

CONTANGO OIL & GAS COMPANY

NEWS RELEASE

Contango Affiliate Apparent High Bidder on Gulf of Mexico Lease Block

MARCH 20, 2008 – HOUSTON, TEXAS – Contango Oil & Gas Company (AMEX:MCF) announced today that its affiliated company, Republic Exploration LLC (“REX”), was the apparent high bidder on one lease block at the Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale No. 206 held on March 19, 2008. REX bid \$310,999 on Eugene Island 56.

An apparent high bid (“AHB”) gives the bidding party priority in award of offered tracts, notwithstanding the fact that the Minerals Management Service (“MMS”) may reject all bids for a given tract. The MMS review process can take up to 90 days on some bids. Upon completion of that process, final results for all AHB’s will be known.

Kenneth R. Peak, Contango’s Chairman and Chief Executive Officer said, “Our Gulf of Mexico exploration efforts for the past year have been focused on developing our Dutch and Mary Rose discoveries, but we look forward to resuming our offshore exploration efforts by drilling between one to three new offshore exploration prospects in calendar year 2008.”

Mr. Peak continued, “At our Dutch and Mary Rose discoveries, we are on time and on budget with our platform and pipeline construction. We expect to begin producing each of our Mary Rose #1 and Mary Rose #3 wells at anticipated 8/8ths rates of 55 million cubic feet equivalent per day (“Mmcfe/d”) before the end of May 2008. Our three Dutch wells are currently producing at approximately 110 Mmcfe/d. We are drilling our Mary Rose #2 well and expect to spud our Mary Rose #4 well in the April/May time frame.”

Contango is a Houston-based, independent natural gas and oil company. The Company’s core business is to explore, develop, produce and acquire natural gas and oil properties primarily offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. The Company also holds investments in companies focused on commercializing environmentally preferred energy technologies. Additional information can be found on our web page at www.contango.com.

This press release contains forward-looking statements regarding Contango that are intended to be covered by the safe harbor “forward-looking statements” provided by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, based on Contango’s current expectations and includes statements regarding acquisitions and divestitures, estimates of future production, future results of operations, quality and nature of the asset base, the assumptions upon which estimates are based and other expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, assumptions, strategies or statements about future events or performance (often, but not always, using words such as “expects”, “projects”, “anticipates”, “plans”, “estimates”, “potential”, “possible”, “probable”, or “intends”, or stating that certain actions, events or results “may”, “will”, “should”, or “could” be taken, occur or be achieved). Statements concerning oil and gas reserves also may be deemed to be forward looking statements in that they reflect estimates based on certain assumptions that the resources

involved can be economically exploited. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations, estimates and projections that involve a number of risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those, reflected in the statements. These risks include, but are not limited to: the risks of the oil and gas industry (for example, operational risks in exploring for, developing and producing crude oil and natural gas; risks and uncertainties involving geology of oil and gas deposits; the uncertainty of reserve estimates; the uncertainty of estimates and projections relating to future production, costs and expenses; potential delays or changes in plans with respect to exploration or development projects or capital expenditures; health, safety and environmental risks and risks related to weather such as hurricanes and other natural disasters); uncertainties as to the availability and cost of financing; fluctuations in oil and gas prices; risks associated with derivative positions; inability to realize expected value from acquisitions, inability of our management team to execute its plans to meet its goals, shortages of drilling equipment, oil field personnel and services, unavailability of gathering systems, pipelines and processing facilities and the possibility that government policies may change or governmental approvals may be delayed or withheld. Additional information on these and other factors which could affect Contango's operations or financial results are included in Contango's other reports on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Investors are cautioned that any forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and actual results or developments may differ materially from the projections in the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are based on the estimates and opinions of management at the time the statements are made. Contango does not assume any obligation to update forward-looking statements should circumstances or management's estimates or opinions change.

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