United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 5, 2021

Case No: FL-2020-00006

American Oversight
Daniel McGrath
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. McGrath:

We refer to our letter dated August 24, 2021, regarding the release of certain Department of State material under the Freedom of Information Act (the "FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department identified an additional six records responsive to your request. After reviewing these records, we have determined that six records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released. All released material is enclosed.

The processing of your request remains ongoing. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Trial Attorney, Josh Abbuhl at (202) 616-8366 or at Joshua.Abbuhl@usdoj.gov. Please refer to civil action number 19-cv-3058, and FOIA case number FL-2020-00006 in all correspondence regarding this case.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

(b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
- 1.4(b) Foreign government information
- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

(b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

(b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

(b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

(b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

(b)(6) Personal privacy information

(b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

(b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

(b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	"Taylor, William B (Kyiv)" (b)(6)
To:	vadym.prystaiko (b)(6) (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Volker-Surkov letter
Date:	Wed, 7 Aug 2019 14:34:01 +0000

Vadym,

I wanted you to have a copy of the latest letter, dated August 1, from Special Representative Kurt Volker to Mr. Surkov. In the letter, Volker notes President Zelenskyy's initiatives on disengagement to prepare for repairing the bridge at Stanytsia Luhanska, calls for Russia to release the Ukrainian sailors they detained, and expresses interest in visiting Moscow in mid- to late-August to continue a dialogue about ending the war.

Best regards,
Bill
Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Taylor, William B (Kyiv)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	vadym.prystaiko (b)(6) Holmes, David A (Kyiv) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Дорогой Владислав!

Надеюсь, ты в порядке!

Как тебе известно, выборы на Украине миновали, в результате теперь там новое руководство, которое имеет сильное большинство в парламенте и должно быть в состоянии принимать решения и проводить важные законы.

Президент Зеленский по своей инициативе отдал приказ о разведении украинских сил и подготовке к ремонту моста в районе станицы Луганской, о чем я писал в моем прошлом письме. Как ты мог видеть, я побывал там в пятницу на прошлой неделе, и на меня произвело впечатление взаимное разведение сил, руководимых Россией, и предоставление доступа инженерам для оценки состояния моста в целях ремонта.

Я надеюсь, что данное разведение продолжит идти успешно, что оно приведет к незначительному улучшению жизни местного населения, которое зависит от этого пункта пересечения границы, и что оно сможет стать катализатором разведения в других местах и открытия новых пунктов пересечения границы.

Конечно же, освобождение украинских моряков, удерживаемых Россией, и дальнейший обмен пленными также способствовали бы созданию импульса к миру.

Имея всё это в виду, я посоветовался с послом Хантсманом, и он полностью согласен, что сейчас подходящее время для моего приезда в Москву для продолжения нами двустороннего диалога о прекращении войны.

Для меня подходящее время – середина и конец августа. О конкретных датах договоримся через посла Хантсмана.

Пожалуйста, дай мне знать, согласен ли ты с тем, что сейчас подходящее время для встречи и что имеются условия для продуктивного обсуждения.

С наилучшими пожеланиями,

Курт

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

August 1, 2019

Dear Vladislav --

I hope you are well!

As you know, the Ukrainian elections are now behind us. The result is a renewed Ukrainian leadership that enjoys a strong majority in parliament and should be able to make decisions and pass significant legislation.

President Zelenskyy has also taken the initiative to order the disengagement of Ukrainian forces and to prepare for repairing the bridge at Stantisa Luhanska -- something I referred to in my last letter. As you may have seen, I visited there on Friday last week and was impressed with the reciprocal disengagement by the Russian-led forces, and the access afforded to engineers to evaluate the bridge for repair.

I hope that this disengagement continues to be successful, that it leads to a marginal improvement in the lives of the local population who depend on that boundary crossing point, and that it can become a catalyst for disengagement at other areas, and for the introduction of new boundary crossing points.

Of course, releasing the Ukrainian sailors held by Russia, and a further prisoner exchange, would also help build momentum for peace.

