



10 January 2008

APACHE ARRIVES IN WELLINGTON HARBOUR

New Zealand Oil & Gas Ltd and its joint venture partners today welcomed the *Apache* pipelaying vessel into Wellington Harbour - marking the next phase of the Kupe Project.

The *Apache*, operated by Technip, is one of the most advanced pipelaying vessels operating in the offshore oil and gas industry. She will be used to lay gas pipeline between the Kupe wellhead platform and the onshore production station near Hawera.

This is the first time a vessel like the *Apache* will be used in New Zealand.

Usually, pipes are welded together onboard a ship or barge and then laid off the back of the vessel. It is a time-consuming process and is prone to delays due to inclement offshore weather. The *Apache* allows a pipeline, which has already been welded together onshore, to be reeled off the back of the ship easily and quickly with much less risk of weather downtime.

The *Apache* was mobilised from Aberdeen in Scotland and travelled to New Zealand via the USA. The *Apache* is scheduled to leave Wellington on 13th January to commence the pipe lay operation.

The pipeline will be laid in three 10km sections. The *Apache* will pick up the welded pipeline from the spoolbase at Picton. Once the necessary pipe lay initiation procedures have been completed the *Apache* can lay the pipeline on the seabed at up to one kilometre per hour.

The *Apache* is scheduled to complete pipelaying by mid February and will then return to the North Sea.

ENDS

Participants in the Kupe Gas Project are:

Origin Energy Limited (through its subsidiary Origin Energy Resources (Kupe) Limited)	50% (Operator)
Genesis Energy (through wholly owned subsidiaries)	31%
New Zealand Oil & Gas Limited (through wholly owned subsidiaries)	15%
Mitsui E&P Australia Pty Ltd	4%

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NZOG stock symbols: NZX shares - NZO options - NZOOD
ASX shares - NZO options – NZOO

Media release