## Iona Energy Inc.: Company Update

18.12.2014 | Marketwired

CALGARY, ALBERTA -- (Marketwired - Dec. 18, 2014) - <u>lona Energy Inc.</u> ("Iona" or the "Company") (TSX VENTURE:INA), a Canadian independent oil & gas company with assets in the UK North Sea wishes to provide the following update to shareholders and bondholders.

On September 27, 2013, Iona, via its UK subsidiary, Iona Energy Company (UK) plc, issued US\$275 million in senior secured bonds (the "Bonds"). The Company has a strong liquidity position with US\$96.7 million of cash (including restricted and unrestricted) at September 30, 2014. Additionally, the Company was in full compliance with its Bond covenants as at September 30, 2014.

Since the Bonds were issued various factors have impacted the Company's projected cashflows, including:

- continued production interruptions at Huntington mainly linked to availability of the CATS gas export infrastructure;
- a delay in projected first oil at Orlando from 2015 to 2016; and
- the recent rapid decline in the oil price.

Together, these factors mean that the Company may be in breach of certain of the Bond covenants during the next twelve month operating cycle. These covenants are among a range of technical measures used to monitor corporate performance of lona.

Since September 1, 2014, the new management team has initiated a range of actions, including active efforts to reduce costs (including G&A expenses) and re-phase Orlando development capital exposure to take advantage of a softening contract market.

Constructive discussions have commenced with some of its largest bondholders to increase financial flexibility to facilitate the Company's new strategy which would involve refinancing the Bonds in conjunction with an acquisition. Other levers are available to management in order to come to a satisfactory solution.

Tom Reynolds, newly appointed Executive Officer, commented:

"The Company is working on a range of measures to safeguard the position of all stakeholders. Our strategy is to strengthen and diversify our production base through acquisition which will also facilitate an orderly refinancing of the Bonds. We continue to see robust support from lead RBL banks to support the range of transactional opportunities we are reviewing."

Additional information relating to the Company is available on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

A call for analysts and investors will be held at 9.00am EST to discuss the results. Dial-in details are below:

Dial-in (Canada): +1 866 404 5783 Dial-in (UK): 0203 139 4830 Dial-in (UK toll free): 0808 237 0030

Passcode: 10429079#

Following the call, a playback facility will be made available on the Iona website www.ionaenergy.com.

## About Iona Energy:

Iona is an oil and gas company with assets in the United Kingdom's North Sea. www.ionaenergy.com.

## Forward-Looking Statements

Some of the statements in this announcement are forward-looking, including statements regarding the potential impacts of recent Huntington production interruptions and recent oil prices on Iona's future cash

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flows, factors that may affect future bond covenant compliance, and future business plans of lona. When used in this announcement, the words "expects," "believes," "anticipate," "plans," "may," "will," "should", "scheduled", "targeted", "estimated" and similar expressions, and the negatives thereof, are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Such statements are not promises or guarantees, are based on various assumptions by lona's management, including assumptions such as future oil prices which are beyond lona's control, and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual outcomes to differ materially from those suggested by any such statements, including without limitation, the risk that the business plans described in this announcement are changed as a result of new developments or information. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this announcement. Iona Energy Inc. expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statement contained herein to reflect any change in its expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any forward-looking statement is based except as required by applicable securities laws.

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