



10th August 2007

BowLeven plc ("BowLeven" or "the Company")

Operational Update – IF-1 Exploration well

BowLeven announces that the IF-1 exploration well located in Block MLHP 7 offshore Cameroon, has taken a significant gas kick at 6,355 feet (some 540 feet above the highest expected target) in the uppermost section of the primary objective, the Isongo formation. The pressures encountered during this kick indicate that the well is potentially in communication with the IE structure, which was appraised by BowLeven earlier this year with well IE-2. For reasons of safe well control, the need for a new well design to accommodate the pressures encountered and the resultant requirement to employ up-rated equipment, it has been decided to abandon the well. The rig will be released on completion of abandonment operations.

The data obtained during drilling will now be evaluated and it is intended to return to the IF structure to re-drill this exploration well as soon as practicable. This re-drill will most likely be located down dip from the structural crest (where IF-1 is located), on the flanks of the structure, where more favourable pressure conditions should be encountered.

The Company is in discussion with its insurers concerning the IF-1 well.

Further announcements will be made as appropriate.

Commenting Kevin Hart, Bowleven CEO, said:

"Although it is frustrating to have to abandon the well at this juncture, the likelihood that the IE and IF structures are connected and have a common substantial gas column is extremely encouraging.

Whilst further drilling will be required to firm up the reserves, the result of this well certainly enhances the likely commerciality of the acreage and suggests the combined IE and IF accumulation may hold substantial volumes of gas and condensate."

ENQUIRIES

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Notes to the Editor:

BowLeven is an African oil and gas group, based in Edinburgh and traded on AIM since December 2004.

BowLeven holds, through its wholly-owned subsidiary EurOil Limited, a 100% equity interest in the Etinde Permit area being three shallow water blocks in offshore Cameroon, West Africa; namely Blocks MLHP 5, MLHP 6 and MLHP 7. In total BowLeven has approximately 2,300 km² of exploration acreage located across the Rio del Rey and Douala basins in the Etinde Permit. BowLeven has operated in Cameroon since 1999.

The Cameroon Government has announced a cooperation agreement with the Government of Equatorial Guinea to investigate a project to export gas from Cameroon to the gas liquefaction plant on Bioko Island on Equatorial Guinea. It is proposed that Limbe would be the gathering hub for any such scheme.

BowLeven also holds, following the completion of this transaction, through its wholly-owned subsidiary FirstAfrica Oil, a 100% equity interest in the EOV offshore block in Gabon, which contains an existing oil discovery that it is seeking to develop, and a 50% equity interest in the Epaemeno Block which is 1,340 km² of exploration acreage in onshore Gabon which sits next to a number of recent discoveries in surrounding blocks.