

Spartan Energy Corp. Reports 2017 Year End Reserves and Provides Operational Update

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CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 21, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- [Spartan Energy Corp.](#) ("Spartan" or the "Company") (TSX:SPE) is pleased to provide a summary of our 2017 year-end reserves and a 2017 operational update. Reserve numbers presented herein were derived from an independent reserves report (the "Sproule Report") prepared by Sproule Associates Ltd. ("Sproule") effective December 31, 2017. *All 2017 financial information presented in this press release is based on management's preliminary estimates and is unaudited and subject to change.*

2017 OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

In 2016, Spartan's business plan was to capitalize on market conditions to enhance our asset base through accretive acquisitions. We were able to take advantage of the opportunity, completing five acquisitions to increase production by almost 11,000 boe/d while also bolstering our inventory of economic drilling locations, improving the quality of our reserve base and lowering our corporate decline.

Entering 2017, our focus was on integrating our acquisitions, delivering top tier growth through our organic drilling program and reinvesting excess funds flow to enhance shareholder value. Our 2017 results exceeded expectations, clearly demonstrating the growth and free cash flow generating ability of our light oil asset base:

- Average 2017 production of approximately 22,200 boe/d represented production per share growth of 17% over 2016.
- We delivered adjusted funds flow from operations in the fourth quarter of \$65 million, representing a per share increase of 61% over the third quarter of 2016 and 48% over the fourth quarter of 2016.
- Annual adjusted funds flow from operations of \$201 million in 2017 represented a per share increase of 61% over 2016. The majority of this funds flow growth resulted from our operating success, as Canadian dollar WTI price increased only 16% during the same period.
- Our 2017 development capital (total capital less land, seismic, waterflood capital and acquisitions) of \$141 million represented only 70% of adjusted funds flow from operations.
- In a WTI price environment that was significantly lower than current prices (2017 US\$ WTI averaged less than \$51), Spartan generated excess funds flow (adjusted funds flow from operations less development capital) of \$60 million.
- We executed our most efficient drilling program to date, further reducing drilling costs while outperforming our internal type curve for both open-hole and frac Midale wells. This outperformance resulted in Spartan upwardly revising our production guidance twice through 2017 while reducing our capital spending.

- We successfully invested our excess funds flow in projects focused on long term value creation:
 - We completed four strategic tuck-in acquisitions for total cash consideration of approximately \$27 million. Through these acquisitions we brought our interest in the Oungre Ratcliffe unit to 100%, allowing for control and accelerated development of our waterflood project in the unit. In addition, we added 45 net drilling locations in our core Winmore area, where we have proprietary seismic coverage and have consistently delivered well results far exceeding our internal type curve. The majority of the upside associated with these acquisitions remains unbooked and provides opportunity for future production and reserves growth.
 - We commenced activity on our waterflood projects in the second half of the year, spending approximately \$3 million. Waterflood initiatives have continued into 2018 and we have budgeted for \$17 million in waterflood spending in 2018. Due to the early stage of our projects we currently have minimal waterflood bookings in our reserve report. Spartan believes that our waterflood assets have potential to deliver significant reserves growth in future years with finding and development costs as low as \$5.00 per boe.
 - We invested approximately \$9 million in a land and seismic acquisition program designed to complement our asset base and add to our future drilling inventory.
 - Our remaining excess funds flow was applied to reduce our year-end net debt (excluding finance lease obligations) to approximately \$199 million from \$215 million in 2016, representing a debt to cash flow ratio of 1.0 times (0.8 times based on our annualized fourth quarter adjusted funds flow from operations).

