

28 May 2012

**Lochard Energy Group Plc**

**Athena First Oil**

Lochard Energy Group Plc ("**Lochard**" or the "**Company**") (AIM: LHD, ASX: LHD) notes the announcement made today by Ithaca Energy Inc. regarding the successful start-up of oil production from the Athena field, with initial performance in line with expectations. As with conventional field start-up procedures, Ithaca is in the process of optimising production from each of the wells and a further announcement is expected to be made when stabilised rates have been established.

Lochard has a net 10% interest in this field through its 100% ownership of Zeus Petroleum Limited.

"May 28, 2012

**Ithaca Energy Inc.: Athena First Oil**

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM and CALGARY, ALBERTA--(Marketwire - May 28, 2012) -

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Ithaca Energy Inc. (TSX:IAE)(AIM:IAE) announces the successful start-up of oil production from the Athena field. The initial operations phase of the field is in line with management's expectations and proceeding as planned. This involves bringing production from each well online and establishing stable performance of the oil processing and water injection systems. The Company will issue a further announcement once stabilised production rates have been established.

The Company, on behalf of all the Athena field co-venturers, thanks all the individuals and companies that have contributed to this significant milestone in the development of the field; a list of some of the major suppliers involved in the project is provided on the Company's website, [www.ithacaenergy.com](http://www.ithacaenergy.com).

Joint Venture partners in the Athena field are: Ithaca, operator (22.5%), Dyas UK Limited (47.5%), EWE Energie AG (20%) and Zeus Petroleum Limited (10%)."

**– Ends –**

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