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Oil conference focuses attention upon future exploration and a Faroe oil industry

Press release: On Tuesday the 4th of June an oil conference will be held at the Nordic House venue in Tórshavn. The conference focuses attention upon the on-going oil exploration on the Faroe plateau, with a particular slant towards the future. Most of us are in agreement that the oil industry has been an added positive for the Faroe economy in a variety of ways. Activities on the Faroe plateau have delivered financially and several Faroe companies have entered the international oil industry, providing Faroese nationals with highly sought after jobs. It is vital that we continue to build upon, and develop this trend. Over the past ten years or so, eight exploration wells have been drilled. Oil and gas have been confirmed in the subsoil, although no commercial discovery has yet been made. Compared to other exploration areas in our neighbourhood, it must be said that the number of exploratory wells in the Faroes are very few. If we are to retain hope of making a commercial discovery, it is vital oil companies drill more wells in Faroe waters over the next few years. The blossoming oil industry developments west of Shetland, is an excellent example of what truly could emerge from a large and targeted exploration effort. The current situation confirms that two well drillings are in the pipeline for the next few years. These are very large investments, which the oil companies Statoil, ExxonMobil, Atlantic Petroleum, Dong and OMV have committed to, and the pending results will no doubt form an important basis for the future development of the Faroe plateau. How we conduct this ought to be part of a future development plan governing future exploration, as there are no more future exploration well drillings on the agenda. Currently, all existing exploration licenses in Faroe waters will expire in one and a half years time. This represents a challenge for the Faroes and oil exploration there. It is this challenge, among other

aspects, which will be on the agenda at the oil conference at the Nordic House on the 4th of June. At the conference, Mr Petur Joensen and Mr Heri Ziska from Jarðfeingi will explain oil industry developments exploration to date and future opportunities on the Faroe plateau and the role of Faroe industry. Mr Rúni M. Hansen, the Statoil Faroe manager will talk about the future drillings in the Faroes and will discuss the future facing the Atlantic Margin area and the North Atlantic Ocean. Mr Magni Arge, the chairman for the Faroe Oil Industry Association will discuss future Faroe participation in the oil and gas industry. Also Mr Árni Olafsson, who for many years has led the oil industry development in the Faroes, will sum up the situation and predict a future course. The question is also; what can we learn from our neighbours. To explain developments and the experiences of our closest neighbours, e.g. Great Britain and Norway, representatives from the UK and Norwegian oil industry together with their respective authorities, will hold talks. These representatives are: Mr Malcolm Webb the CEO at Oil & Gas UK, Mr Nicolas Loizou the head geologist at the DECC in the UK, Mrs Gro Brækken the CEO for Norsk Olje og Gas and Mr Kari Ofstad the head geologist at NPD. These four people will explain the oil industry in general, with emphasis on the exploration and production on the Atlantic Margin area west of Shetland. At the conference there will also be panel discussion regarding the future exploration and the role of a Faroe oil industry. The panel will be manned by several of the foreign representatives together with business representatives from the Faroe oil industry. The conference is expected to be visited by Faroese who today work in the industry, politicians and representatives from the authorities, institutions and companies, also representatives from foreign oil companies. Language at the conference will be English. The Faroe government cabinet minister for Trade & Industry, hereunder hydrocarbon affairs; Mr Johan Dahl will open the conference. The conference has been organised by FOIB, which is the company representing all seven active oil companies on the Faroe plateau. Foto: Malcolm Webb, CEO, Oil & Gas UK and Kaj Leo Johannesen, Prime Minister, Faroes Contacts: Aimi Justinussen info@foib.fo Jan Müller, MD FOÍB, jan@foib.fo 00298211820