

**Chesapeake Energy  
Corporation Announces  
Agreements to Acquire \$100  
Million of Producing  
Properties, Adds to Its  
Hedging Positions and  
Increases 2004 Production  
Forecast**

**Agreements With Four Private Companies Further Strengthen Chesapeake's Positions in the Mid-Continent, Permian Basin and Texas Gulf Coast Regions  
Chesapeake Hedges 100% of Projected Oil and Natural Gas Production Volumes From the Acquired Properties for April 2004-December 2005 at \$33.11 Per Barrel of Oil and \$5.78 Per Mcf of Natural Gas**

PRNewswire-FirstCall  
OKLAHOMA CITY

Chesapeake Energy Corporation today announced that it has entered into or is completing agreements to acquire \$100 million of Mid-Continent, Permian Basin and Texas Gulf Coast oil and natural gas assets in four separate transactions. Through these agreements, Chesapeake anticipates acquiring an internally estimated 68 billion cubic feet of gas equivalent proved reserves (bcfe), 39 bcfe of probable and possible reserves and current production of 15 million cubic feet of natural gas equivalent production (mmcfe) per day. Pro forma for these acquisitions, Chesapeake's anticipated March 31, 2004 proved oil and natural gas reserves are expected to be approximately 3.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas equivalent (tcfe).

After allocating \$16 million of the purchase price to unevaluated leasehold, probable and possible reserves, and other assets, Chesapeake's acquisition cost per thousand cubic feet of gas equivalent (mcfe) of proved reserves associated with these transactions will be \$1.24. Including unevaluated leasehold and anticipated future drilling costs for fully developing the proved, probable and possible reserves, the company estimates that its all-in acquisition cost for the 107 bcfe of estimated reserves will be \$1.39 per mcfe. The proved reserves have a reserves-to-production index of 12.5 years, are 66% oil and are 74% proved developed.

Two of the acquisitions are expected to close on April 1, 2004 and two are expected to close on May 1, 2004. All acquisitions are subject to customary closing conditions with no single closing conditioned on the closing of any other acquisition. The company intends to finance the acquisitions with proceeds from a new private issue of cumulative convertible preferred stock.

Chesapeake Increases 2004 Production Guidance and Announces New Hedges for Oil and Natural Gas Production To Be Acquired

Chesapeake is today increasing its 2004 production forecast by 7.0 bcfe (2.1%) from a

range of 323-329 bcfe (891 mmcfe per day at the mid-point) to a range of 330-336 (910 mmcfe per day at the mid-point). Approximately 3.8 bcfe of this 7.0 bcfe increase is attributable to today's announced acquisitions while 3.2 bcfe is attributable to better than expected recent drilling results. The company's 2004 production is expected to be 89% natural gas and 11% oil and natural gas liquids.

Last week, Chesapeake hedged the anticipated production of 1,600 barrels of oil per day and 5,000 mcf of natural gas per day expected from the new acquisitions at attractive prices for April 2004 through December 2005. The hedged prices averaged \$33.11 per barrel of oil and \$5.78 per mcf of natural gas. The following tables compare Chesapeake's projected 2004-2007 oil and natural gas production volumes that have been hedged as of March 23, 2004 to what had been previously hedged as of February 23, 2004:

Hedged Positions as of March 23, 2004				
Quarter or Year	Oil		Natural Gas	
	% Hedged	\$ NYMEX	% Hedged	\$ NYMEX
2004 1Q	91%	\$28.58	98%	\$5.97
2004 2Q	90%	\$29.63	72%	\$4.97
2004 3Q	74%	\$29.47	54%	\$4.87
2004 4Q	67%	\$29.15	43%	\$5.05
2004 Total	80%	\$29.22	66%	\$5.32
2005	9%	\$31.56	27%	\$5.03
2006	---	---	10%	\$4.88
2007	---	---	8%	\$4.76

Hedged Positions as of February 23, 2004				
Quarter or Year	Oil		Natural Gas	
	% Hedged	\$ NYMEX	% Hedged	\$ NYMEX
2004 1Q	88%	\$28.58	100%	\$5.97
2004 2Q	88%	\$28.86	73%	\$4.97
2004 3Q	72%	\$28.75	58%	\$4.89
2004 4Q	63%	\$28.46	47%	\$5.08
2004 Total	78%	\$28.68	69%	\$5.32
2005	---	---	27%	\$5.04
2006	---	---	11%	\$4.88
2007	---	---	8%	\$4.76

Depending on changes in oil and natural gas futures markets and management's view of underlying oil and natural gas supply and demand trends, Chesapeake may either increase or decrease its hedging positions at any time in the future without notice.

