

16 August 2007

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

Production Commences at Orion Field

Meridian Petroleum (AIM: MRP), the independent oil and gas exploration and production company with key assets in the USA and Australia announces that production of gas has commenced at its Orion 36 well in the Orion Field, Michigan.

Surface facilities and tie in to CMS, the local utility company, have been completed as per the Company's contractual obligation with CMS. The next 48 hours will be spent testing the facility with gas from the reservoir and commercial production will commence by the end of the week, following completion of required tests. The Company does not foresee any issues with the testing cycle, and will update the market shortly with the commercial flow rates and the allowable flow rates mandated by the State of Michigan. Based upon bottom hole pressure and other key technical indicators received to date, the Directors anticipate that the flow rates plus Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) and Condensate production is expected to be in line with the initial projections as given to the market previously.

The gas produced from the well will be sold to CMS, at approximately Henry Hub plus with a mmbtu (millions of British Thermal Units) adjustment. Sales will commence at the end of the week following the live testing of the refrigeration system which requires live gas from the reservoir to fully test the system fully. The Company is using the SulfaTreat process to remove the hydrogen sulphide from the gas, at a cost of approximately USD 0.45/mcf.

Tony Mason, CEO of Meridian Petroleum, said: "The news from Orion is excellent given the short time it has taken to get the project to this stage, having only started drilling the well in January of this year. While we recognise that the H2S removal is expensive, it is economically viable considering the high level US gas prices have sustained for some time now."

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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For further information contact:

Meridian Petroleum Plc

Ambrian Partners

Parkgreen Communications

Stephen Gutteridge,
Chairman

Neil Maclachlan
Tim Goodman

Simon Robinson
Erica Nelson

+44 (0) 20 7811 0140

+44 (0) 20 7776 6400

+44 (0) 20 7851 7480

Tony Mason, CEO

+1 713 599 1611

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.