

Max Petroleum Plc

("Max Petroleum" or the "Company")

Execution of Drilling Contract for Pre-Salt Exploration

26 April 2011

Max Petroleum Plc, an oil and gas exploration and development company focused on Kazakhstan, is pleased to announce that it has entered into a contract with Saipem, a subsidiary of Eni, S.p.A., for a National 1625 DE onshore drilling rig for its deep, pre-salt exploration programme. The contract secures the use of the 3,000 hp rig to drill a minimum of two deep wells in the Company's Blocks A&E licence area.

The Company plans to commence drilling the NUR-1 well on the Emba B prospect in Block E during August 2011, targeting unrisked mean resource potential of 467 million barrels of oil equivalent ("mmboe") distributed over a probable range (P90 to P10) of 170 million to 817 million mmboe with a 29% geological chance of success.

Enquiries:

Max Petroleum Plc	Michael Young President and Chief Financial Officer	Tel: +44 (0)20 7355 9590
	Tom Randell Director of Investor Relations	
Merlin PR	David Simonson / Anca Spiridon	Tel: +44 (0)207 726 8400
WH Ireland Ltd	Daniel Bate / Katy Mitchell	Tel: +44 (0)161 832 2174
Macquarie Capital Advisers	Paul Connolly / Ben Oakley	Tel: +44 (0)203 037 2000