Chesapeake's updated 2004 forecast is attached to this release in an Outlook dated March 23, 2004 labeled Schedule "A". This Outlook has been changed from the Outlook dated February 23, 2004 (attached as Schedule "B" for investors' convenience) to reflect the increased production forecast announced today and the projected effects from changes in our hedging positions.

#### Management Comments

Aubrey K. McClendon, Chesapeake's Chief Executive Officer, commented, "Today's announcements provide additional confirmation that Chesapeake continues to be successful in identifying opportunities to further strengthen its proved reserve base and enhance its production profile through the ongoing consolidation of high-quality oil and

natural gas assets in our operating areas. Today's transactions are consistent with Chesapeake's balanced business strategy of creating value by delivering profitable organic growth from our developmental and exploratory drilling programs complemented by acquiring and developing long-lived, under-exploited oil and natural gas assets.

In addition, we have locked-in accretive returns from today's acquisitions by hedging virtually 100% of the anticipated oil and natural gas production volumes for April 2004 through December 2005 at prices well above the price decks we used to evaluate the acquired properties. In this time of strong oil and natural gas markets, we believe unusually attractive returns to Chesapeake's shareholders can be generated from focused acquisitions and by hedging the acquired production volumes. We believe our ongoing consolidation of high-quality properties, followed by opportunistic hedging, and combined with our value-added drilling programs will continue to be a winning formula for our shareholders in the years ahead."

This press release and the accompanying Outlooks include "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements give our current expectations or forecasts of future events. They include expectations regarding closing of the announced acquisitions, estimates of oil and gas reserves, expected oil and gas production and future expenses, projections of future oil and gas prices, planned capital expenditures and estimated costs for drilling, leasehold acquisitions and seismic data, and statements concerning anticipated cash flow and liquidity, business strategy and other plans and objectives for future operations. Disclosures concerning derivative contracts and their estimated contribution to our future results of operations are based upon market information as of a specific date. These market prices are subject to significant volatility. Although we believe the expectations and forecasts reflected in these and other forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance they will prove to have been correct. They can be affected by inaccurate assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from expected results are described under "Risk Factors" in Item 1 of our 2003 Annual Report on Form 10-K and subsequent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). They include the volatility of oil and gas prices; adverse effects our substantial indebtedness could have on our operations and future growth; our ability to compete effectively against strong independent oil and gas companies and majors; the cost and availability of drilling and production services; possible financial losses as a result of our commodity price and interest rate risk management activities; uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of oil and gas reserves, including reserves we acquire, projecting future rates of production and the timing of development expenditures; exposure to potential liabilities of acquired properties; our ability to replace reserves; the availability of capital; changes in interest rates; and drilling and operating risks. We caution you not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this press release, and we undertake no obligation to update this information.

The SEC has generally permitted oil and gas companies, in filings made with the SEC, to disclose only proved reserves that a company has demonstrated by actual production or conclusive formation tests to be economically and legally producible under existing economic and operating conditions. We use the terms "probable" and "possible" reserves or other descriptions of volumes of reserves potentially recoverable through additional drilling or recovery techniques that the SEC's guidelines may prohibit us from including in filings with the SEC. These estimates are by their nature more speculative than estimates of proved reserves and accordingly are subject to substantially greater risk of being actually realized by the company.

The announcement of a proposed offering of convertible preferred stock in this press release shall not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy the preferred stock. The preferred stock will not be registered under the Securities Act of 1933 or any state securities laws, and may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration or an applicable exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act and state laws.