With all this in mind, I consulted with Ambassador Huntsman, and he strongly agrees that now is a good time for me to visit Moscow to continue our bilateral dialogue about ending the war.

For my part, mid- to late-August is good timing. Ambassador Huntsman will be in touch to see what specific dates might work best.

Please let me know if you agree that now is a good time to meet, and that the conditions are right for a productive discussion.

Best wishes,

Kurt

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	"Taylor, William B (Kyiv)" (b)(6)
To:	Kurt Volker (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6) (b)(6) Croft, Catherine M (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Public perception - negative, or none?
Date:	Sun, 4 Aug 2019 14:03:53 +0000

Totally agree

From: Kurt Volker (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, August 4, 2019 5:02 PM
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) Croft, Catherine M (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Public perception - negative, or none?

I think its a good idea for me to go do a HFAC and SFRC staff briefing -- and members when they are back...

Amb. Kurt Volker
Executive Director
McCain Institute for International Leadership
Arizona State University

ASU Barrett & O'Connor Center
1800 I Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006
(b)(6)

www.McCainInstitute.org
Twitter • Facebook • Instagram • YouTube • LinkedIN

On Sun, Aug 4, 2019 at 12:06 AM Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) wrote:

> A respected conservative senator, Steve Hadley any Jim Carafano would be a strong message. I am glad to pitch it to Steve and Jim. Adding Kurt who may also be in touch with Steve.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Get Outlook for Android

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 10:32 PM
Subject: Re: Public perception - negative, or none?
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv), Kent, George P, Kvien, Kristina A, (b)(6)
(b)(6)

If you're already in touch with Hadley and Carafano, great. I can check with Hill folks to see about an op-Ed

From: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Date: August 3, 2019 at 1:43:50 PM EDT
To: (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: Public perception - negative, or none?

Good plan, (b)(6) Are you leading the charge?

Get Outlook for Android

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:41:18 PM
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: Public perception - negative, or none?

(b)(5)

From: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Date: August 3, 2019 at 10:44:59 AM EDT
To: Kent, George P (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6) Reinert, David
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: Public perception - negative, or none?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Get Outlook for Android

From: Kent, George P (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 3:56:03 PM
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: Public perception - negative, or none?

Which staffers are out in Kyiv now?

(b)(5)

From: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 6:44 AM
To: Kvien, Kristina A; (b)(6) Kent, George P; (b)(6)
Subject: Public message

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Get Outlook for Android

Sender:	"Taylor, William B (Kyiv)" (b)(6)
Recipient:	Kurt Volker (b)(6) (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Croft, Catherine M (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	"Taylor, William B (Kyiv)" (b)(6)
To:	Kurt Volker (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Public perception - negative, or none?
Date:	Sun, 4 Aug 2019 14:19:13 +0000

Sounds good

From: Kurt Volker (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, August 4, 2019 5:18 PM
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Public perception - negative, or none?

I'll ask... Carafano just wrote, so not sure if he is up for another, but can ask him as well...

Amb. Kurt Volker
Executive Director
McCain Institute for International Leadership
Arizona State University

ASU Barrett & O'Connor Center
1800 I Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006
(b)(6)

www.McCainInstitute.org
Twitter • Facebook • Instagram • YouTube • LinkedIN

On Sun, Aug 4, 2019 at 10:14 AM Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) wrote:

> Best regards. Want to see if he might be interested in another op-ed? Maybe with Jim Carafano? Glad to help draft.
>
> **From:** Kurt Volker (b)(6)
> **Sent:** Sunday, August 4, 2019 5:06 PM
> **To:** Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
> **Subject:** Re: Public perception - negative, or none?
>
> am seeing him on thursday - kv
>
> **Amb. Kurt Volker**
> Executive Director
> McCain Institute for International Leadership
> **Arizona State University**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

ASU Barrett & O'Connor Center
1800 I Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006
(b)(6)

www.McCainInstitute.org
Twitter • Facebook • Instagram • YouTube • LinkedIN

On Sun, Aug 4, 2019 at 10:06 AM Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) wrote:

Hve you checked in with Steve Hadley?