2017 RESERVES HIGHLIGHTS

- Our capital program added approximately 9.1 million barrels of oil equivalent (“MMboe”) of proved developed producing (“PDP”) reserves, 11.9 MMboe of proved (1P) reserves and 12.5 MMboe of proved plus probable (“2P”) reserves, delivering reserves growth of 2% (PDP), 5% (1P) and 4% (2P).
- The increase in reserves replaced production by 12% on a PDP basis, 46% on a 1P basis and 54% on a 2P basis.⁽¹⁾
- Our asset base remains conservatively booked providing significant opportunity for future reserves growth:
 - Only 598 of our 1,575 net internally identified drilling locations in southeast Saskatchewan are booked by Sproule, leaving 61% of our locations unbooked.
 - Undiscounted 2P FDC of approximately \$810.7 million represents approximately 4.1 times our 2017 adjusted funds flow from operations.
- Finding and development (“F&D”) costs (including changes in FDC) were \$19.75 per boe (1P) and \$17.10 per boe (2P), representing a 1P recycle ratio of 1.4 times and 2P recycle ratio of 1.6 times based on Spartan’s estimated 2017 operating netback of \$27.01 per boe. Using our estimated fourth quarter operating netback of \$32.95 per boe, our 2P recycle ratio increases to 1.9 times.⁽²⁾
- Our 2P reserves life index is 14.0 years based on 2017 average production of 22,200 boe/d.⁽³⁾
- Spartan’s December 31, 2017 2P NPV 10% (before tax) net asset value, based on Sproule’s forecast pricing as at January 1, 2017, is \$10.15 per share, up from \$9.51 at year-end 2016.

Notes:

(1) Production replacement ratio is calculated as increase to reserves divided by estimated 2017 average production of 22,200 boe/d. See “Oil and Gas Advisories – Oil & Gas Metrics”.

(2) See below under “2017 Finding and Development Costs” for further detail on methodology for calculating these metrics.

(3) Reserve life index is calculated as total reserves divided by 2017 average production. See “Oil and Gas Advisories – Oil & Gas Metrics”.

(4) Financial information is based on the Company’s preliminary 2017 unaudited financial statements

and is therefore subject to change.

2017 YEAR-END RESERVES SUMMARY

The summary below sets forth Spartan's gross reserves as at December 31, 2017, as evaluated in the Sproule Report. The figures in the following tables have been prepared in accordance with the standards contained in the Canadian Oil and Gas Evaluation Handbook (the "COGE Handbook") and the reserve definitions contained in NI 51-101.

Summary of Gross Oil and Gas Reserves as of December 31, 2017^{(1), (2), (3), (4)}

	Oil	Natural Gas (associated & non-associated)	Natural Gas Liquids	Barrels of Oil Equivalent
	Gross (Mbbbl)	Gross (MMcf)	Gross (Mbbbl)	Gross (Mboe)
Proved				
Developed Producing	40,814.1	15,659	1,868.7	45,292.6
Developed Non-Producing	513.7	569	42.1	650.7
Undeveloped	21,913.9	20,101	1,762.2	27,026.2
Total Proved	63,241.6	36,329	3,673.0	72,969.4
Probable	36,151.3	16,185	1,667.0	40,515.7
Total Proved plus Probable	99,392.9	52,514	5,340.0	113,485.2

Summary of Net Present Values of Future Net Revenue as of December 31, 2017^{(1), (2), (3), (4)}

	Net Present Value Before Income Taxes Discounted at (% per Year) (M\$)					
	0	% 5	% 10	% 15	% 20	%
Proved						
Developed Producing	1,387,114	1,040,839	841,299	711,040	618,993	
Developed Non-Producing	16,905	13,573	11,082	9,218	7,802	
Undeveloped	682,705	478,541	347,562	258,747	195,610	
Total Proved	2,086,724	1,532,953	1,199,943	979,005	822,405	
Probable	1,654,499	1,056,761	756,969	578,873	462,151	
Total Proved plus Probable	3,741,223	2,589,715	1,956,912	1,557,878	1,284,557	

Notes:

(1) The tables summarize the data contained in the Sproule Report and as a result may contain slightly different numbers due to rounding.

