



### Rockhopper Exploration undertakes 2 separate geophysical surveys

Rockhopper Exploration engaged Geophysical Surveys Incorporates (GSI) to undertake the collection of a 900 km 2D seismic survey. In the first instance Rockhopper intended to use the *GSI Admiral* which has been undertaking a survey over the Falkland Oil and Gas Ltd's acreage in the South Falklands Basin. As this survey was not expected to be completed by the 17 February, the date when seismic operation are restricted in the North Falklands Basin due to the *Illex* Squid Fishery GSI brought in a second vessel to undertake the operation.

The survey was designed to fill in gaps left by previous surveys over the area. These data included:-

Survey	PL023	PL024
Spectrum Speculative Survey 1993	170 km	310 km
Spectrum Speculative Infill Survey 1995	260 km	294 km
Desire Proprietary Survey 1998	321 km	421 km



GSI Pacific

The *GSI Pacific* arrived in the Falkland Islands Designated Area on the 23 January. Despite some early problems with adverse weather conditions the survey was completed on 17 February.

Rockhopper also contracted Offshore Hydrocarbon Mapping to undertake a Controlled Source ElectroMagnetic Imaging (CSEMI) survey over their acreage using the *MV Aurelia*. This is the first time such a survey has been undertaken inside the Designated Area.

A grid of sensors is anchored to the sea bed and then an electromagnetic source is towed behind the surveying vessel. The source transmits an electromagnetic field into the earth, which is modified by the presence of subsurface resistive layers. These changes in the field are measured and the resulting data is processed to provide information on the resistive structures of the subsurface. Because hydrocarbon accumulations are generally very resistive, this method can

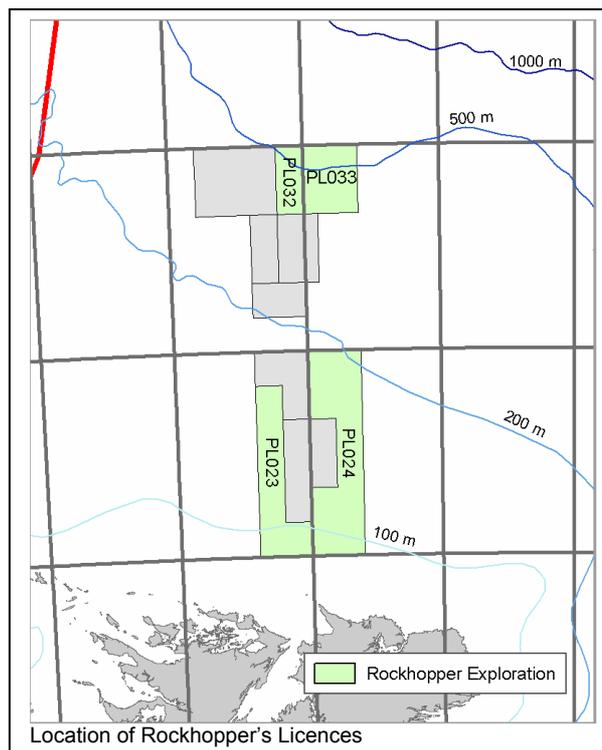
indicate the presence of oil and gas in water depths of as little as 50 metres in certain circumstances, and can detect and map the edges of such accumulations. This reduces the risk of drilling non-commercial exploration wells and can reduce the number of wells needed for appraisal drilling, thereby creating considerable savings for oil explorers. Once the survey is completed the sensors are recovered from the sea bed and the ship moves to the next target.

OHM undertook surveys over 2 of Rockhoppers prospects. The survey started on 9 January and was completed on 13 February.



Aurelia

OHM have undertaken a number of surveys in deep waters but this is one of OHM's first shallow water contracts since the Company formally launched its shallow water CSEM service in November.



## Desire Petroleum Environmental Impact Assessment Published

Desire Petroleum's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was published in an Extraordinary Falkland Islands Gazette on 3 January 2006. From that date individuals had 42 days, until the 14 February 2006, to make comment on the EIA in writing.