From: Kurt Volker (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, August 4, 2019 5:02 PM
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Croft, Catherine M (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Public perception - negative, or none?

I think its a good idea for me to go do a HFAC and SFRC staff briefing -- and members when they are back...

Amb. Kurt Volker
Executive Director
McCain Institute for International Leadership
Arizona State University

ASU Barrett & O'Connor Center
1800 I Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006
(b)(6)

www.McCainInstitute.org
Twitter • Facebook • Instagram • YouTube • LinkedIN

On Sun, Aug 4, 2019 at 12:06 AM Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) wrote:

A respected conservative senator, Steve Hadley any Jim Carafano would be a strong message. I am glad to pitch it to Steve and Jim. Adding Kurt who may also be in touch with Steve.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Get Outlook for Android

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 10:32 PM
Subject: Re: Public perception - negative, or none?
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv), Kent, George P, Kvien, Kristina A, (b)(6)
(b)(6)

If you're already in touch with Hadley and Carafano, great. I can check with Hill folks to see about an op-Ed

From: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Date: August 3, 2019 at 1:43:50 PM EDT
To: (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: Public perception - negative, or none?

Good plan, (b)(6) Are you leading the charge?

Get Outlook for Android

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 8:41:18 PM
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6)
Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: Public perception - negative, or none?

(b)(5)

From: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Date: August 3, 2019 at 10:44:59 AM EDT
To: Kent, George P (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Public perception - negative, or none?

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Get Outlook for Android

From: Kent, George P (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 3:56:03 PM
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
M (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Public perception - negative, or none?

Which staffers are out in Kyiv now?

(b)(5)

From: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2019 6:44 AM
To: Kvien, Kristina A; (b)(6)
Kent, George P; (b)(6)
Subject: Public message

(b)(5)

Get Outlook for Android

Sender:	"Taylor, William B (Kyiv)" (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Recipient:	Kurt Volker (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Released in Part

From:	"Kvien, Kristina A" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	Kyiv EXEC <Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; Kyiv IOs <KyivIOs@state.gov>
Subject:	RE: For DCM Clearance: Response to request for info on Ukrainian TV and Donbas
Date:	Mon, 29 Jul 2019 14:38:02 +0000

Looks good, I clear

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2019 2:55 PM
To: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
Cc: Kyiv EXEC <Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; Kyiv IOs <KyivIOs@state.gov>
Subject: For DCM Clearance: Response to request for info on Ukrainian TV and Donbas

Hi Kristina,
As mentioned in huddle – the Global Engagement Center (GEC) at Main State is looking for Post feedback on various questions about (b)(5) Ukrainian TV. Below is our proposed response (b)(5) In addition to the new summary below, we'd also share the attached paper sent to (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks,
(b)(6)
(b)(5)

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

On July 26, 2019 at 4:26:15 PM GMT+2, (b)(6) wrote:

(b)(5)

The questions are these:

(b)(5)

Thanks very much for whatever assistance you can provide. It would be great if I could hear back from you within a couple of business days. Glad to speak by phone as well, although I figured it would be easier for you to gather info if I wrote these questions out. Best regards,

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)
USEUCOM J39 Liaison & Interagency Coordination Advisor,
Russia Team
(Booz Allen Hamilton Contractor)
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State
State SA-4 Desk: (b)(6)
(b)(6)



Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED DeControlled

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED DeControlled

--
Sue K. Kutor
Deputy Mission Director
USAID/Ukraine and Belarus

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Kvien, Kristina A" (b)(6)
Recipient:	Hawkins, Kristin K (Kyiv) (b)(6) Kyiv EXEC <Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov>; Kyiv IOs (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Released in Part

From:	"Kvien, Kristina A" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6) Phillips, Charles <Charles.phillips@trade.gov>; Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Trident Acquisitions Wins Tender for Dolphin Block in Ukrainian Sector of Black Sea
Date:	Sun, 28 Jul 2019 11:40:11 +0000

Thanks for clarity!