(2) Gross reserves means the total working interest (operating and non-operating) share of remaining recoverable reserves owned by Spartan before deductions of royalties payable to others and without including any royalty interests owned by Spartan.

(3) Based on Sproule's December 31, 2017 escalated price forecast. See "Summary of Pricing and Inflation Rate Assumptions";

(4) The net present value of future net revenue attributable to the Company's reserves is stated without provision for interest costs and general and administrative costs, but after providing for estimated royalties, production costs, development costs, other income, future capital expenditures, and well abandonment costs for only those wells assigned reserves by Sproule. It should not be assumed that the undiscounted or discounted net present value of future net revenue attributable to the Company's reserves estimated by Sproule represent the fair market value of those reserves. Other assumptions and qualifications relating to costs, prices for future production and other matters are summarized herein. The recovery and reserve estimates of the Company's oil, NGL and natural gas reserves provided herein are estimates only and there is no guarantee that the estimated reserves will be recovered. Actual reserves may be greater than or less than the estimates provided herein.

Future Development Costs

The following table sets forth development costs deducted in the estimation of Spartan's future net revenue attributable to the reserve categories noted below:

Year	Forecast Prices and Costs (M\$)	
	Proved Reserves	Proved Plus Probable Reserves
2018	175,250.2	178,634.9
2019	149,242.0	174,965.0
2020	95,177.0	164,801.6
2021	46,663.4	171,178.5
2022	10,664.7	11,836.2
Thereafter	66,250.3	109,300.2
Total Undiscounted	543,247.6	810,716.4
Total Discounted at 10%	436,365.0	620,216.8

The future development costs are estimates of capital expenditures required in the future for Spartan to convert proved undeveloped reserves and probable undeveloped reserves to proved developed producing reserves. The undiscounted future development costs are \$543.2 million for proved reserves and \$810.7 million for proved plus probable reserves (in each case based on forecast prices and costs).

Summary of Pricing and Inflation Rate Assumptions – Forecast Prices and Costs

The forecast cost and price assumptions assume increases in wellhead selling prices and take into account inflation with respect to future operating and capital costs. Crude oil and natural gas benchmark reference pricing, inflation and exchange rates utilized by Sproule as at December 31, 2017 were as follows:

Year	WTI Cushing Oklahoma 40 API (\$US/bbl)	Canadian Light Sweet 40 API (\$Cdn/bbl)	Cromer LSB 35 API (\$Cdn/bbl)	Natural Gas AECO (\$Cdn/MMBTu)	Propane at E (\$Cdn/bbl)
2018	55.00	65.44	64.44	2.85	26.06
2019	65.00	74.51	73.51	3.11	32.84
2020	70.00	78.24	77.24	3.65	35.41
2021	73.00	82.45	81.45	3.80	37.85
2022	74.46	84.10	83.10	3.95	39.29
2023	75.95	85.78	84.78	4.05	40.25
2024	77.47	87.49	86.49	4.15	41.23
2025	79.02	89.24	88.24	4.25	42.23
2026	80.60	91.03	90.03	4.36	43.26
2027	82.21	92.85	91.85	4.46	44.30
2028	83.85	94.71	93.71	4.57	45.36

Thereafter Escalation Rate of 2.0%

FINDING AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS

	F&D Costs (M\$)	
	Proved Reserves	Proved Plus Probable Reserves
Exploration and Development Capital	140,193	140,193
Total change in FDC	64,819	34,005
Total F&D capital including change in FDC	205,012	174,198
Total Reserve additions, including revisions (Mboe)	10,378	10,186
F&D costs, including FDC (\$/boe)	19.75	17.10

Notes:

- (1) Financial information is based on the Company's preliminary 2017 unaudited financial statements and is therefore subject to change.
- (2) The aggregate of the exploration and development costs incurred in the most recent financial year and the change during that year in estimated future development costs generally will not reflect total finding and development costs related to reserves additions for that year.
- (3) Exploration and Development Capital excludes (a) acquisition costs; (b) exploration and development capital incurred in respect of acquired assets where associated reserve additions are attributed to acquisitions; (c) land expenditures; and (d) capitalized general and administration costs.

