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## **BENCHMARK ENERGY CORP.**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

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#### **BENCHMARK REPORTS MANAGEMENT CHANGE**

**Calgary, Alberta, Canada, January 17, 2007 - BENCHMARK ENERGY CORP.** ("Benchmark" or the "Company" - TSX Venture: BEE) reports that David R. Robinson of Calgary, Alberta, has been appointed as President and Chief Executive Officer, and a director, of the Company effective immediately. Mr. Robinson replaces David W. Harrison who has resigned to pursue other opportunities. The Company wishes to thank Mr. Harrison for his considerable efforts towards advancing Benchmark's strategy over the past twelve months.

Mr. Robinson has spent the past 20 years working in both the investment and upstream petroleum businesses, and has been involved with major international petroleum projects ranging from the Sudan to Egypt to Kazakhstan, and elsewhere. Most recently, Mr. Robinson was Chief Executive Officer of AIM-listed Forum Energy PLC which is active in the Philippines. He is also Chairman and a director of CNQ-listed Vital Resources Corp., and a director of privately-held RadCan Energy Services Inc., both of Calgary, Alberta.

Mr. Robinson has a BSc (Geology) from the University of British Columbia, and an MBA from Queen's University.

Benchmark Energy is a junior Canadian oil and gas exploration Company, focused internationally on North and West Africa, and also Indonesia. The Company currently has a 33.33% working interest in the Cosmos Concession in offshore Tunisia. The Company intends to further its working interests in Tunisia as well as to develop projects in marginal oil and gas fields in North and West Africa, and potentially in other regions of the world.

Certain information set forth in this press release, including a discussion of future plans and operations, contains forward looking statements that involve substantial known and unknown risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements are subject to numerous risks and uncertainties, some of which are beyond management's control, including but not limited to, the impact of general economic conditions, industry conditions, fluctuation of commodity prices, fluctuation of foreign exchange rates, environmental risks industry competition, availability of qualified personnel and management, stock market volatility, timely and cost effective access to sufficient capital from internal and external sources. Actual results, performance or achievement could differ from those expressed in or implied by these forward-looking statements.

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