Get Outlook for iOS

From (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2019 12:40:23 PM
To: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6) Phillips, Charles <Charles.phillips@trade.gov>; Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: Trident Acquisitions Wins Tender for Dolphin Block in Ukrainian Sector of Black Sea

They are separate.

Trident Defence looking at Motor Sich is run by a Ukrainian, Max Polyakov, who emigrated to the U.S. and made his fortune in IT businesses called Noosphere Ventures with offices in 16 countries (including Ukraine) and 5,500 employees per their website. They expanded into aerospace in 2017 with Firefly, an Austin-based business that manufactures in Ukraine small and medium-sized launch vehicles for commercial launches to orbit. The two persons doing many meetings locally for the company

Trident Acquisitions, or Trident Black Sea, which was awarded the PSA on Friday for the "Dolphin" field is, according to their filing on www.sec.gov, a blank check company formed on March 17,2016 to seek strategic acquisitions/business combinations (sic) with an oil and gas or other natural resource company in Eastern Europe. There does not appear to be any actual production or other activities on the company's website other than their IPO in 2018. Their website lists Edward Verona, Gennadii Butkevych, and Thomas John Gallagher as the board of directors and Ilya Ponomarev and Vadim Komissarov as CEO and President respectively.

Get Outlook for iOS

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2019 10:50:01 AM
To: (b)(6) Phillips, Charles <Charles.phillips@trade.gov>; Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: Trident Acquisitions Wins Tender for Dolphin Block in Ukrainian Sector of Black Sea

Is this Trident related at all to the Trident that is looking into Motorsich? Or is it two companies with the same name?

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2019 4:23:58 PM
To: Phillips, Charles <Charles.phillips@trade.gov>; Taylor, William B (Kyiv)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Trident Acquisitions Wins Tender for Dolphin Block in Ukrainian Sector of Black Sea

Dear Sir and colleagues,

(b)(5)

Today Groysman posted on Facebook that offshore tender failed to meet expectations in terms of entering the major players into Ukraine (Shell and Exxon). He has proposed considering the possibility of announcing a new competition for the Dolphin block. We will continue to seek more information.

Regards,
(b)(6)

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On July 27, 2019 at 7:31:52 AM GMT+3, Charles Phillips <Charles.Phillips@trade.gov> wrote:

Sir

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2019 6:38 AM
To: (b)(6) Charles Phillips; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A
Subject: Re: Trident Acquisitions Wins Tender for Dolphin Block in Ukrainian Sector of Black Sea

Thanks. Standing by for recommendations

Get Outlook for Android

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2019 6:37:10 AM
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) Phillips, Charles <Charles.phillips@trade.gov> (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Trident Acquisitions Wins Tender for Dolphin Block in Ukrainian Sector of Black Sea

Sir - adding our team within Econ that have been tracking these PSAs and the competitors closely for their more detailed input.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(6) we can provide you all we know on the overarching tender process issues and our contacts' thinking on this.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2019 11:47 PM
To: (b)(6) Phillips, Charles; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A
Subject: Fwd: Trident Acquisitions Wins Tender for Dolphin Block in Ukrainian Sector of Black Sea

Thoughts?

Get Outlook for Android

From: Edward Verona (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2019 11:33:38 PM
To: Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6)
Subject: Trident Acquisitions Wins Tender for Dolphin Block in Ukrainian Sector of Black Sea

Dear Ambassador Taylor,

I am following up on my message of June 24, introducing you to Trident Acquisitions Corporation, a U.S.-registered and Nasdaq-listed special acquisitions company. I am very pleased to inform you that today (Friday) the Ukrainian government announced the results of the tender for the Dolphin Block in the Ukrainian sector of the Black Sea. Trident Black Sea, a subsidiary of Trident Acquisitions, was the successful bidder.

We are still awaiting the signature of the future Prime Minister to make the results official.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Assuming the Ukrainian government awards the contract to us, this would be an important step for U.S. participation in the Ukrainian energy sector. It would also hold the promise of significantly increasing Ukraine's supply of domestically produced natural gas and reinforce Ukrainian sovereignty in its territorial waters and offshore exclusive economic zone.