NET ASSET VALUE

Based on Sproule December 31, 2017 forecast pricing, Spartan's net asset value calculation is as follows:

NAV (\$M except per share amounts)	
2P Reserves NPV10 BT	\$1,956,912
Undeveloped Land and Seismic Value ⁽¹⁾	\$123,580
Estimated Net Debt (unaudited) ⁽²⁾	(\$199,204)
Proceeds from Dilutive Securities	\$24,318
Total Net Assets	\$1,905,606
Fully Diluted shares outstanding (000's)	187,806
Estimated NAV per Fully Diluted Share	\$10.15

Notes:

- (1) Internally evaluated.
- (2) Excluding finance lease obligations.
- (3) Financial information is based on the Company's preliminary 2017 unaudited financial statements and is therefore subject to change.

OUTLOOK

Spartan's asset base is characterized by a light oil, low decline production base with an extensive drilling inventory of low risk, low cost, highly economic open-hole and frac Midale drilling locations in southeast Saskatchewan. The strength of our assets allowed us to deliver top tier production growth in 2017, while limiting our development capital spending to 70% of our adjusted funds flow from operations and investing in projects that create long term value for our shareholders. We remain well positioned to continue this business plan in 2018, with our \$183 development capital budget forecast to generate 11% exit production growth and excess funds flow of \$84 million (based on a US \$60 WTI oil price). We will seek to use our free cash flow profile to maximize long term returns for our shareholders through the development of our waterflood projects and completion of strategic tuck-in acquisitions. Additionally, depending on market conditions, we intend to further increase our per share net asset value through accretive share buybacks under our normal course issuer bid.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Richard (Rick) McHardy OR Tim Sweeney
President and Chief Executive Officer Manager, Business Development

[Spartan Energy Corp.](#)
Suite 3200, 500 Centre Street S.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2G 1A8

Fax: (403) 355-2779
Email: info@spartanenergy.ca

READER ADVISORY

Forward Looking Statements. Certain information included in this press release constitutes forward-looking information under applicable securities legislation. Forward-looking information typically contains statements with words such as "anticipate", "believe", "expect", "plan", "intend", "estimate", "propose", "project" or similar words suggesting future outcomes or statements regarding an outlook. Forward-looking information in this press release may include, but is not limited to, statements about our corporate strategy, timing and level of capital expenditures, anticipated cost savings, future acquisition opportunities, development of waterflood projects, increases in per share net asset value through share buybacks, future reserve growth, future excess funds flow, future production levels and exit production rates, drilling locations and future finding and development costs associated with oil and gas reserves. Statements relating to "reserves" are also deemed to be forward looking statements, as they involve the implied assessment, based on certain estimates and assumptions, that the reserves described exist in the quantities predicted or estimated and that the reserves can be profitably produced in the future.

The forward-looking statements contained in this press release are based on certain key expectations and assumptions made by Spartan, including expectations and assumptions concerning the success of future drilling, development and completion activities, the performance of existing wells, the performance of new wells, the availability and performance of facilities and pipelines, the geological characteristics of Spartan's properties, the successful application of drilling, completion and seismic technology, prevailing weather and break-up conditions, commodity prices, royalty regimes and exchange rates, the application of regulatory and licensing requirements, the availability of capital, labour and services, the creditworthiness of industry partners and our ability to acquire additional assets.