Chesapeake Energy Corporation is one of the five largest independent U.S. natural gas producers. Headquartered in Oklahoma City, the company's operations are focused on exploratory and developmental drilling and producing property acquisitions in the Mid-Continent, Permian Basin, South Texas and Texas Gulf Coast regions of the United States. The company's Internet address is [www.chkenergy.com](http://www.chkenergy.com).

## SCHEDULE "A"

### CHESAPEAKE'S OUTLOOK AS OF MARCH 23, 2004

Quarter Ending March 31, 2004; Year Ending December 31, 2004.

We have adopted a policy of periodically providing investors with guidance on certain factors that affect our future financial performance. As of March 23, 2004, we are using the following key assumptions in our projections for the first quarter of 2004 and the full-year 2004.

The primary changes from our February 23, 2004 guidance are explained as follows:

- 1) We have increased our full-year 2004 production forecast to reflect the four acquisitions announced today and better than expected recent drilling results.
- 2) We have updated the projected effects from changes in our hedging positions.
- 3) We have included our expectations for future NYMEX oil and gas prices to illustrate hedging effects only. They are not a forecast of our expectations for 2004 oil and natural gas prices.
- 4) The equivalent shares outstanding numbers did not change as a result of today's announced preferred stock offering because the conversion structure of the preferred stock is not expected to cause an immediate increase in fully diluted shares.

	Quarter Ending March 31, 2004	Year Ending December 31, 2004
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#### Estimated Production:

Oil - Mbo	1,450	6,100
Gas - Bcf	69 - 70	293 - 299
Gas Equivalent - Bcfe	78 - 79	330 - 336
Daily gas equivalent midpoint - in Mmcfe	863	910

#### NYMEX Prices (for calculation of realized hedging effects only):

Oil - \$/Bo	\$33.58	\$28.06
Gas - \$/Mcf	\$5.69	\$4.99

#### Estimated Differentials to NYMEX Prices:

Oil - \$/Bo	-\$2.69	-\$2.55
Gas - \$/Mcf	-\$0.66	-\$0.61

#### Estimated Realized Hedging Effects

(based on expected  
NYMEX prices above):

Oil - \$/Bo	-\$4.56	+\$0.86
Gas - \$/Mcf	+\$0.43	+\$0.27
Operating Costs per Mcfe of Projected Production:		
Production expense	\$0.55 - 0.60	\$0.55 - 0.60
Production taxes (generally 7% of O&G revenues)	\$0.32 - 0.34	\$0.28 - 0.32
General and administrative (A)	\$0.10 - 0.11	\$0.10 - 0.11
DD&A - oil and gas	\$1.48 - 1.52	\$1.50 - 1.55
Depreciation of other assets	\$0.07 - 0.09	\$0.07 - 0.09
Interest expense (B)	\$0.49 - 0.53	\$0.45 - 0.50
Other Income and Expense per Mcfe:		
Marketing and other income	\$0.02 - 0.04	\$0.02 - 0.04
Book Tax Rate	38%	38%
Equivalent Shares Outstanding:		
Basic	240,000 m	247,000 m
Diluted	302,000 m	304,000 m

#### Capital Expenditures:

Drilling, Land and Seismic	\$175 - \$200 mm	\$750 - \$800 mm
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(A) Does not include non-cash expenses associated with the issuance of restricted stock.

(B) Does not include gains or losses on interest rate derivatives (SFAS 133).

#### Commodity Hedging Activities

Periodically the Company utilizes hedging strategies to hedge the price of a portion of its future oil and gas production. These strategies include:

- (i) For swap instruments, we receive a fixed price for the hedged commodity and pay a floating market price, as defined in each instrument, to the counterparty. The fixed-price payment and the floating-price payment are netted, resulting in a net amount due to or from the counterparty.
- (ii) For cap-swaps, Chesapeake receives a fixed price and pays a floating market price. The fixed price received by Chesapeake includes a premium in exchange for a "cap" limiting the counterparty's exposure. In other words, there is no limit to Chesapeake's exposure but there is a limit to the downside exposure of the counterparty.
- (iii) Basis protection swaps are arrangements that guarantee a price differential of oil or gas from a specified delivery point. Chesapeake receives a payment from the counterparty if the price differential is greater than the stated terms of the contract and pays the counterparty if the price differential is less than the stated terms of the contract.

