



## News Release – October 6, 2011

### *Oil and Gas Consultant Ron Newman joins Meridian Team*

(Calgary, Alberta) **Meridian Merchant Capital** today announced that **Mr. R. (Ron) E. Newman P.GEOPH** has been named **Geoscience Consultant** as Meridian ramps up its involvement in the Oil and Gas sector.

“Despite being based in Calgary, up to now we have not focused on the Oil and Gas sector which we have always perceived as being ‘well-banked’,” commented **Keith Turner, President and CEO**. “With the exception of a number of oil and gas service company transactions, we have generally steered clear of the Exploration and Production space. Recent market conditions and our nearly six year track record now has a number of E&P companies approaching us for creative financing ideas and alternative financing sources, so we sought out one of Calgary’s most trusted consultants in the space, Ron Newman.”

Ron has over **40 years** of exploration and development experience and contributes a rare combination of technical and management experience. He has applied this knowledge base to co-found four TSE listed companies: *Courage Energy Ltd.*, *Geophysical Microcomputer Applications (International) Ltd.*, *Winstar Resources Ltd.* and *COSTA Energy Inc.*

Most notably, in 1987 Ron co-founded Courage Energy (TSE) as a junior capital pool company with initial capitalization of \$100,000. Ron was a Director and also a Director of Courage Energy (UK) Ltd. In 2001 Courage Energy Ltd. was sold to **Sampson Energy for an enterprise value of \$172 million.**

*Geophysical Microcomputer Applications (International) Ltd* became the world’s largest supplier of geophysical modeling software. Ron was **twice** nominated for **Entrepreneur of the Year in Alberta** and GMA sold its software assets to Halliburton (Geographix) in 2000.

At Meridian, Ron works as an Exploration Geoscience specialist, offering geological and geophysical advice to Meridian and its client companies. He has worked extensively in almost every area of Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan in Canada, in addition to **international experience** in most of the major geological basins of the world.

Ron holds a Bachelor of Science Degree (Geophysics and Geology (minor)) from the University of British Columbia and is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta.

For more information visit [www.meridiancanada.com](http://www.meridiancanada.com)  
Or contact Randy Lennon at 403-538-2130