

UK and Norwegian Government Approval for Blane Field Development

July 6, 2005

PRESS RELEASE

MOC Exploration (U.K.) Limited ("MOEX")(President & CEO: Teruo Omori) announced that both the UK and Norwegian Governments have approved the development of the Blane oil field, which straddles the UK / Norway median line. MOEX(14.00%) decided to develop this field with Paladin (Operator) and other UK and Norwegian partners. MOEX is a 50% share of subsidiary of Nippon Oil Exploration Limited ("NOEX"), the upstream arm of Nippon Oil Corporation, and the 50% remaining share of MOEX is held by Japanese Government.

The Blane Field is located offshore 180 km east of Aberdeen. The field will be developed at an anticipated cost of approximately £ 165 million connected to a platform in the Ula oil field, located North-East of Blane in Norway.

Production will start in late 2006 and is expected to peak at a rate of over 14,000 barrels per day.

The Nippon Oil group has been conducting exploration and development activities for oil and gas in UK and has a strong desire to expand its business there as a core area in its worldwide upstream business.