



Contact: Vertex Energy, Inc.  
Base Oils and Intermediate Products  
Erica Snedegar - Ericasnedegar@Vertexenergy.com  
Product Sales Development  
Mike Sommer - Mikesommer@Vertexenergy.com

## **Penthol LLC and Vertex Energy Inc Celebrate First Anniversary of the Introduction of AD Base Group III Base Oils**

HOUSTON, TX – May 22, 2017 Vertex Energy, Inc. (NASDAQ:VTNR), a refiner and marketer of high-quality specialty hydrocarbon products, announced that Penthol-Vertex recently celebrated the first anniversary of the introduction of AD Base Group III base oils into the U.S. markets.

Ben Cowart, Chairman and CEO of Vertex Energy, Inc. stated, "We are very pleased with the performance of the entire Penthol-Vertex team over the past year. They have effectively worked through all of the issues associated with the roll-out of a new product and at the same time have established a solid reputation for service and strong technical support to our customers. The quality of the base oils has exceeded our expectations and has been widely accepted across the industry."

Cowart, added, "We are excited to be part of this program and look forward to continued, further growth going forward.

Faruk Erkoç, Chairman of Penthol, LLC said, "The first year has been a great success. We have ramped-up sales volumes in excess of plan and have established a broad customer base. As we expand our approvals and build out our offer, we are creating more value for our customers. The exclusive agreement with ADNOC remains very strong and we are very pleased to have Vertex as our exclusive agent to sell and market our products, and provide technical expertise."

Penthol has an exclusive arrangement with ADNOC (Abu Dhabi National Oil Company) to sell and market AD base oils in the United States of America. Penthol teamed up with Vertex Energy last year to develop a strategic partnership that together handles all Sales, Marketing, Technical and Supply Chain support for these products.

Initial AD Base cargoes were 4 cSt and 6 cSt viscosity grades and has quickly grown to include, 2 cSt, 3cSt and 8cSt grades rounding out a full slate of high quality, high VI products. Distribution is currently handled through a Terminal in New Orleans, and as Sales continue to grow, new strategic distribution centers are being evaluated to expand our network to better serve their customers.

Approvals are in place with all the major additive companies for synthetic, semi-synthetic motor oils, as well as ATF formulations. Product development is a key focus and new approvals continue to be added, including Dexos which is expected shortly.

**ABOUT VERTEX ENERGY, INC.**

Vertex Energy, Inc. (VTNR) is a specialty refiner and marketer of high-quality hydrocarbon products. Our business divisions include aggregation and transportation of refinery feedstocks such as used motor oil and other petroleum and chemical co-products to produce and commercialize a broad range of high purity intermediate and finished products such as fuel oils, marine grade distillates and high purity base oils used for lubrication. Vertex operates on a regional model with strategic hubs located in key geographic areas in the United States. With its headquarters in Houston, Texas, Vertex Energy's processing operations are located in Houston and Port Arthur (TX), Marrero (LA), and Columbus (OH). For more information on Vertex Energy please contact Porter, LeVay & Rose, Inc.'s investor relations representative Marlon Nurse, D.M. at 212-564-4700 or visit our website at [www.vertexenergy.com](http://www.vertexenergy.com).

### **Forward-Looking Statements**

*This press release may contain forward-looking statements, including information about management's view of Vertex Energy's future expectations, plans and prospects, within the safe harbor provisions under The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the "Act"). In particular, when used in the preceding discussion, the words "believes," "hopes," "expects," "intends," "plans," "anticipates," or "may," and similar conditional expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Act, and are subject to the safe harbor created by the Act. Any statements made in this news release other than those of historical fact, about an action, event or development, are forward-looking statements. These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, which may cause the results of Vertex Energy, its divisions and concepts to be materially different than those expressed or implied in such statements. These risk factors and others are included from time to time in documents Vertex Energy files with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including but not limited to, its Form 10-Ks, Form 10-Qs and Form 8-Ks. Other unknown or unpredictable factors also could have material adverse effects on Vertex Energy's future results. The forward-looking statements included in this press release are made only as of the date hereof. Vertex Energy cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. Accordingly, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Finally, Vertex Energy undertakes no obligation to update these statements after the date of this release, except as required by law, and also takes no obligation to update or correct information prepared by third parties that are not paid for by Vertex Energy.*