

**Max Petroleum Plc
("Max Petroleum")**

Drilling Update

9 December 2011

Max Petroleum Plc, an oil and gas exploration and production company focused on Kazakhstan, announced today that the ASK-2 well has been drilled to a total depth of 3,412 metres without encountering any viable reservoirs in the deeper Triassic section, which was the primary objective. The well will now be completed as a production well in the shallower Jurassic reservoir at depths between 1,281 and 1,287 metres and the PM Lucas ZJ-50 rig will be released.

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 / Robin Gwyn	Tel: +44 (0)161 832 2174
Macquarie Capital	Paul Connolly / Steve Baldwin	Tel: +44 (0)203 037 2000

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.