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## Media Release

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### Oil Search Announces Platinum Sponsorship of 20<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference

Wednesday, 4 June, 2014

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**Port Moresby** – Oil Search Limited’s Managing Director, Peter Botten, has announced the Company’s platinum sponsorship of the 20<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference (*AIDS 2014*) that will take place from 20 - 25 July in Melbourne, Australia. Mr. Botten made the announcement at a dinner in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG), after hosting a two-day tour of HIV treatment facilities for some of the world’s most pre-eminent leaders in the global HIV response.

Jan Beagle, United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS, and Professor Sharon Lewin, Local Co-Chair of AIDS 2014, were among the delegates who participated in the tour of Hela Province in the country’s north, experiencing first-hand how the private sector is making significant inroads in addressing the HIV epidemic in PNG.

As guest of honour, Ms. Beagle addressed the high-level audience at the Grand Papua Hotel in Port Moresby, emphasising the importance of a multi-sectoral response and commended Oil Search for its public health interventions in PNG.

“The Oil Search Health Foundation, in partnership with the Government and civil society organisations, is providing impressive HIV-related services and using HIV as an entry point for broader health and development outcomes,” said Ms Beagle.

Local Co-chair of AIDS 2014, Professor Lewin, praised Oil Search for its generous support for the AIDS Conference as well as the Company’s innovative approach to delivering HIV prevention, treatment and care in PNG.

“I truly believe that companies like Oil Search are showing the leadership we need from the private sector and they should be applauded for the role they are playing in all our work to see the end of AIDS,” said Professor Lewin.

At the dinner, Mr. Botten highlighted the importance of bringing a slice of PNG to *AIDS 2014*, noting that the country’s geography, HIV prevalence level and Oil Search’s innovative public-private partnership with the PNG Government made a compelling case for the Company to sponsor the AIDS conference in Australia.

“I believe it is pertinent for Oil Search and our Health Foundation to demonstrate the impact the private sector can have on the response to HIV in PNG,” said Mr Botten. “Over the last two days, our guests have visited Tari Hospital and two health clinics to see for themselves how the public-private partnership we have established with the PNG National Department of Health is helping to overcome the challenges HIV patients and service providers face in treating and preventing HIV in remote locations.

“Using funds from the Global Fund Round 10 HIV grant, the Oil Search Health Foundation is working with the PNG Government and development partners to deliver better HIV programs, better counselling and treatment services and better outcomes in PNG than any of us could have achieved on our own,” said Mr. Botten.

Mr. Botten concluded by issuing a challenge to others in the private sector to follow Oil Search’s lead:

“Where national health systems are overburdened, the proactive participation of the private sector is not only needed, but an obligation. I encourage other industry leaders to rise to the challenge both in PNG and elsewhere around the world.”

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## Background information

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### About Oil Search

Oil Search was established in Papua New Guinea in 1929 and is the country's largest oil producer. Over 95% of its assets are in PNG, where it holds oil and gas production and exploration licences plus a 29% interest in the US\$19 billion PNG LNG Project. This world class liquefied natural gas (LNG) development delivered first LNG sales in May 2014, which will quadruple Oil Search's production volumes from 2015 onwards and transform the Company into a major LNG exporter. Oil Search has a comprehensive exploration and appraisal programme to underpin LNG expansion in PNG and also has exploration interests in the Middle East and North Africa. It is listed on the Australian and Port Moresby stock exchanges, with a market capitalisation of US\$11 billion.

Website: <http://www.oilsearch.com>

### About the Oil Search Health Foundation

The Oil Search Health Foundation is an internationally recognised non-profit organisation that supports the Papua New Guinea Government by establishing public-private partnerships that build national capacity to deliver safe and effective health care in one of the world's most challenging environments.

The Oil Search Health Foundation is now part of a small group of private sector companies involved directly in managing Global Fund grants. In 2012 the Oil Search Health Foundation was appointed as Papua New Guinea's Principal Recipient for the Global Fund Round 10 HIV grant of US\$46 million over five years. The engagement of the private sector in managing the delivery of multilateral development aid is seen internationally as a very promising pathway to step up the pace in the global response to HIV.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OilSearchHealthFoundation>

Twitter: @OilSearchHealth

Website: [www.oilsearchhealthfoundation.org](http://www.oilsearchhealthfoundation.org)

### About AIDS 2014

The 20<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014) will be held in Melbourne, Australia, from July 20-25. It will bring together representatives from science, civil society, community, politics and the private sector to discuss the most pressing issues and science linked to HIV. It is the first time the conference will be hosted in Australia and only the second time back in the Asia-Pacific Region (since the conference was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2004). AIDS 2014 will be a unique opportunity to share the latest scientific advances in the field and develop strategies for advancing all facets of our collective efforts to treat and prevent HIV.

Registration for the conference is still available – full details available online ([www.aids2014.org](http://www.aids2014.org)).

### AIDS 2014 online

An interactive daily programme, a YouTube page, mobile app, and webinars facilitate the exchange of the latest information from the grassroots-level to the elite policy forums at international levels whether you are attending the conference in person or following remotely join the conversation on social media to stay in touch with the latest updates and developments.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/InternationalAIDSConference](http://www.facebook.com/InternationalAIDSConference)

Twitter: @AIDS\_conference #AIDS2014

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/iasaidsconference](http://www.youtube.com/user/iasaidsconference)