

11 September 2007

AIM: MRP

**Meridian Petroleum
("Meridian" or the "Company")**

Operations Update - Orion 36 Well Resumes Production

Meridian Petroleum (AIM: MRP), the independent oil and gas exploration and production company with key assets in the USA and Australia announces an update on the status of its Orion 36 well.

As previously announced, the Company took the Orion 36 well off-line on Thursday 6 September 2007 to deal with problems caused by small traces of mercaptans in the gas stream.

The major part of the work required to install the filter equipment and recalibrate the monitoring systems was completed within 24 hours and the well was brought back on-line early on Friday 7th September. During the shut-down full conventional perforation of the reservoir was completed as planned, but due to equipment problems the explosive perforation of the reservoir was only partially completed.

Over the weekend the well produced gas at an average of around 2.5mmcf/d as it cleaned up, with an encouraging build-up in tubing pressure.

The well was briefly taken off-line yesterday, Monday 10 September 2007, to finalise work on the filter but is currently back on-line and building up production.

Stephen Gutteridge, Chairman, said "We have successfully minimised the downtime caused by the mercaptan problem and we have maintained good levels of production and cash generation throughout this period, although it has delayed our build-up towards full capacity. We may decide to complete the explosive perforation programme as originally planned, but will let the well flow for a few days before making a decision."

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.

Ends

For further information contact:

Meridian Petroleum Plc

Stephen Gutteridge, Chairman
+44 (0) 20 7811 0140

Tony Mason, CEO
+1 713 599 1611

Ambrian Partners

Tim Goodman
Richard Greenfield
+44 (0) 20 7776 6400

Parkgreen Communications

Simon Robinson
Erica Nelson
+44 (0) 20 7851 7480

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.