Commodity markets are volatile, and as a result, Chesapeake's hedging activity is dynamic. As market conditions warrant, the Company may elect to settle a hedging

transaction prior to its scheduled maturity date and, as a result, lock in the gain or loss on the transaction.

Chesapeake enters into oil and natural gas derivative transactions in order to mitigate a portion of its exposure to adverse market changes in oil and natural gas prices. Accordingly, associated gains or losses from the derivative transactions are reflected as adjustments to oil and gas sales. All realized gains and losses from oil and natural gas derivatives are included in oil and gas sales in the month of related production. Pursuant to SFAS 133, certain derivatives do not qualify for designation as cash flow hedges. Changes in the fair value of these non-qualifying derivatives that occur prior to their maturity (i.e. because of temporary fluctuations in value) are reported currently in the consolidated statement of operations as unrealized gains (losses) within oil and gas sales.

Following provisions of SFAS 133, changes in the fair value of derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges, to the extent effective in offsetting cash flows attributable to hedged risk, are recorded in other comprehensive income until the hedged item is recognized in earnings. Any change in fair value resulting from ineffectiveness is recognized currently in oil and natural gas sales.

The Company currently has in place the following natural gas swaps:

	% Hedged					
	Open Swap					
	Positions					
	Assuming as a % of					
	Estimated					
	Total					
	in Bcf's Gas					
	Production					
	Avg. NYMEX	Avg. NYMEX	Avg. NYMEX	Avg. NYMEX	Avg. NYMEX	Avg. NYMEX
	Strike	Price	Price	Price	Price	Price
	Price	Gain from	Open &	Production	Total	
	Open Swaps	Of Open	Locked	Locked	in Bcf's	Gas
	in Bcf's	Swaps	Swaps	Positions	of:	Production
2004:						
1st Qtr	69.5	\$5.94	\$0.03	\$5.97	69.5	98%
2nd Qtr	53.2	\$4.97	\$0.00	\$4.97	74.0	72%
3rd Qtr	40.9	\$4.87	\$0.00	\$4.87	75.0	54%
4th Qtr	32.7	\$5.05	\$0.00	\$5.05	76.0	43%
Total						
2004	196.3	\$5.31	\$0.01	\$5.32	294.5	66%
Total						
2005	81.2	\$5.03	\$0.00	\$5.03	305.0	27%
Total						
2006	32.9	\$4.88	\$0.00	\$4.88	315.0	10%
Total						
2007	25.6	\$4.76	\$0.00	\$4.76	325.0	8%
TOTALS						
2004-2007	336.0	\$5.15	\$0.01	\$5.16	1,239.5	27%

Chesapeake has also entered into the following natural gas basis protection swaps:

Assuming Gas

	Annual Volume in Bcf's	Production in NYMEX less:	Production in Bcf's of:	% Hedged
2004	157.4	0.173	290.5	54%
2005	109.5	0.156	305.0	36%
2006	47.5	0.155	315.0	15%
2007	63.9	0.166	325.0	20%
2008	64.0	0.166	335.0	19%
2009	37.0	0.160	345.0	11%
Totals	479.3	\$0.164*	1,915.5	25%

\* weighted average

The Company has entered into the following crude oil hedging arrangements:

	Open Swaps in Mmbo's	Avg. NYMEX Strike Price	% Hedged Assuming Oil Production in Mmbo's of:	Open Swap Positions as % of Total Estimated Production
Q1 - 2004*	1,270	\$28.58	1,390	91%
Q2 - 2004*	1,419	\$29.63	1,575	90%
Q3 - 2004*	1,182	\$29.47	1,590	74%
Q4 - 2004*	1,058	\$29.15	1,590	67%
Total 2004*	4,929	\$29.22	6,145	80%
Total 2005*	548	\$31.56	6,360	9%

\* Swaps with a knockout price of \$21.00, with the exception of 2,000 bopd in 2004 with a knockout price of \$24.00, with an additional 1,000 bopd in Q2 2004 at \$24.00, 1,000 bopd in Q3 and Q4 2004 with a knockout price of \$23.00, 2,000 bopd for 1/04 and 3-8/04 at a knockout price of \$22.00, 3,000 bopd in 2/04 at a knockout price of \$22.00 and 1,500 bopd from 4/04 through 12/05 at a knockout price of \$26.00.

