(Incorporated in Papua New Guinea) ARBN – 055 079 868

DRILLING REPORT – 13 January 2011

WELL NAME: Mananda 5, PNG

Oil Search reports that as at 0600 hrs PNG time (-1 hr AEST) on 13 January, Mananda 5 was at a depth of 2,395 metres. During the week a 5" liner was set and preparations are underway to drill ahead in a 4 1/8" hole towards the Koi-lange sandstone. Drilling progress for the week was 270 metres.

The lagifu sandstone interval was drilled during the week. An initial formation evaluation programme indicates that although a thin zone of hydrocarbons is developed within the Lower lagifu sandstone, the reservoir quality is poor.

Mananda 5 is located in PPL 219, approximately 18 kilometres north west of the SE Mananda oil field. Following the discovery of hydrocarbons within the Toro sandstone, the well is being deepened to evaluate the lagifu and Koi-lange sandstones. The total depth of the well is dependent upon the results of the evaluation of the Koi-lange sandstones.

The participants in Mananda 5 are:

Oil Search (PNG) Limited	71.25%
Nippon Oil Exploration (Niugini) Limited	20.00%
Merlin Petroleum Company	8.75%
Total	100%

PETER BOTTEN, CBE Managing Director

For further information please contact:

Austin Miller

Tel: +61 (0)2 8207 8546