

Rockhopper Exploration

Corporate update

Sea Lion on track for 2018 sanction

Oil & gas

Sea Lion Phase 1 continues to progress towards project sanction, targeted for end 2018. Focus remains on financing the \$1.5bn gross capex required to achieve first oil. A mix of senior debt financing (\$800m), vendor financing (\$400m) and equity (\$300m) was assumed in our last published valuation ranging from a core NAV of 44p/share (Phase 1 risked at 20% COS) to 81p/share (Phase 1 at 50% COS). The recent rise in oil price should increase the JV's confidence in project risked returns, which we estimate at 30% IRR based on a \$70/bbl long-term Brent crude assumption.

11 January 2018

Price **24.90p**
Market cap **£114m**

Net cash (\$m) at end June 2017	62.5
Shares in issue	456.9m
Free float	93%
Code	RKH
Primary exchange	AIM
Secondary exchange	N/A

Year end	Revenue (US\$m)	PBT (US\$m)	Cash from operations (US\$m)	Net (debt)/cash (US\$m)	Capex (US\$m)
12/15	4.0	(44.7)	(6.9)	110.4	(80.9)
12/16	7.4	98.0	(21.2)	81.0	(40.2)
12/17e	9.6	(9.5)	(1.7)	51.3	(26.3)
12/18e	8.1	(18.4)	0.4	40.9	(11.0)

Note: Figures are as reported.

Share price performance



Business description

Rockhopper is an AIM-listed E&P with assets in the Falkland Islands, Egypt and Italy. Its main asset is the Sea Lion development project in the Falklands.

Analysts

Sanjeev Bahl	+44 (0)20 3077 5742
Elaine Reynolds	+44 (0)20 3077 5713

oilandgas@edisongroup.com

[Edison profile page](#)

Rockhopper Exploration is a research client of Edison Investment Research Limited

Sea Lion Phase 1 financing: Rockhopper today announced that letters of intent have been signed with contractors for provision of services and vendor financing. We expect further detail to be released on supply chain and contractor financing in the coming months as further letters of intent are signed and thereafter formalised into binding agreements. Management estimates senior debt to be priced at 4-5% and vendor finance at c 12%. Senior debt financing discussions will be supported by the appointment of lender due diligence advisors in Q118. A new draft field development plan was submitted to the Falkland Islands Government in November 2017 with the aim of obtaining consents and agreements necessary for project sanction in 2018.

Other assets: Abu Sennan in Egypt continues to produce at a steady rate (835boed net) following workovers in H217. Plans are progressing for water injection and in-fill drilling on the Al Jahraa field to increase field recovery, which could have a small positive impact on NAV (Abu Sennan accounts for 2p/share). Rockhopper also expects to drill one exploration well on the development licence in 2018, subject to partner approvals. Cash of \$51m at year end 2017 suggests that Rockhopper is can fund Sea Lion pre-FID workflows.

Valuation: a detailed breakdown of our last published valuation is available in our [outlook note](#) published on 27 September 2017.

Edison is an investment research and advisory company, with offices in North America, Europe, the Middle East and AsiaPac. The heart of Edison is our world-renowned equity research platform and deep multi-sector expertise. At Edison Investment Research, our research is widely read by international investors, advisers and stakeholders. Edison Advisors leverages our core research platform to provide differentiated services including investor relations and strategic consulting. Edison is authorised and regulated by the [Financial Conduct Authority](#). Edison Investment Research (NZ) Limited (Edison NZ) is the New Zealand subsidiary of Edison. Edison NZ is registered on the New Zealand Financial Service Providers Register (FSP number 247505) and is registered to provide wholesale and/or generic financial adviser services only. Edison Investment Research Inc (Edison US) is the US subsidiary of Edison and is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Edison Investment Research Pty Limited (Edison Aus) [46085869] is the Australian subsidiary of Edison. Edison Germany is a branch entity of Edison Investment Research Limited [4794244]. www.edisongroup.com

