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Enclosed is an Open Briefing with Managing Director Simon Potter, which has been prepared by Corporate File for immediate release. A copy of the briefing is now available at www.hdr.com.au.

RICHARD O'SHANNASSY
COMPANY SECRETARY

Note: In accordance with Australian Stock Exchange Limited listing requirements, the geological information supplied in this report has been based on information provided by geologists who have had in excess of five years experience in their field of activity.

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Now that you've been Managing Director of Hardman Resources Ltd for over six months, can you outline the approach you've taken to position Hardman for future growth? What are your immediate strategic objectives to realise growth?

MD Simon Potter
We wish to create significant shareholder value by growing Hardman into a substantial international E&P company with at least three to four key business areas together capable of delivering sustainable growth and reinvestment opportunities.

The immediate strategic objectives are really fivefold. Firstly, we wish to bring on Chinguetti during Q1 2006. This will more directly expose us to the oil price and the associated upside. It will also give us a significant income stream and our stock should reflect the successful transition from pure explorer to explorer-producer. Once we're in production that will significantly improve Hardman's risk profile.

Secondly, we'll continue to appraise the high value discoveries we've already made with a view to expanding our asset base and supplementing our income stream. Satellite development around Chinguetti will add significant value and improved understanding will lead to increased oil recovery. Together these factors will enrich our balance sheet and underpin greater strategic options.

The third leg is to continue to pursue the high impact exploration within our Mauritanian acreage. We have a diverse acreage position across eight blocks with a very strong prospect inventory. We'll continue to work that hard with a continuous drilling programme well into next year.

Fourthly, we'll aggressively exploit our strong equity positions outside Mauritania. Diversification to supplement our Mauritania position will obviously strengthen the Company as well as potentially provide additional income streams. The advantage of having strong equity positions in other areas is that we can manage pace – accelerating options as we feel appropriate. This is a clear advantage at the moment in an industry where new opportunities for investment are in short supply or prohibitively expensive.

Finally, given the imminent cash delivery from our Mauritanian development, we will work to optimise the capital structure of the business. With the arrival of our new Chief Financial Officer Peter Thomas, we will be continually evaluating a range of financial instruments and strategies to manage the risks and returns of the enterprise.

These are the five key areas that will underpin material growth in the net asset value of the Company.

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With that broad growth strategy in mind, you've previously stated that Hardman will need to focus its organization in the areas of new business development, exploration/technical, operations and commercial management. What progress have you made and what more has to be done?

MD Simon Potter
The strengthening of the organisational capability is essentially complete.

Over the last year we've focused our portfolio by completing sales of our Gabon and Perth Basin assets and relinquished our New Zealand acreage. This focus has allowed us to concentrate staff efforts on activities with critical mass and consistent with strategy. We are now primarily focusing on the Atlantic Margin areas where we already have well developed skills and experience from Mauritania in deepwater operations, stratigraphic trapping mechanisms and complex geological systems. We will continue to use this experience to leverage delivery across these core organisational areas:

- New Business Development; to increase our gross acreage holdings through access to new ventures. Already in the last six months we have assessed eight new opportunities and this assessment is continuing.

- Exploration/Technical; to collect, process and interpret data to drive prospect inventory, to locate and monitor well performance and to optimise sub-surface activities. In Mauritania, we now have over 21,600 sq km of 3D seismic data, with 14,500 km of 2D data in French Guyane and the Falklands where there are further active acquisition programmes. Our international exploration campaign has twelve wells scheduled to be drilled by June 2006.

- Operations; execution or monitoring of well activities. This year we have operated our first offshore well in the Timor Sea and are gearing up to operate wells in both Uganda and French Guyane in the next 12 months.

- Commercial; core skills to optimize realisations from oil sales and to commercialise our substantial gas resources.

In support of these operations we've opened a number of modest new offices. One is in London; important because of our AIM listing, keeping in touch with our local investors there and to maintain access to important companies and information that may underpin our ambitions to grow the acreage portfolio. Secondly, we've opened an office in Trinidad; with our large acreage holding in French Guyane and the plan to drill a well within the next year, this office gives us important access to the regional operating centre where contractors, service companies and rig operators reside. We've also opened an office for the first time in Mauritania. This is an important step and gives us our own corporate view of activities in Mauritania and improved access to decision makers.