Although Spartan believes that the expectations and assumptions on which the forward-looking statements are based are reasonable, undue reliance should not be placed on the forward-looking statements because Spartan can give no assurance that they will prove to be correct. Since forward-looking statements address future events and conditions, by their very nature they involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from those currently anticipated due to a number of factors and risks. These include, but are not limited to, risks associated with the oil and gas industry in general (e.g., operational risks in development, exploration and production; the uncertainty of reserve estimates; the uncertainty of estimates and projections relating to production, costs and expenses, and health, safety and environmental risks), constraint in the availability of services, commodity price and exchange rate fluctuations, adverse weather or break-up conditions and uncertainties resulting from potential delays or changes in plans with respect to exploration or development projects or capital expenditures. Production forecasts are directly impacted by commodity prices and the actual timing of our capital expenditures. Actual results may vary materially from forecasts due to changes in interest rates, oil differentials, exchange rates and the timing of expenditures and production additions. These and other risks are set out in more detail in Spartan's Annual Information Form for the year ended December 31, 2016.

The forward-looking information contained in this press release is made as of the date hereof and Spartan undertakes no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless required by applicable securities laws. The forward looking information contained in this press release is expressly qualified by this cautionary statement.

Oil and Gas Advisories

BOE Disclosure. The term barrels of oil equivalent ("BOE") may be misleading, particularly if used in isolation. A BOE conversion ratio of six thousand cubic feet of natural gas to barrels of oil equivalence is based on an energy equivalency conversion method primarily applicable at the burner tip and does not represent a value equivalency at the wellhead. All BOE conversions in the report are derived from converting gas to oil in the ratio mix of six thousand cubic feet of gas to one barrel of oil.

Reserves Disclosure . All reserve references in this press release are "Company share reserves". Company share reserves are the Company's total working interest reserves before the deduction of any royalties and including any royalty interests of the Company. It should not be assumed that the present worth of estimated future cash flow presented in the tables above represents the fair market value of the reserves. There is no assurance that the forecast prices and costs assumptions will be attained and variances could be material. The recovery and reserve estimates of Spartans crude oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas reserves provided herein are estimates only and there is no guarantee that the estimated reserves will be recovered. Actual crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids reserves may be

greater than or less than the estimates provided herein. All future net revenues are estimated using forecast prices, arising from the anticipated development and production of our reserves, net of the associated royalties, operating costs, development costs, and abandonment and reclamation costs and are stated prior to provision for interest and general and administrative expenses. Future net revenues have been presented on a before tax basis. Estimated values of future net revenue disclosed herein do not represent fair market value.

Oil and Gas Metrics. This press release contains metrics commonly used in the oil and natural gas industry, such as "recycle ratio", "operating netback", "finding and development (“F&D”) costs", “development capital”, “production replacement" and “reserve life index (“RLI”)”. These terms do not have a standardized meaning and may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies, and therefore should not be used to make such comparisons.

"Finding and development costs" are calculated as the sum of development capital plus the change in FDC for the period divided by the change in reserves that are characterized as development for the period. Finding and development costs take into account reserves revisions during the year on a per boe basis. The aggregate of the exploration and development costs incurred in the financial year and changes during that year in estimated future development costs generally will not reflect total finding and development costs related to reserves additions for that year.

"Development capital" means the aggregate exploration and development costs incurred in the financial year on reserves that are categorized as development. Development capital presented herein excludes land and capitalized administration costs and also includes the cost of acquisitions and capital associated with acquisitions where reserve additions are attributed to the acquisitions.

"Recycle ratio" is measured by dividing the operating netback for the applicable period by F&D cost per boe for the year. The recycle ratio compares netback from existing reserves to the cost of finding new reserves and may not accurately indicate the investment success unless the replacement reserves are of equivalent quality as the produced reserves.

"Operating netback" is calculated using production revenues minus royalties and production expenses calculated on a per boe basis.

"Production replacement ratio" is calculated as total reserve additions divided by annual production.

“Reserve life index” is calculated as total company share reserves divided by annual production.

Management uses these oil and gas metrics for its own performance measurements and to provide shareholders with measures to compare Spartan's operations over time. Readers are cautioned that the information provided by these metrics, or that can be derived from the metrics presented in this press release, should not be relied upon for investment or other purposes.