DISCLAIMER

Copyright 2018 Edison Investment Research Limited. All rights reserved. This report has been commissioned by Rockhopper Exploration and prepared and issued by Edison for publication globally. All information used in the publication of this report has been compiled from publicly available sources that are believed to be reliable, however we do not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this report. Opinions contained in this report represent those of the research department of Edison at the time of publication. The securities described in the Investment Research may not be eligible for sale in all jurisdictions or to certain categories of investors. This research is issued in Australia by Edison Investment Research Pty Ltd (Corporate Authorised Representative (1252501) of Myonlineadvisers Pty Ltd (AFSL: 427484)) and any access to it, is intended only for "wholesale clients" within the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001 of Australia. The Investment Research is distributed in the United States by Edison US to major US institutional investors only. Edison US is registered as an investment adviser with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Edison US relies upon the "publishers' exclusion" from the definition of investment adviser under Section 202(a)(11) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and corresponding state securities laws. As such, Edison does not offer or provide personalised advice. We publish information about companies in which we believe our readers may be interested and this information reflects our sincere opinions. The information that we provide or that is derived from our website is not intended to be, and should not be construed in any manner whatsoever as, personalised advice. Also, our website and the information provided by us should not be construed by any subscriber or prospective subscriber as Edison's solicitation to effect, or attempt to effect, any transaction in a security. The research in this document is intended for New Zealand resident professional financial advisers or brokers (for use in their roles as financial advisers or brokers) and habitual investors who are "wholesale clients" for the purpose of the Financial Advisers Act 2008 (FAA) (as described in sections 5(c) (1)(a), (b) and (c) of the FAA). This is not a solicitation or inducement to buy, sell, subscribe, or underwrite any securities mentioned or in the topic of this document. This document is provided for information purposes only and should not be construed as an offer or solicitation for investment in any securities mentioned or in the topic of this document. A marketing communication under FCA Rules, this document has not been prepared in accordance with the legal requirements designed to promote the independence of investment research and is not subject to any prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of investment research. Edison has a restrictive policy relating to personal dealing. Edison Group does not conduct any investment business and, accordingly, does not itself hold any positions in the securities mentioned in this report. However, the respective directors, officers, employees and contractors of Edison may have a position in any or related securities mentioned in this report. Edison or its affiliates may perform services or solicit business from any of the companies mentioned in this report. The value of securities mentioned in this report can fall as well as rise and are subject to large and sudden swings. In addition it may be difficult or not possible to buy, sell or obtain accurate information about the value of securities mentioned in this report. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Forward-looking information or statements in this report contain information that is based on assumptions, forecasts of future results, estimates of amounts not yet determinable, and therefore involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of their subject matter to be materially different from current expectations. For the purpose of the FAA, the content of this report is of a general nature, is intended as a source of general information only and is not intended to constitute a recommendation or opinion in relation to acquiring or disposing (including refraining from acquiring or disposing) of securities. The distribution of this document is not a "personalised service" and, to the extent that it contains any financial advice, is intended only as a "class service" provided by Edison within the meaning of the FAA (ie without taking into account the particular financial situation or goals of any person). As such, it should not be relied upon in making an investment decision. To the maximum extent permitted by law, Edison, its affiliates and contractors, and their respective directors, officers and employees will not be liable for any loss or damage arising as a result of reliance being placed on any of the information contained in this report and do not guarantee the returns on investments in the products discussed in this publication. FTSE International Limited ("FTSE") © FTSE 2018. "FTSE®" is a trade mark of the London Stock Exchange Group companies and is used by FTSE International Limited under license. All rights in the FTSE indices and/or FTSE ratings vest in FTSE and/or its licensors. Neither FTSE nor its licensors accept any liability for any errors or omissions in the FTSE indices and/or FTSE ratings or underlying data. No further distribution of FTSE Data is permitted without FTSE's express written consent.