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A new government has taken over in Mauritania after a coup in the capital Nouakchott. Do you expect all previous government agreements relating to Chinguetti and the rest of your Mauritanian acreage to be recognized by the new government? Do you expect that operating in Mauritania will be affected in any significant way?

MD Simon Potter
Statements released by the Government provide clear intention to guarantee the integrity of existing contracts. Indications from the Operator, Woodside, through personal meetings immediately following disruptions support this position and the intention to honour contracts. Operations have been unaffected and it is business as usual. Indeed, there was only one day of downtime immediately following the coup on 3 August and both rigs remained active through the whole period.

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You have just announced your annual results for FY05. The balance of cash has declined during the year (A$327 million to A$148 million). Do you currently have the financial resources to meet your development and exploration commitments?

MD Simon Potter
The simple answer is yes. Obviously during the course of the year we've invested heavily in the development at Chinguetti, the appraisal and testing of Tiof and in a considerable exploration programme. We've turned our cash investment into long-term capital assets. We still haven't drawn down on the ANZ project financing facility for Chinguetti and we're very comfortable that we have sufficient funds to meet all existing and planned commitments.

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You reported higher running costs of the business. Do you expect these to continue to grow or are you comfortable now with the level of resources employed?

MD Simon Potter
As noted above, changes to the organisation and recruitment to key positions are complete. More than half the highlighted increases in costs are non-recurring costs associated with moving to new offices, recruitment, termination and retirement benefits. As we approach production and as we look to grow our acreage positions, clearly we're going to resource the business appropriately. We're spending more money but it is commensurate with strategy, the resources applied to the business and the development of appropriate systems.

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Why are you changing your financial year end?

MD Simon Potter
This is just a pragmatic step to bring us into line with our peers so that our shareholders can judge our comparative performance more readily. Further, we're also a member of many international joint ventures which maintain their budgets on a calendar year basis.

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What's the latest with the development timetable and capital budgets at Chinguetti? Can you outline the key risks going forward and any changes to reserves and expected production levels?

MD Simon Potter
Woodside recently announced that the project remains on schedule for first oil production in February 2006, well within the Q1 2006 target. The project is 88% complete and many of the key risks are behind us. The upgrade of the FPSO in Singapore is essentially complete and it should arrive offshore Mauritania in November. Drilling and well completions are finished and the flow-tests of four wells indicate individually they are capable of delivering 20,000 barrels a day. Therefore, already installed well capacity at Chinguetti will deliver the nameplate capacity of the FPSO of 75,000 barrels a day. Remaining risks are associated with final FPSO commissioning, fabrication and installation of umbilicals and flowlines.

Woodside also announced that the project capital costs have increased from the previous $625 million plus 10% contingency to $705 million with a contingency of $45 million. This increase is due mainly to the increased costs of drilling the production wells and additional costs in the fabrication of sub-sea flow lines and their installation.

The proved and probable (2P) reserves remain unchanged at 123 million barrels, but obviously with all the production wells in the ground, our confidence about delivering to that level is increasing daily.

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Work is ongoing on the Tiof and Tevet oil discoveries to progress further evaluation. What's Hardman's interpretation of the appraisal results so far? When do you expect to make formal announcements on reserves and development plans for Tiof?

MD Simon Potter
Tevet is a potential tie back to Chinguetti and the appraisal well is currently drilling ahead with an anticipated intercept of the Miocene reservoir as early as this coming weekend.

Tiof, as has been widely communicated, is completely different from Chinguetti. In aerial extent it is roughly 5 times that of Chinguetti and the geology is quite distinct. The work we've done to date confirms the previous estimate of a billion barrels of oil in place and further reservoir studies are ongoing to confirm our development approach.

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How will you combine the appraisal and exploration wells at Tevet from a technical perspective? What are the advantages and risks of this approach?

