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To	Company Announcements Office	Facsimile	1900 999 279
Company	Australian Stock Exchange Limited	Date	12 February 2008
From	Bill Hundy	Pages	3
Subject	KEY MILESTONE FOR KUPE GAS PROJECT		

For your information please find attached a media release regarding the Kupe Gas Project.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Hundy".

Bill Hundy
Company Secretary

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Media Release

12 February 2008

Key milestone for Kupe Gas Project

The Kupe Gas Project has reached a key milestone, with the final stage of the main offshore gas pipeline being laid by one of the world's most advanced pipelaying vessels, the *Apache*.

Kupe joint venture partners, including operator Origin Energy Resources (Kupe) Limited ("Origin"), Genesis Energy, New Zealand Oil & Gas Ltd and Mitsui E & P Australia Pty Ltd, today completed the final stages of the pipe laying, offshore from Hawera.

The *Apache*, operated by Technip, uses a reel-lay method for installing small and medium diameter pipelines. This allows a pipeline, which has already been welded together onshore, to be reeled off the back of the ship easily and quickly with much less risk of weather downtime.

The pipeline has a diameter of 12 inches and links the offshore wellhead platform to the onshore production station near Hawera through a tunnel drilled under the cliffs off the Taranaki coast.

The *Apache* is 122.9 metres long, 23.3 meters wide and sits at a depth of 8.7 metres. Powered by two 20 cylinder diesel engines, the *Apache* sleeps 95 people and has several recreation rooms, a games room and sauna on board.

Kupe Gas Project Director Peter Ashford said this was the first time that a vessel like the *Apache* had been used in New Zealand to lay an offshore gas pipeline.

"The laying of the pipeline marks a major achievement for the Kupe Gas Project," Mr Ashford said.

"The three 10 kilometre sections of pipeline have been laid quickly, without any serious delays. This is the result of meticulous planning and preparation by the whole Kupe Gas Project team."

After dropping off crew in Wellington last week the *Apache* is now heading to other projects in the North Sea.

Participants in the Kupe Joint Venture are:

Origin Energy Resources (Kupe) Limited*	50% (Operator)
Genesis Energy (through wholly owned subsidiaries)	31%
New Zealand Oil & Gas Limited (through wholly owned subsidiaries)	15%
Mitsui E&P Australia Pty Ltd	4%

*a wholly owned subsidiary of Origin Energy Limited

For more information:

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About Origin Energy - Origin is the Ethical Investor 2007 Sustainable Company of the Year and one of Australasia's leading integrated energy companies focused on gas and oil exploration and production, power generation and energy retailing. Listed in the ASX top 50, with a market capitalisation of around \$7.5 billion, Origin is both a producer and retailer of energy. Our strengths come from our integration across the supply chain, from exploration and production to the supply of energy to over 3 million customer accounts. Origin's portfolio of assets together with more than 3,000 employees, provide flexibility, stability and significant opportunities for growth in the ever changing energy industry. Origin is also the major shareholder in New Zealand's Contact Energy.

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