

26 July 2007

MERIDIAN PETROLEUM PLC
("Meridian" or the "Company")

Meridian Commences Production at Calvin 36-1

Meridian Petroleum (AIM : MRP), the independent oil and gas exploration and production company with key assets in the USA and Australia has commenced gas production from its Calvin 36-1 well in Louisiana, USA, following the completion of final testing and cleaning of the well. The Company expects some variability in the early flow rates from this well and will be monitoring tubing and surface flow and pressure data before confirming the production potential of the well.

The Company expects to provide further operational information on Calvin 36-1 and its other current US developments of Orion and Milford in an update to the market on 2nd August 2007, the day of the Company's Annual General Meeting.

Stephen Gutteridge, Chairman, said 'bringing the Calvin 36-1 well on-stream has been a lengthy process and we are pleased that we finally have some gas production from this asset. We are now looking to our next milestone, bringing on-line the greater potential production of the Orion 36 well, and we will provide an update shortly.'

Art Davies, who works for West Mountain Operating, Inc., is an independent contractor who meets the criteria of a qualified person under the AIM guidance note for mining, oil and gas companies, has reviewed and approved the technical information contained in this announcement with respect to Calvin.

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Notes to Editors

About Meridian

Meridian is an oil and gas exploration and production company with key on-shore assets in the United States and Australia. Meridian is quoted on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange (ticker: MRP), and is headquartered in London, with offices in Houston, Texas and Adelaide, Australia.

Meridian holds a net revenue interest of 68.75% for the shallow gas rights in the Calvin Field.