MD Simon Potter
We have two targets for the Tevet well. One is the already discovered Miocene fairway which sits higher up the well bore and the second, deeper target is the unproven Cretaceous play fairway. The advantage is one of cost if we can actually intersect two targets with the one well. It will involve drilling into the Miocene reservoir sand, completing some tests and logs to confirm and quantify the resource. The hole is then cased and drilling recommences at a smaller diameter. We'll then drill on down to the Cretaceous section. We won't actually be able to produce from both reservoirs concurrently because of the different reservoir pressures and properties, but the cost to access the Cretaceous is simply the cost of deepening the Miocene appraisal well.

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The 2005 exploration programme previously announced comprises, Sotto, Espadon and Colin (PSC Area A - Hardman 24.3%), in addition, the Joint Venture Participants have also approved the Labeidna exploration well (PSC Area B - Hardman 21.6%) and a combined exploration and appraisal well to both appraise the Tevet discovery and target a deeper exploration prospect beneath the Tevet Miocene reservoir in PSC B. Can you explain why the joint venture chose these wells from the prospect inventory in Mauritania? What play types are you chasing? Do you expect any changes as a result of the lack of hydrocarbons at Sotto and Espadon?

MD Simon Potter
Hardman is a frontier exploration company and it's an enormous task to adequately evaluate this whole hydrocarbon basin. The acreage covered by Blocks 1 to 8, in which Hardman has an interest, is the same size as the whole of the

northern and central North Sea areas combined. It's a huge area and we've actually only drilled 16 wells so far.

There are a number of different play types across the basin and you really want to test each of them to determine which is potentially the most productive and has the ability to add the highest value. Lowest priority prospects are those that have no condition probability, i.e. success does not influence the risk of other prospects. Conversely, higher priority prospects have considerable conditional probability.

For example, Sotto and Colin are Miocene canyon head plays much like Banda. Banda seals for gas but if other wells are successful, it would de-risk for oil a series of shallow water canyon heads that run right up and down the coast.

Espadon is close to Tiof and, given the complexities of the Tiof reservoir, Espadon was drilled with the potential to enhance commercialisation of Tiof if it had come in. The fact that Sotto and Espadon didn't contain hydrocarbons won't affect the exploration programme going forward.

Like Tevet, Labeidna is within tie-back distance to Chinguetti, but it has a considerable upside, further, it will reveal if hydrocarbons in the same working system extend to the west of Chinguetti, unlocking further potential.

The deeper section at Tevet-2 and Colin will be testing Cretaceous exploration prospects. All major discoveries to date have been Miocene, but both the Miocene and Cretaceous fairways work up and down the whole coast of West Africa and sourcing a discovery in the Cretaceous section of Mauritania will add considerably to the exploration potential of the region.

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Can you describe the remainder of your prospect inventory in Mauritania outside the core PSC areas?

MD Simon Potter
Hardman has a continuous drilling programme through the end of 2005 and well into 2006 encompassing wells both inside and outside the core Woodside operated PSC areas. We've so far identified a total inventory of some 140 prospects across all eight blocks, with over 40 of these potentially each containing over 100 million barrels of oil in the success case. In Block 1, we'll drill the Faucon-1 exploration well around November which is a prospect in excess of 300 million barrels. After that we'll drill an as yet undecided prospect in Block 6. We haven't settled on that one yet because we're currently high grading the inventory.

We have the Pelican gas discovery in Block 7 and post the Block 6 well will re-evaluate prospectivity and potential activity. We're also doing considerable work to the north in Block 8 where prospectivity is associated with considerable carbonate development, but considerable work remains to mature drillable prospects.

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What's the status with potential gas developments from within your Mauritanian permits?

MD Simon Potter
We've already established a significant gas resource at Pelican and Banda. Banda potentially amounts to some 2.4 tcf which is a considerable gas resource, but the PSCs don't currently include gas commercial terms because at the time of drafting the focus was on oil. Until we have some gas terms established there is no commercial basis for the development of the gas. However, those negotiations are ongoing with the Mauritanian Government. The likely threshold for an LNG development would be a gas resource of around 4 tcf. Until we have established gas commercial terms we are unlikely to specifically target gas exploration.

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You have a large equity holding (97.5% - operator) over the entire deepwater offshore French Guyane license area. Can you update progress on evaluating the permit, the intended forward work programme and your plans for the acreage?

