

**2 August 2007**

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

**AGM Statement and Operational Update**

Meridian Petroleum (AIM: MRP), the independent oil and gas exploration and production company with key assets in the USA and Australia announces that at the Company's Annual General Meeting, held at 11:00am today in London, all resolutions were duly passed.

Steve Gutteridge, Chairman, also gave the following update on its operations in the USA.

**Highlights**

- Calvin 36-1 on-stream with average flow rate of 50 mcfpd during first week of production
- Orion 36 scheduled for first gas in mid-August.
- Milford 36 to be put on test to establish gas flow rates and potential for oil production; NRI increased to 29%
- Company to seek farm-out or partial sale of Australian assets

**Calvin 36-1, Louisiana**

On 26 July 2007, Meridian Petroleum announced that it had commenced gas production from its Calvin 36-1 well in Louisiana. The well is producing from the shallow reservoir sands in the Calvin field in which the Company holds a 68.75% net revenue interest.

The Company's analysis of available reservoir data suggests that it will be some weeks before pressures build and a clear view of gas production capability emerges. Over the past week the well has flowed at an average rate of 50 mcf per day with a peak daily rate of 82 mcf per day. The Company is monitoring well performance closely and will continue to clean-up the well bore over the coming weeks.

In respect of the further development of the deeper Calvin reserves through the JV with Ensignt Partners, the Company is currently evaluating drilling a low-cost re-entry of the 5-29 well to test the Terryville sands potential. The Company is also considering the prospects for a higher-cost new well, with the potential for multiple targets, including the higher pressure zones.

**Orion 36, Michigan**

The Company is making steady progress towards bringing the Orion 36 well in Michigan on-stream. The H2S processing and associated facilities at Orion represent a significant investment for the company involving the transportation and installation of several major items of equipment. Over the past month the Company has experienced unforeseen delays in transportation including an incident where the refrigeration unit was severely damaged during transit. We are now pleased to confirm that all these major units are safely on-site and the final processes of hook-up and testing are underway. CMS, the local utility and buyer of the gas, has scheduled a target start-up date of 15 August 2007, and the Board currently has a reasonable expectation that the Company and its contractors will be able to meet that schedule.

**Milford 36, Michigan**

The results of the latest explosive perforation of the reservoir were encouraging, but the tests also encountered unexpected oil shows. Whilst these may enhance future cash generation from the well, it could result in an increase in the investment in processing facilities required and add to the time needed to bring the well into production. Consequently, the Board has decided to put the Milford 36 well on an extended 30 day test to more clearly establish the economics of bringing the well on-line. As the Board is

maintaining tight control over cash commitments, it plans to commence this extended test once the Orion 36 well is on-line. The Company has recently increased its net revenue interest in Milford 36 from 25% to 29%

Stephen Gutteridge, Chairman of Meridian Petroleum, said: "We were pleased to announce that the Calvin 36-1 well was producing last week. However it is production from Orion 36 that we believe will make a real difference to our cash position, and our current focus is on delivering that as soon as possible. We are continuing to evaluate our plans for the development of Meridian's larger potential assets and we are making progress in recruiting a Chief Operating Officer to assist with the Company's day-to-day activities as we expand our production. Conservative management of our cash resources remains key in the short-term and we will look for a farm-out or partial sale of the Dolores prospect in Australia and we are considering the disposal of our assets in Mississippi to raise further cash."

The Company also confirms that its new website is live from today, and can be found at [www.meridianpetroleum.com](http://www.meridianpetroleum.com).

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.

John Randell, who works for Wellmaster, 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 Orion.

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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.