



## **Press Release**

**June 5th 2009**

Hurricane Exploration plc ("Hurricane") is pleased to announce that it has entered into a contract with Dolphin Drilling Limited, a subsidiary of Fred Olsen Energy ASA, for the provision of the Byford Dolphin, a semi-submersible drilling rig. The rig has been contracted to drill the Lancaster basement prospect in Block 205/21a in the West of Shetlands, a licence block which is wholly-owned and operated by Hurricane.

The contract will commence around mid-July 2009 with an expected duration of 48 days and a contract value of around USD 12.3 million.

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Hurricane Exploration plc is an oil and gas exploration company headquartered in the UK. It is privately-funded and was founded in 2005 by Dr Robert Trice, a recognised industry specialist in fractured reservoir evaluation, and James Hudleston, a successful business entrepreneur. Hurricane's current business is based on UK exploration, but the company has the intention to expand its current exploration portfolio by acquiring acreage outside of the UK.

Hurricane comprises a small technical team who are focused on realising shareholder value through the exploration of niche hydrocarbon plays. Such plays have become viable due to a number of factors including a greater understanding of the regional geology, advances in technology and a supportive oil price. The Hurricane team share the belief that corporate growth can be achieved through an innovative and creative approach to exploration, coupled with the application of specialist geoscience technology and niche expertise within the company.

Hurricane is committed to operating safely and with no adverse effects to the environment. Consequently Hurricane operates a fully certified environmental management system.

Hurricane is the Operator of two offshore and two onshore licences in the UK and has a portfolio which includes third-party verified contingent resources, ready to drill prospects and exploration leads.