MD Simon Potter
I mentioned earlier that one of the key objectives for Hardman was to exploit our strong equity positions. We have that advantage in French Guyane and it allows us to manage the pace and direction of exploration within the constraints of the licence.

New acreage opportunities within the industry are pretty hard to come by at the moment because of the high oil price which drives entry costs higher leading companies to work their existing portfolios harder, faster and at higher equity. We're doing that with our acreage in French Guyane where we are prepared to maintain our current equity position through the first exploration well. We are shooting infill seismic scheduled for October with potential follow-on prospect specific seismic. We are sourcing a rig to drill our first well before the middle of next year. We continue to talk with companies that have expressed an interest to farm-in to this acreage, although we are planning on the basis of drilling the well ourselves.

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There has been a lot of interest and activity associated with your permits in the Falklands (22.5%). What are the forward plans? Are you comfortable with that level of equity?

MD Simon Potter
This is clearly another frontier area with difficult sea state conditions in the South Atlantic. We shot seismic earlier this year and we were sufficiently encouraged to shoot some more. Once we've completed the additional 2D acquisition we'll probably be ready to shoot prospect specific 3D seismic that will hopefully lead to maturing potential drilling locations by the end of 2006 or early 2007.

Hardman has 22.5% equity and we're comfortable with that position. We can fully fund our participating interest and are looking forward to an active exploration programme.

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We understand that you're planning to accelerate a well on your acreage in Uganda (50% - Operator). What's the forward programme there?

MD Simon Potter
Earlier in 2005 we shot some 2D seismic and generated a number of prospects that we and our partners Energy Africa are keen to drill. Our drilling obligation is not until 2007, but there is a rig in the country available and we're looking to contract it to drill the well sooner. We're not going to de-risk the prospects any more, so why wait? Indeed we have more than one prospect and we're looking to take an option on a second well. We're pushing the pace of the programme as operator, but we're striving to execute the programme safely, on time and on budget. That would be another step forward in proving our growing organisational capabilities.

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In each of these areas you seem to be accelerating work to discharge your obligations sooner than you need to, or extending the work programmes over and above your commitments. Why are you doing that?

MD Simon Potter
That gets back to driving our portfolio and commercial position harder and faster. We're collecting additional seismic in French Guyane in order to potentially drill the well ourselves before the middle of next year. In the Falklands we've extended the seismic programme to secure tenure over the acreage for longer than originally stated in the licence and in Uganda we'll be drilling the wells earlier than we're obliged to because of rig availability.

If we're going to grow Hardman materially, we need to reduce the cycle time of our acreage activities. To the extent that entry costs constrain the potential for growth outside our existing portfolio then the favoured option, as long as you have the financial and organisational capability, is to push pace and maintain higher equity in our existing holdings. Now we have both the financial means and skills sets to control our own destiny.

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You've expressed a desire to selectively, but aggressively, expand that portfolio. What type of opportunities might that involve (geographic, partners, play concept etc)? Are you looking for larger equity positions in all new projects? What's your attitude to Hardman operatorship?

MD Simon Potter
I think I've highlighted through this briefing that we're focusing on the Atlantic Margin. This is an area of considerable expertise for us, vested in our interest in the Mauritanian acreage. The play systems and types in French Guyane and the Falkland Islands are similar to those in Mauritania. We want to stick to what we know and we're going to do more of it.

We have an objective for Hardman to maintain 40% equity through at least two to three wells. The advantages of a higher equity position are we have a greater say within the joint venture and clearly there are greater financial rewards in the event of discoveries. We can now hold higher equity levels because we have a greater technical capacity within the organisation, a greater risk tolerance and a greater financial capacity.

We don't have an ambition to be the operator through the development phase. However, I think that given the wish to control the direction and pace of our activities, the ability to drill wells around the world; to drill them on time and on budget and to drill them safely is a core organisational capability going forward. We're well on the way to demonstrating that.

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Thank you Simon.

For further information on Hardman Resources visit www.hdr.com.au or call Simon Potter or Scott Spencer on 08 9261 7600.

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