

Stephen T. Newton Appointed CEO of Equitable Origin *Oil and gas industry exec to lead company's next-stage growth*

New York, NY (March 7, 2013) - Equitable Origin, the creator of the world's first independent social and environmental certification, certificate trading and ecolabel system for the oil and gas industry, appoints Stephen T. Newton to the role of Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. Mr. Newton, formerly the Managing Director of Southern Cross Energy, replaces Christian Seale, who will serve as Co-President with David Poritz, Founder and Co-President. Seale and Poritz will continue to contribute toward achieving the company's objectives.

"Steve's experience is going to be a tremendous asset as we deliver on our social and environmental mission and work to make responsible production the norm in the oil and gas industry," stated Seale. "With over 35 years as an oil and gas executive, entrepreneur and engineer in much of Latin America and other parts of the world, Steve brings the vision, industry perspective and strategic focus required to build upon our success to date, drive the company's rapid growth and influence industry best practices."

As CEO, Newton will have responsibility for promoting oil and gas industry adoption of the EO100™ Standard, deploying the company's certificate trading program and launching its ecolabel, which will, for the first time, connect ethically conscious consumers of hydrocarbons with industry leaders and deliver benefits directly to the indigenous peoples and local communities most affected by production activities.

"Equitable Origin is an innovator in helping oil and gas industry partners realize added financial and brand value, easier access to financing and a social license to operate, starting in Latin America," said Newton. "I'm excited by this leadership opportunity to direct the collective expertise of my colleagues and to work with our stakeholders to build a new marketplace for responsibly produced oil and gas."

Steve has been a vocal advocate for good governance and social equity and a champion of corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives throughout his industry career, in executive leadership positions at Vetra Energia SL, Transmeridien Exploration, Inc., Solana Resources Limited, Alberta Energy and Occidental Petroleum Corporation (OXY), where he worked for over 25 years. At OXY, he became the VP, Worldwide Engineering, Technical Services and Health, Environment and Safety (HES), including CSR initiatives, after serving as the President of Occidental Colombia where he was also responsible for HES and CSR initiatives, which he championed as critical to achieving business objectives.

Newton received his MSc in Petroleum Engineering from the Imperial College, University of London, a BE in Mining and Petroleum Engineering from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, and an Executive MBA from UCLA in California.

###

About Equitable Origin:

Equitable Origin, founded in 2009, is the creator of the world's first independent social and environmental certification, certificate trading and ecolabel system for the oil and gas industry. The EO100™ Standard offers an independently verified global standard for the extractive



**EQUITABLE
ORIGIN**

A higher standard. A better choice.™

t 917 677 7671
w www.equitableorigin.com

industries that ensures environmental and biodiversity protection is optimized, local communities benefit socially and economically and consumers reward more responsible exploration and production practices. The Standard focuses on six principles: corporate governance, accountability and ethics; human rights, social impact and community development; fair labor and working conditions; indigenous people's rights; climate change, biodiversity and environment; and project life cycle management. For more information about Equitable Origin, visit: www.equitableorigin.com.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Jim Protos

Director of Marketing

t +1 917 677 7671 ext. 446

e jprotos@equitableorigin.com



EQUITABLE
ORIGIN

A higher standard. A better choice.™