Below you will find a press release from June describing the Dolphin Block and announcing our partnerships in the bid consortium. We plan to issue a formal press release on the latest developments when the Ukrainian government signs off on the award.

We would very much welcome a statement of support from the U.S. government. We are in the process of completing the Department of Commerce's advocacy application but want to make sure that you are well armed with relevant information in case the subject arises in your meetings with government officials.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards, Edward S. Verona
Chairman
Trident Acquisitions Corporation

TRIDENT ACQUISITIONS CORP ANNOUNCES DOLPHIN BLOCK PSA BID IN UKRAINE TOGETHER WITH SAN LEON ENERGY, GSP OFFSHORE AND LAMOR CORP
New York, June 13, 2019 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) --- Trident Acquisitions Corp. (NASD: TDAC), a US Nasdaq listed company focused on energy investments, is pleased to announce that it has retained San Leon Energy (LSE: SLE) as a technology expertise provider in its bid for the right to negotiate a production sharing agreement (PSA) with the Ukrainian government for the promising offshore Dolphin block in the northwestern part of the Black Sea. Trident Black Sea, a subsidiary of Trident Acquisitions Corp, is the bidder of record and would be the operator of the project in the event of a winning bid.
San Leon Energy has received a 10% minority interest in Trident Black Sea and will provide non-operating technical assistance for the project, applying its experience gained from SLE's fast growing OML 18 project in Nigeria, which is currently producing more than 50,000 boepd. The Nigerian operations will remain San Leon's current priority for future investments.
Trident Acquisitions, in turn would be responsible for arranging the necessary financing for the exploration, development and operations of the Dolphin block.
"The Black Sea shelf is one of the most promising areas for production in continental Europe", says Ilya Ponomarev, Trident's CEO. "Putting these well-studied prospective resources into production would signify a new future for the

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

regional economy and the security of energy supplies for EU countries", he added.

Also joining Trident as strategic partners will be GSP Offshore, a leading Romanian offshore oil and gas service provider, who will work with Trident Black Sea as the preferred supplier of drilling and engineering services and Lamor AB, a top worldwide environmental solutions company, as the provider of environmental protection services.

The Dolphin block covers 9,496 sq km of the northwestern part of the Black Sea's continental shelf. It is a relatively well-studied area with quality 3D seismic data. Within Dolphin block there are seven prospective fields, including Zonalna (23.1 mtoe prospective resources), Myrna (12.8 mtoe), and Charivna (12.5 mtoe). The overall potential of the Dolphin block, as currently estimated by the Ukraine State Geological Committee, is 286 mtoe.

Trident Acquisitions, established in 2016, is a blank check company formed for the purpose of entering into a merger, share exchange, asset acquisition, stock purchase, recapitalization, reorganization or other similar business combination with one or more businesses or entities. Trident's efforts to identify a prospective target business will not be limited to a particular industry or geographic region although we intend to focus our search for target businesses on oil and gas or other natural resources companies in Eastern Europe or that are interested in expanding into Eastern Europe. A registration statement on Form S-1 (333-223655) relating to Trident's securities was declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 29, 2018. The registration statement and a copy of the final prospectus relating to the initial public offering may also be accessed via the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at http://www.sec.gov.

San Leon Energy, established in 1995, is the LSE AIM listed company with a balanced portfolio of conventional and shale assets across Europe and North Africa. Today the company has significant assets on the OML 18 block, in the delta of the Niger River, Nigeria, producing more than 50,000 boepd. Additionally it has conventional and shale assets in Poland (onshore), Albania (offshore), Spain (onshore), Ireland (offshore). It has offices in Ireland, Poland, Albania, and Spain. Current portfolio includes 11,079 km2 acreage, 8 onshore and 9 offshore licenses.

