



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Rejuvenated drilling industry has design roots in Edmonton.**

Edmonton (AB), January 6, 2010 – ESTec Systems Corp (ESTec), designed some of the deep-shale drilling rigs used in the shale gas fields today. They have designed over 150 drilling rigs, and approximately 1/3 have been capable of deep shale applications.

When the drilling industry slowed in the last couple of years, the engineers at ESTec kept themselves busy with other design work in complementary fields, but with the renewed interest in drilling – especially unconventional projects – ESTec engineers can expect a busy future. In North America alone, oil shale reserves are thought to total at least 1.5 trillion barrels of oil.

“Traditional shallow gas drilling rigs are not designed to work in these unconventional drilling environments”, says Tony Nelson, President of ESTec. “At present, drilling tends to be more challenging because we go a lot deeper and through unstable ground. New designs make the work easier and safer.”

“We have been very successful in drilling rig design,” he says, “because a lot of our background includes forensic investigations into rig failures, and this helps us at the design stage to include enhanced safety features.”

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