

**BENCHMARK ENERGY CORP.**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Trading Symbol: BEE: TSXV

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Vancouver, British Columbia – **Benchmark Energy Corp.** (the “Company”) announces that further to the Company’s news releases of February 23, 2005 and March 21, 2005, the Company has now closed its private placement of 6,000,000 shares at a price of \$0.15 per share for total proceeds of \$900,000.

All common shares issued under this private placement have a hold period expiring April 7, 2006.

The Company also wishes to announce that it has now completed the acquisition of a 33.33% interest in the "Cosmos Concession" (the "Property"). As consideration, the Company will pay Canam Offshore Limited ("Canam") US\$100,000 in cash and reimburse Canam of various expenses it has incurred on the Property (being an aggregate amount of approximately CDN\$80,000).

Pursuant to a January 14, 2005 agreement between the Company and Laval Capital Corp. ("Laval"), in consideration for Laval's ongoing services as a consultant and advisor to the Company in respect of the development of potential investments in the oil and gas sector in Africa, the Company has granted to Laval a 5% carried interest in the Company's 33.33% interest in the Property.

Furthermore, the Company has now met the requirements to be listed as a TSX Venture Tier 2 Company and the Company's listing has been transferred from NEX to TSX Venture.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF BENCHMARK ENERGY CORP.**

Jean-Claude Boubee  
President

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