

**Max Petroleum Plc  
(the "Company")**

**Drilling Update**

**15 December 2009**

Max Petroleum Plc, an oil and gas exploration and development company focused on Kazakhstan, is pleased to announce today that the ZMA-A12 development well in the Zhana Makat Field has reached a total measured depth of 883 metres, with electric logs indicating 16 metres of net oil pay over three Jurassic sandstone reservoirs at true vertical depths between 786 and 832 metres, all in line with expectations. The Company has run production casing in the well, which will be completed and tested in the next few weeks. The Sun ZJ-30 drilling rig is currently moving to drill the BOR-1 exploration well on the Borkyldakty prospect in Block E, which is expected to spud on or around 31 December 2009.

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Richard Hook, Chief Operating Officer of Max Petroleum, is the qualified person that has reviewed and approved the technical information contained in this announcement. Mr. Hook is a member of the Houston Geological Society and holds both Masters and Bachelors of Science degrees in geology.