Drilling Locations. This press release discloses drilling inventory in three categories: (i) proved locations; (ii) probable locations; and (iii) unbooked locations. Proved locations and probable locations are derived from the Sproule Report and account for drilling locations that have associated proved and/or probable reserves, as applicable. Unbooked locations are internal estimates based on our prospective acreage and an assumption as to the number of wells that can be drilled per section based on industry practice and internal review. Unbooked locations do not have attributed reserves or resources. Of the 1,575 total net drilling locations identified in our southeast Saskatchewan core area, 342 net are proved locations, 256 are probable locations and 927 are unbooked locations. Unbooked locations have been identified by management as an estimation of our multi-year drilling activities based on evaluation of applicable geologic, seismic, engineering, production and reserves information. There is no certainty that we will drill all unbooked drilling locations and if drilled there is no certainty that such locations will result in additional oil and gas reserves, resources or production. The drilling locations on which we actually drill wells will ultimately depend upon the availability of capital, regulatory approvals, seasonal restrictions, oil and natural gas prices, costs, actual drilling results, additional reservoir information that is obtained and other factors. While certain of the unbooked drilling locations have been de-risked by drilling existing wells in relative close proximity to such

unbooked drilling locations, other unbooked drilling locations are farther away from existing wells where management has less information about the characteristics of the reservoir and therefore there is more uncertainty whether wells will be drilled in such locations and if drilled there is more uncertainty that such wells will result in additional oil and gas reserves, resources or production.

Non-IFRS Measures. Certain financial measures referred to in this press release, such as adjusted funds flow from operations, adjusted funds flow from operations per share, excess funds flow, total development capital expenditures, net debt and net debt excluding finance lease obligations are not prescribed by IFRS. Adjusted funds flow from operations is calculated based on cash flows from operating activities before changes in non-cash working capital, transaction costs and decommissioning obligation expenditures incurred. Adjusted funds flow from operations per share is calculated using weighted average shares outstanding consistent with the calculation of net income (loss) per share. Excess funds flow is calculated based on adjusted funds flow operations less total development capital expenditures. Total development capital expenditures is calculated as total capital expenditures less land and seismic, waterflood capital and acquisitions. Spartan uses adjusted funds flow from operations and excess funds flow to analyze operating performance and leverage, and considers adjusted funds flow from operations and excess funds flow to be key measures as they demonstrate the Company's ability to generate cash necessary to fund future capital investments and repay debt. Spartan's determination of adjusted funds flow from operations, on an absolute and per share basis, and excess funds flow may not be comparable to that reported by other companies. Net debt excluding finance lease obligations is calculated as bank debt plus trade and other liabilities less current assets and includes 2017 principal repayments in respect of outstanding finance lease obligations but excludes the outstanding principal amount of such obligations as at December 31, 2017 of \$26.8 million. Spartan management considers net debt to funds flow from operations ratio to be a meaningful measure of the Company's leverage and ability to repay debt.

This press release also contains other industry benchmarks and terms, including operating netbacks (calculated on a per unit basis as oil, gas and natural gas liquids revenues, plus/minus realized derivative contracts, less royalties and less operating and transportation costs), and corporate netbacks (calculated on a per unit basis as oil, gas and natural gas liquids revenues, plus/minus realized derivative contracts, less royalties, less operating and transportation costs, less general and administrative expenses and less interest expense), which are not recognized measures under IFRS. Management believes that in addition to net income (loss) and cash flow from (used in) operating activities, adjusted funds flow from operations, excess funds flow, net debt and operating and corporate netbacks are useful supplemental measures as they provide an indication of Spartan's operating performance, leverage and liquidity. Investors should be cautioned, however, that these measures should not be construed as an alternative to both net income (loss) and cash flow from (used in) operating activities, which are determined in accordance with IFRS, as indicators of Spartan's performance.

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