Grup Servicii Petroliere (GSP) was established in May 2004. It is an integrated service provider to the Oil & Gas Industry, covering Fabrication, Jack-Up Drilling Rigs, Subsea Construction & Installation Vessels, Transportation & Trenching. The company is a member of the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC). The GSP QHSE Management system has been successfully audited and certified as complying with standards and requirements of the International Safety Management Code. The company operates a fleet of six (chartered) offshore drilling rigs, six supply and personnel transportation vessels as well as a floating 100 tons crane. GSP is known in the Black Sea region for its technological expertise in Offshore drilling, well Intervention services and naval supply.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Lamor Corporation is a family-owned environmental solutions company founded in 1982 and headquartered in Porvoo, Finland. During 35 years of its existence, Lamor has grown into one of the world's largest manufacturers of OSR equipment, with a global market share of approximately 40% and a presence in 104 countries. It has also developed an OSR services line, including preventative and operational planning, response operations, and waste treatment. The 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico was a watershed in Lamor's history. Lamor worked closely with the U.S. Coast Guard to plan, coordinate, and implement a massive response operation for the largest oil spill in history. Lamor was responsible for approximately 70 percent of all OSR equipment deliveries into the U.S. Gulf Coast during this unprecedentedly large containment and cleanup operation. Lamor has extensive experience in cooperation with governmental agencies worldwide, e.g. European Union environmental administrations, European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), North American authorities and representative agencies, Chinese governmental and maritime departments and Middle Eastern environmental and representative agencies in several countries. Lamor is ISO 9001:2008, ISO 14001:2004 and OHSAS 18001:2007 compliant
and the company has efficiently established, implemented and maintained and operated the Quality, Health, Safety and Environment Management System (QHSE).
For inquiries:
Vadim Komissarov, President & CFO Trident Acquisitions Corp. +1-646-229-7549

Sender:	"Kvien, Kristina A" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) Phillips, Charles <Charles.phillips@trade.gov>; Taylor, William B (Kyiv) (b)(6) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	"Kvien, Kristina A" (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	FLASH CLEARANCE, my edits to (b)(5) Paper
Date:	Wed, 14 Aug 2019 14:43:00 +0000

Hi all, sorry for lateness of hour but I took a knife to the paper and changed it. If possible, please review now so I can send back tonight and have DC OK before meeting tomorrow.

Note there are a couple spots where I need help with input, and also I literally made up the topics for the Committee to focus on so welcome any suggested additions/deletions.

Thanks! - KK

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 2:55 PM
To: (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Concept Note on (b)(5) askForce, and objectives

(b)(6)

We are most definitely in concurrence. Just had a chat with the DCM who is working on this and a response.

This version of this paper was a surprise to us as well, as the comments I have continued to pass back from Post on previous iterations asked to remove that language.

In (b)(6) defense, when I look again at the bottom email here from her to DAS Kent it appears she intended to send us this version and somehow it didn't make it from what we can tell. She is now out on leave.

I am unclear if the paper was just internal (possible) or meant to share with others.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 1:08 PM
To: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

Cc: Kvien, Kristina A (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Concept Note on (b)(5) TaskForce, and objectives

(b)(5)

Best, (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 7:11 AM

To: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Fwd: Concept Note on (b)(5) TaskForce, and objectives

(b)(5)

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Kent, George P (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2019 8:49 PM

To: (b)(6)

(b)(6) Croft, Catherine M

Cc: Taylor, William B (Kyiv); Kvien, Kristina A; (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Concept Note on (b)(5) TaskForce, and objectives

Thanks all, and apologies for the delay in feedback. This will be an iterative process in the coming months, without question.

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

George

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 5:42 PM

To: Kent, George P (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6) Croft, Catherine M (b)(6)

Subject: Concept Note on (b)(5) TaskForce

DAS Kent,

Please find attached a draft concept note on the (b)(5) taskforce post is working on spearheading with the Ukrainians for your review and feedback. (b)(6) will include discussion of this paper as an item for the Tuesday SVTC. I will send this version to post concurrently.

Thank you!

(b)(6)

Official - SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	"Kvien, Kristina A" (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT