



COMPANY PRESS RELEASE

Arête Industries, Inc.- Initiates Negotiations for Financial Partners for 24-Well Gas Drilling Program

For Immediate Release

Thursday, April 8, 2004

NIWOT, Colorado, April 8, 2004 (Business Wire) Arête Industries, Inc. (OTC- Bulletin Board: ARET) announces initial meetings with interested private parties, and investment banking groups to provide financial participation in Arête's initial 24-Well Gas Drilling Program in Texas. Preliminary responses have created the need to provide a private placement memorandum for potential partners.

Arête CEO, Thomas P. Raabe stated: "We are extraordinarily pleased with the initial interest from both investment bankers and experienced oil and gas investors. We expect to continue to expand this interest and provide our funding during the second quarter, with the intent of commencing drilling at the end of the summer."

"Our joint venture partners are an aggressive team, who we believe will initiate and succeed with Arête on this and future drilling programs," continued Raabe.

Statement as to Forward Looking Statements. Certain statements contained herein, which are not historical, are forward-looking statements that are subject to risks and uncertainties not known or disclosed herein that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed herein. Such risks include the fact that the prospects being developed by the Company are not yet secured with contracts, nor have binding commitments for financing been obtained, and that the Company will likely compete with other investors for acquisitions or investments in viable projects that are more established and have far greater resources than the Company, and therefore no assurances can be made that the Company will be successful in obtaining financing nor in being the successful bidder for participation in the better opportunities.

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