas, a portion of which includes an area that is the subject of the ESA.

Despite many requests by the Joint Venture and its representatives for a meeting with the Government to discuss this sudden and unexpected development, the Government has steadfastly refused to meet, leaving the Joint Venture with no alternative but to seek an injunction against the Government seeking to restrain it from proceeding with the Bidding Regime in respect of any part of the area the subject of the ESA and from granting any petroleum rights over that area until the dispute between the Government and the Joint Venture is resolved. Accordingly the Joint Venture has now commenced legal proceedings in Malta by seeking that injunction against the Government.

Pancontinental and Sun remain steadfastly resolved to retain their rights under the ESA and to recommence oil and gas exploration for the benefit of both Malta and their shareholders as soon as possible.

Pancontinental and Sun are both quoted on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) and have exploration ventures in countries including Australia, Kenya, Namibia, Thailand and the USA. Major multinational partners in these projects include BG Group, Origin Energy, Tullow Oil, Apache Corporation and Premier Oil.
Yours sincerely for and on behalf of Pancontinental Oil & Gas NL
B. Reshwath
Barry Rushworth, CEO and Director
The summary report on the oil and gas projects is based on information compiled by Mr R B Rushworth, BSc, MAAPG, MPESGB, MPESA, Chief Executive Officer of Pancontinental Oil & Gas NL. Mr Rushworth has the relevant degree in geology and has been practising petroleum geology for more than 30 years.
Mr Rushworth is a Director of Pancontinental Oil & Gas NL and has consented in writing to the inclusion of the information stated in the form and context in which it appears.