

## Cuba, Block 9 – Appointment of drilling contractor

### Highlights:

- Sherritt International Corporation (TSX: S) appointed drilling contractor for Melbana's upcoming two well drilling program in Cuba.
- Sherritt is the largest independent energy producer in Cuba, with oil and power operations across the island. It has been operating in Cuba for over 25 years and has drilled more than 250 oil and gas wells there in that time.
- The drilling contract also provides Melbana with access to Sherritt's extensive operations infrastructure in Cuba (e.g., drilling rigs, vehicles, tools, camp facilities etc.) as well as its relationships with suppliers and its logistics capabilities.

### MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (18 March 2021)

Melbana Energy Limited (ASX: MAY) (**Melbana**) is pleased to announce that it has entered into a formal agreement with a subsidiary of Sherritt International Corporation (TSX:S) to provide it with drilling and related services pertaining to its upcoming two well drilling program in its Block 9 contract area in Cuba, expected to commence in mid-2021.

### **Sheritt International Corporation**

Sherritt International Corporation is a 90 year-old Canadian resource company headquartered in Toronto, Canada with a market capitalisation of C\$240 million. It ended 2020 with cash and cash equivalents of C\$167.4 million.

Sherritt is a world leader in the mining and refining of nickel and cobalt from lateritic ores with operations in both Canada and Cuba. It is also the largest independent energy producer in Cuba, with oil and power operations across the island and with wells located along the northern coast between Havana and Cardenas. Sherritt has a significant presence in Cuba with decades of expertise drilling oil and gas wells and is Cuba's largest foreign investor through its Moa Joint Venture.

Under the agreement, Sherritt will provide a drilling rig which is already situated in-country and manage the logistics of Melbana's purchased inventory and equipment arriving from abroad throughout the drilling program. Sherritt will also provide drilling crews to operate under the supervision of Melbana's Drilling Manager and Project Management team.

Sherritt was Melbana's preferred choice of drilling contractor primarily due to its experience in country and its permanently situated personnel and drilling equipment there.

**Melbana Energy's Executive Chairman, Andrew Purcell, said:**

*"We are delighted to have reached an agreement with a seasoned operator like Sherritt, particularly given its decades of experience drilling hundreds of oil and gas wells in Cuba. The agreement also gives us access to Sherritt's various administrative capabilities and other support services that go well beyond what would normally be expected from a drilling contractor. It gives us great comfort that we will be the beneficiary of their local knowledge, personnel and relationships and we look forward to a more efficient and quicker prosecution of this drilling program with them supporting us than may have otherwise been the case."*

**For and on Behalf of the Board of Directors:**

Mr Andrew Purcell  
Executive Chairman

Ends -

**For further information please contact**

Ms Melanie Leydin  
Company Secretary  
+61 3 8625 6000