#### SCHEDULE "B"

CHESAPEAKE'S PREVIOUS OUTLOOK AS OF FEBRUARY 23, 2004  
(Provided for Reference Only)

NOW SUPERSEDED BY OUTLOOK AS OF MARCH 23, 2004

Quarter Ending March 31, 2004; Year Ending December 31, 2004.

We have adopted a policy of periodically providing investors with guidance on certain factors that affect our future financial performance. As of February 23, 2004, we are using the following key assumptions in our projections for the first quarter of 2004 and the full-year 2004.

Quarter Ending      Year Ending

March 31, 2004    December 31, 2004

Estimated Production:

Oil - Mbo	1,450	5,800
Gas - Bcf	69 - 70	288 - 294
Gas Equivalent - Bcfe	78 - 79	323 - 329
Daily gas equivalent midpoint - in Mmcfe	863	890

NYMEX Prices (for calculation of realized hedging effects only):

Oil - \$/Bo	\$28.08	\$25.77
Gas - \$/Mcf	\$5.47	\$4.74

Estimated Differentials to NYMEX Prices:

Oil - \$/Bo	-\$2.50	-\$2.50
Gas - \$/Mcf	-\$0.60	-\$0.60

### Estimated Realized Hedging Effects

(based on expected NYMEX prices above):

Oil - \$/Bo	+\$0.50	+\$2.23
Gas - \$/Mcf	+\$0.66	+\$0.44

Operating Costs per Mcfe of Projected Production:

Production expense	\$0.55 - 0.60	\$0.55 - 0.60
Production taxes (generally 7% of O&G revenues)	\$0.32 - 0.34	\$0.28 - 0.32
General and administrative	\$0.10 - 0.11	\$0.10 - 0.11
DD&A - oil and gas	\$1.48 - 1.52	\$1.50 - 1.55
Depreciation of other assets	\$0.07 - 0.09	\$0.07 - 0.09
Interest expense (A)	\$0.49 - 0.53	\$0.45 - 0.50

Other Income and Expense per Mcfe:

Marketing and other income	\$0.02 - 0.04	\$0.02 - 0.04
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Book Tax Rate	38%	38%
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Equivalent Shares Outstanding:

Basic	240,000 m	247,000 m
Diluted	302,000 m	304,000 m

Capital Expenditures:

Drilling, Land and Seismic	\$175 - \$200 mm	\$750-800 mm
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(A) Does not include gains or losses on interest rate derivatives (SFAS 133)

## Commodity Hedging Activities

Periodically the Company utilizes hedging strategies to hedge the price of a portion of its future oil and gas production. These strategies include:

- (i) For swap instruments, we receive a fixed price for the hedged commodity and pay a floating market price, as defined in each instrument, to the counterparty. The fixed-price payment and the floating-price payment are netted, resulting in a net amount due to or from the counterparty.
- (ii) For cap-swaps, Chesapeake receives a fixed price and pays a floating market price. The fixed price received by Chesapeake includes a premium in exchange for a "cap" limiting the counterparty's exposure. In other words, there is no limit to



Chesapeake's exposure but there is a limit to the downside exposure of the counterparty.

- (iii) Basis protection swaps are arrangements that guarantee a price differential of oil or gas from a specified delivery point. Chesapeake receives a payment from the counterparty if the price differential is greater than the stated terms of the contract and pays the counterparty if the price differential is less than the stated terms of the contract.

Commodity markets are volatile, and as a result, Chesapeake's hedging activity is dynamic. As market conditions warrant, the Company may elect to settle a hedging transaction prior to its scheduled maturity date and, as a result, lock in the gain or loss on the transaction.

