



BENCHMARK ENERGY CORP.

NEWS RELEASE

BENCHMARK ANNOUNCES GRANTING OF OPTIONS

Calgary, Alberta, Canada, February 8th, 2007 - **BENCHMARK ENERGY CORP.** ("Benchmark" or the "Company" - TSX Venture: BEE) announces that it has granted a total of 242,000 options to purchase capital stock of the Company at a price of \$0.48 for a period of five years to a senior officer and two employees of the Company, pursuant to the Company's stock option plan.

Options granted to directors and officers vest as to 1/3 of the total number of options six months after the date of grant, a further 1/3 of the total number of options one year after the date of grant, and the remaining 1/3 of the total number of options eighteen months after the date of grant.

Options granted to an employee or a consultant who has been employed or retained by the Company for a period of less than six months at the time the option is granted vest as to 1/3 of the total number of options one year after the date of grant, a further 1/3 of the total number of options eighteen months after the date of grant, and the remaining 1/3 of the total number of options granted two years after the date of grant.

Benchmark Energy is a junior Canadian oil and gas exploration Company, focused internationally on North and West Africa. 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 elsewhere as opportunities may arise.

For further information, please contact:

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