

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

Drilling Update

19 April 2010

Max Petroleum Plc, an oil and gas exploration and development company focused on Kazakhstan, today announced that it has completed drilling the KZN-2 exploration well on the North Kyzylzhar II West Block prospect in Block E. The well reached a total depth of 1,457 metres without encountering hydrocarbons and will be plugged and abandoned. The Sun ZJ-30 drilling rig will now move back to drill the BOR-2, the first of two appraisal wells to be drilled in Borkyldakty Field discovery over the next few months. The Company is reviewing the results of its tender for a second shallow drilling rig, which, along with the ZJ-30 drilling rig currently under contract from Sun, will be used to drill the remaining post-salt exploration portfolio, as well as additional appraisal and development wells within the Borkyldakty Field.

Enquiries:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Max Petroleum Plc | Michael Young President and Chief Financial Officer | Tel: +44 (0)20 7355 9590 |
| | Peter Moss Vice President Corporate Development and Investor Relations | |
| Merlin PR | Tom Randell / Anca Spiridon | Tel: +44 (0)7887 884 794 |
| WH Ireland Ltd | Daniel Bate | Tel: +44 (0)161 832 2174 |

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.