



## Board Appointments LSE – December 2010

### Oil & Gas

#### **BG Group NORTHERN PETROLEUM SOLO OIL PLC**

#### **BG Group**

BG Group has today announced the appointment of Patrick W. Thomas as a Non-Executive Director with immediate effect.

Commenting on the appointment, BG Group's Chairman Sir Robert Wilson said: "We are delighted to announce this appointment. Patrick's international industrial experience will be a valuable addition to our Board."

Patrick W. Thomas, 53, a British citizen based in Germany, was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Bayer MaterialScience AG, part of the Bayer Group, in 2007. Mr Thomas graduated from Oxford University with an engineering degree in 1979. He began his career with ICI in the UK and held a number of positions with ICI Pharmaceuticals and Agrochemicals (which became Zeneca in 1993). In 1989, Mr Thomas transferred to Belgium to join ICI Polyurethanes, undertaking various management assignments and in 1993 was appointed Regional Director for Europe, Africa & the Middle East. Four years later he was appointed global Chief Executive Officer of ICI Polyurethanes.

In 1999, Mr Thomas joined Huntsman Corporation, a U.S. chemicals company, as President of the Polyurethanes, Performance and Advanced Materials Division. In 2003, he was appointed Corporate Executive Vice President of Huntsman Matlin Patterson. He joined Bayer MaterialScience AG in 2006. Mr Thomas is Chairman of the Oxford University Business Economics Programme Board, Chairman of the advisory board of the European Institute for Industrial Leadership and Chairman of the World Chlorine Council.

BG Group announced that Ashley Almanza will stand down from the Board and leave his role as Chief Financial Officer on 31 March 2011. This follows an earlier indication from Mr Almanza of his desire to leave BG Group within the next two years. After 31 March 2011, Mr Almanza will continue to work with BG Group Chief Executive Frank Chapman to bring to conclusion a number of ongoing strategic projects.

BG Group also announced today that Fabio de Oliveira Barbosa has joined the Group. It is intended that Mr Barbosa will join the Board as Chief Financial Officer on 31 March 2011.

Mr Barbosa, 49, was until June 2010 the Chief Financial Officer at the Brazilian mining company Vale SA, the largest private sector company in Latin America and

the second-largest metals and mining company in the world by market capitalisation. Prior to joining Vale in 2002, he spent seven years in the Brazilian Ministry of Finance, rising to the role of National Treasury Secretary. He is a former adviser to one of the Executive Directors of the World Bank. Mr Barbosa's appointment to the Board of BG Group will follow the receipt of the necessary UK visa.

BG Group Chairman Sir Robert Wilson said: "I am delighted to welcome Fabio to BG Group. He has extensive financial leadership experience with one of the world's largest resources companies and a strong track record in shareholder value creation. I would also like to thank Ashley for his considerable contribution to the Company and our Board."

BG Group Chief Executive Frank Chapman said: "Fabio's skills and experience will be invaluable as the Group enters its next decade of growth, and I very much look forward to working with him."

"I would also like to express my gratitude to Ashley for his tremendous commitment and contribution to BG Group for more than eight years as Chief Financial Officer. Ashley has worked with me closely in an exceptional partnership that has helped shape the BG Group business as we know it today. I am also appreciative of his early signalling of his desire to leave the Group and his support in planning a well-ordered transition to Fabio as his successor."

#### **NORTHERN PETROLEUM Plc**

Northern Petroleum Plc announces that its wholly owned Netherlands subsidiary, Northern Petroleum Nederland B.V. ("NPN"), has appointed Brian A. Hepp, Northern's Director of Group Operations, and Cornelis Nicolaas ("Nico") Tielens, NPN's Operations Manager and Acting Country Manager, as directors.

Mr Hepp, a Canadian national, has been Northern's Director of Group Operations since January 2006. Since joining Northern, Brian has directed all of the Group's drilling and development operations, including the development of the Grolloo, Geesbrug, Brakel and Wijk en Aalburg gas fields. In total he has over 28 years of international experience in design, drilling, production operations and petroleum field management with both major and small producers in North America and Europe.

Mr Hepp has represented NPN as an active member of the Executive Committee of The Netherlands Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Association since NPN joined the organisation in 2006. NOGEPa promotes the common interests of all companies holding licenses to explore for, develop and produce hydrocarbons both on and offshore in The Netherlands.

Brian holds a Masters Degree in Administration and a Bachelor of Engineering degree. He is a Registered Engineer in Canada, a Chartered Engineer in the UK and Europe and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Mr Tielens, a Netherlands national, has been NPN's Operations Manager since July 2006 and also Acting Country Manager since the start of 2010. Prior to joining NPN, Mr Tielens spent 23 years in the service side of the oil and gas industry, mainly in the Dutch onshore and North Sea offshore sectors, and has extensive operational experience in well and production operations. Mr. Tielens previously held various onshore supervisory and management positions before becoming General Manager for two different Multinational Service Company's Continental Europe operations immediately prior to joining NPN as Operations Manager.

Nico holds a Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering, has held the Chairman's role in the well services group of IRO (the association of oil and gas service providers in The Netherlands) as well as serving as a Board member of IRO. Since joining NPN he has been an active member of the Operations Committee of NOGEPa.

Following these appointments Derek Musgrove and Birger Polkamp have retired as directors of NPN.

Derek Musgrove, Managing Director of Northern, stated "NPN has brought three gas fields into production, with another to follow imminently. It has become a significant gas producer and project manager. Following these achievements, it is an appropriate moment for these changes to be made to the NPN Board. Further appointments to the NPN Board are expected in due course, reflecting the company's increase in size and activities.

The fact that NPN has an excellent safety record is very much a credit to both Brian and Nico. I was, and will remain, thankful for their persistent diligence on behalf of all employees and stakeholders.

The Board of Northern also wishes to express its gratitude to Birger Polkamp for his work and guidance over the last five years, the formative period of the company. NPN's current activities are a reflection of his efforts. We are delighted to retain his services as a Commercial Adviser to the NPN Board."

#### **SOLO OIL PLC**

The Board of Solo is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Neil Ritson as Executive Director to the Company with immediate effect. Mr Ritson has extensive experience in the energy sector with a distinguished record of delivery in exploration technology, exploration discoveries, major construction projects and in M&A transactions.

Mr Ritson has over 30 years' experience working in the energy industry including 23 years with BP plc where he held roles as International Chief Geophysicist and Strategic Business Unit Manager in both Norway and Alaska. In 1999 he was appointed to run the Burlington Resources Inc. businesses in North Africa before becoming Vice President UK in 2001 and VP International in 2003. Mr Ritson founded an energy sector consultancy business in 2004 before being recruited as Chief Executive Officer of Regal Petroleum plc in July 2006. He resigned from Regal in late 2007 and founded Vanguard Energy. He is also Chief Executive Officer of UK AIM Listed Leni Gas & Oil Plc, a director of PetroEnergy Limited and Enovation Resources Ltd and the Chairman of Trustees of the Kensington Symphony Orchestra.

David Lenigas, Chairman, commented "I am delighted to welcome Neil to the Board of Solo where his skills and experience in the oil and gas sector will assist Solo to develop its portfolio and extend the Company's strategy."

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Chairman of Helius Energy  
Non-Executive Director of Sterling Energy**

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