The production of an EIA is one of the steps that oil companies have to undertake before they can begin drilling.

Dr Colin Phipps, and Dr Ian Duncan, both of Desire Petroleum, were joined by Jon Perry of RPS Energy (who produced the EIA) and Mark Gillard of Peak Well Management on a trip to the Falklands between 18 and 25 February.



From Left:-  
Mark Gillard (Peak Well Management), Ian Duncan (CEO, Desire Petroleum), Phyl Rendell, (Director of Minerals & Agriculture), Colin Phipps (Chairman, Desire Petroleum) and Jon Perry (RPS Energy)

Colin, Ian, Jon and Mark were in the Falklands to discuss the EIA and Desire's drilling plan with the Government and to make a public presentation.

Peak Well management are a consultancy firm who are designing the wells to be drilled on Desires acreage and they will also manage the three well drilling programme. This will mean that there will be employees from Peak Well Management in the Falklands during the drilling campaign to oversee operations.

RPS Energy are part of the RPS Group, and they specialise in environmental consulting to the energy sector and producing EIAs.

## New faces for FOGL

FOGL has appointed Tim Bushell as Chief Executive, effective 16 January 2006. Tim Bushell joins FOGL from Paladin Resources plc where he has been Managing Director, Norway, since 2001. Tim was General Manager of Lasmo's South Atlantic business unit, which included the drilling campaign in the North Falklands Basin in 1998. Prior to joining Lasmo, Tim spent time at Ultramar, British Gas and Schlumberger. A qualified geologist, he has a total of 23 years experience in the oil and gas industry.

On 22 December, John Armstrong, the founding Chairman of the company, stepped down from the post of Chairman to be replaced by Richard Liddell, who became Non-Executive Chairman on 1 January 2006. John decided to step down as Executive Chairman at the end of 2005 having been involved with FOGL since its establishment. John is based in Australia, and, as the growing potential of the licences became apparent, the Board felt that the Company needed a full time chief executive and a UK-based chairman. John is remaining on the Board as a non-executive director to ensure continuity of contact with all stakeholders, particularly with the Falkland Islands' Government.

Richard Liddell, Chairman of FOGL, said: "We have steadily strengthened the management team at FOGL in line with the growing potential of our licences. With the opportunity now far bigger than originally envisaged, it was clear that the Company needed a full time chief executive. Tim brings with him international exploration and development experience and knowledge of the Falklands. I am confident that Tim and the team will be able to capitalise on the momentum that FOGL has already established."

FOGL has also started to look for a farm-in partner. Technical and commercial information presentations to potential participants have commenced and a data room is open and will be updated as further data is supplied by the ongoing seismic survey. The objective is to secure partners with appropriate financial capability and deepwater experience.

FOGL's seismic survey is continuing. To date they have collected 21,400 km of data, with a further 3,400 still to be collected. *GSI Admiral* has left the area, and *GSI Pacific* will complete the survey over the coming months.

## Falkland Gold and Minerals Limited Visitor

The Executive Chairman of Falkland Gold and Minerals Limited was in the Islands between 11 and 14 February. He was in the Falklands to discuss progress of the onshore prospecting operations, on his way to London, from South Africa, for a board meeting.

For further information about mineral exploration in the Falkland Islands please contact the department for a free brochure, CD ROM and map on email: [KStephenson@mineralresources.gov.fk](mailto:KStephenson@mineralresources.gov.fk) Fax +500 27321 or Tel +500 27322. Details about licensing activities and conditions are available on website [www.falklandislands.com](http://www.falklandislands.com) and [www.falklands-oil.com](http://www.falklands-oil.com) or from [ablake@mineralresources.gov.fk](mailto:ablake@mineralresources.gov.fk) or [prendell@mineralresources.gov.fk](mailto:prendell@mineralresources.gov.fk) A list of geological brochures, maps and reports for sale is also available from the department.