Chesapeake enters into oil and natural gas derivative transactions in order to mitigate a portion of its exposure to adverse market changes in oil and natural gas prices. Accordingly, associated gains or losses from the derivative transactions are reflected as adjustments to oil and gas sales. All realized gains and losses from oil and natural gas derivatives are included in oil and gas sales in the month of related production. Pursuant to SFAS 133, certain derivatives do not qualify for designation as cash flow hedges. Changes in the fair value of these non-qualifying derivatives that occur prior to their maturity (i.e. because of temporary fluctuations in value) are reported currently in the consolidated statement of operations as unrealized gains (losses) within oil and gas sales.

Following provisions of SFAS 133, changes in the fair value of derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges, to the extent effective in offsetting cash flows attributable to hedged risk, are recorded in other comprehensive income until the hedged item is recognized in earnings. Any change in fair value resulting from ineffectiveness is recognized currently in oil and natural gas sales.

The Company currently has in place the following natural gas swaps:

	% Hedged					
	Avg. NYMEX			Open Swap		
	Avg. NYMEX		Avg. NYMEX	Positions		
	Strike	Price	Price	Assuming	as a % of	
	Price	Gain from	Open &	Gas	Estimated	Total
	Open Swaps	Of Open	Locked	Locked	in Bcf's	Gas
	in Bcf's	Swaps	Swaps	Positions	of:	Production
2004:						
1st Qtr	69.5	\$5.94	\$0.03	\$5.97	69.5	100%
2nd Qtr	52.8	\$4.97	\$0.00	\$4.97	72.0	73%
3rd Qtr	43.2	\$4.89	\$0.00	\$4.89	74.0	58%
4th Qtr	35.0	\$5.08	\$0.00	\$5.08	75.0	47%
Total						
2004	200.5	\$5.31	\$0.01	\$5.32	290.5	69%
Total						
2005	82.1	\$5.04	\$0.00	\$5.04	300.0	27%
Total						
2006	32.9	\$4.88	\$0.00	\$4.88	310.0	11%

Total						
2007	25.6	\$4.76	\$0.00	\$4.76	320.0	8%

TOTALS						
2004-2007	341.1	\$5.16	\$0.01	\$5.17	1,220.5	28%

NOW SUPERSEDED BY OUTLOOK AS OF MARCH 23, 2004

Chesapeake has also entered into the following natural gas basis protection swaps:

	Annual Volume in Bcf's	Assuming Gas Production in NYMEX less:	Production in Bcf's of:	% Hedged
2004	157.4	0.173	290.5	54%
2005	109.5	0.156	300.0	37%
2006	47.5	0.155	310.0	15%
2007	63.9	0.166	320.0	20%
2008	64.0	0.166	330.0	19%
2009	37.0	0.160	340.0	11%
Totals	479.3	\$0.164*	1,890.5	25%

\* weighted average

The Company has entered into the following crude oil hedging arrangements:

	Open Swaps in Mmbo's	Avg. NYMEX Strike Price	% Hedged Assuming Oil Production in Mmbo's of:	Open Swap Positions as % of Total Estimated Production
Q1 - 2004*	1,270	\$28.58	1,450	88%
Q2 - 2004*	1,282	\$28.86	1,450	88%
Q3 - 2004*	1,044	\$28.75	1,450	72%
Q4 - 2004*	920	\$28.46	1,450	63%
Total 2004	4,516	\$28.68	5,800	78%

\* Swaps with a knockout price of \$21.00, with the exception of 2,000 bopd in 2004 with a knockout price of \$24.00, with an additional 1,000 bopd in Q2 2004 at \$24, 1,000 bopd in Q3 and Q4 2004 with a knockout price of \$23.00, 2,000 bopd for 1/04 and 3-8/04 at a knockout price of \$22.00, and 3,000 bopd in 2/04 at a knockout price of \$22.00.

NOW SUPERSEDED BY OUTLOOK AS OF MARCH 23, 2004

SOURCE: Chesapeake Energy Corporation

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Web site: <http://www.chkenergy.com/>

Company News On-Call: <http://www.prnewswire.com/comp/138877.html>

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