

MAGHREB MINERALS PLC

Acquisition of permits with extensive fluorite resources

Maghreb Minerals Plc (“Maghreb” or the “Company”) (MMS.L), the AIM-quoted exploration company developing base and precious metal deposits in North Africa, today announces a significant expansion of its Tunisian operations.

- Maghreb has been awarded four exploration permits in the Zaghouan fluorite district of Tunisia with extensive proved mineral reserves.
- The Office Nationale des Mines (“O.N.M.”) estimates that the four permits contain undefined mineral resources totalling in excess of 4.8 million tonnes (Mt), with mineral reserves of fluorite of 1.2Mt.
- This region was in the past one of the most active mining regions in Tunisia. Lead, zinc and fluorite were mined over a long period at several sites. The Maghreb directors believe the region holds excellent potential for additional discoveries of lead, zinc, barite and fluorite mineralisation.

N.B. all mineral reserves and mineral resources quoted in this announcement are not to JORC, NI 43-101, the Reporting Code or other international reporting standards.

Maghreb has been awarded four exploration permits in the Zaghouan fluorite district, located 60 km south of Tunis. The four permit areas, Zriba-Guebli, Kohol, Mesella and Sidi at Taia, cover an area of known fluorite, lead and zinc mineralisation and historic mining operations.

The Zriba-Guebli permit covers the Zriba mine and the Guebli deposit, which is considered an extension of the mineralised layer mined in Zriba mine. Mineralisation is stratabound, with mineralised layers in the order of 1 and 10 metres thick. The Zriba mine, a simple room and pillar mining operation, produced approximately 4Mt of ore, grading 25% fluorite (CaF_2) and 1-2% Pb/Zn (lead/zinc), between 1967 and 1992, when it was closed due to low mineral prices at that time. The lead and zinc were not recovered and the ore was dumped in the tailings dam close to the plant.

The fluorspar production was used to supply the Tunisian aluminium fluorspar industry. Tunisian current internal market consumption is approximately 80,000 tonnes per year valued at around US\$18 million, all supplied by imports.

The O.N.M. estimates the remaining mineral resources in the south part of Zriba mine and at Guebli to be of the order of 4Mt, including 850,000 tonnes in the mineral reserve category.

The three additional permits are all adjacent to the Zriba-Guebli permit. On the Kohol permit, the O.N.M. has identified a mineral resource of 600,000 tonnes including 400,000 tonnes of proved mineral reserves grading 35 % CaF_2 , 2-5% Pb/Zn. On the Sidi at Taia permit, the O.N.M. has identified mineralisation of the order of 25,000 tonnes

grading 15 % CaF₂, 10% BaSO₄ (barite) + SrSO₄ (strontium sulphate) and 3.5% Pb/Zn. On the Mesella permit, zinc oxide and zinc sulphide and fluorite mineralisation is hosted in fractures and has been mined on a small scale in the past.

The area has seen little exploration for lead and zinc mineralisation. The directors of Maghreb therefore believe that, in addition to the potential for discovery of additional fluorite resources, there is the potential for significant lead zinc mineralisation on these licence areas.

Industry analysts expect the fluorspar market to remain tight and prices to remain high for the foreseeable future. Whilst Chinese fluorspar exports currently represent less than 30% of total output, domestic consumption levels remain high in China so that the availability of Chinese fluorspar on the world market continues to decline. The result has been a significant increase in prices; in September 2006 the quoted price for acid grade fluorspar CIF (cost, insurance and freight) US ports had reached US\$230-240/t, compared with an average of US\$180/t in 2005.

Gordon Riddler, Executive Chairman of Maghreb Minerals plc, stated:

"We are excited by this new opportunity to advance the Company from an exploration to a mining company. The resumption of fluorite mining in Tunisia, represents a significant opportunity for import substitution in the country, and has the support of the government and the domestic end user. The domestic market consumption is around 80,000 tonnes per year and is valued at US\$18 million.

Maghreb has commenced a programme to verify the mineral resources and to move mineral resources into the mineral reserve category at the Zriba mine. We have also entered into discussions with a possible joint venture partner, with experience in industrial minerals, with the goal of fast tracking this opportunity for investors.

Given the excellence of the work of the O.N.M., we are confident that the acquisition of these permits represents an opportunity for the Company to become a significant industrial mineral producer and there is also the potential for the discovery of additional fluorite, lead and zinc resources."

The technical content of this press release has been reviewed by the Executive Chairman of Maghreb Minerals plc, Gordon Riddler, BSc, MBA, FIMMM, CEng, CSci, CMkt, MCIM, MCMI who has 40 years of experience in the mining sector and is a Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, a recognised professional association.

ENQUIRIES:

Maghreb Minerals Plc

Gordon Riddler, Executive Chairman

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7556 7038

Hanson Westhouse LLP

Tim Metcalfe / Anita Ghanekar

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7601 6100

Bankside Consultants

Michael Padley / Michael Spriggs

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7367 8888

About Maghreb Minerals Plc

Maghreb Minerals Plc is an AIM listed exploration company developing both base and precious metal deposits in Tunisia and Algeria where it holds the rights to several licence areas. The Company is targeting base metals, mainly lead and zinc, but has also identified areas containing barite and fluorite in Tunisia and gold and copper in Algeria.

Glossary of Technical Terms

CIF	A shipping term which indicates that transportation charges include cost, insurance and freight)
fluorspar	The mineral calcium fluorite (CaF ₂)
mineral reserve (Reporting Code (October 2001))	A 'Mineral Reserve' is the economically mineable part of a Measured and/or Indicated Mineral Resource. It includes diluting materials and allowances for losses, which may occur when the material is mined. Appropriate assessments, which may include feasibility studies, have been carried out, and include consideration of, and modification by, realistically assumed mining, metallurgical, economic, marketing, legal, environmental, social and governmental factors. These assessments demonstrate at the time of reporting that extraction is justified. Mineral Reserves are sub-divided in order of increasing confidence into Probable Mineral Reserves and Proved Mineral Reserves.
proved mineral reserve (Reporting Code (October 2001))	A 'Proved Mineral Reserve' is the economically mineable part of a Measured Mineral Resource. It includes diluting materials and allowances for losses, which may occur when the material is mined. Appropriate assessments, which may include feasibility studies, have been carried out, and include consideration of, and modification by, realistically assumed mining, metallurgical, economic, marketing, legal, environmental, social and governmental factors. These assessments demonstrate at the time of reporting that extraction is justified.

mineral resource
(Reporting Code (October 2001))

A 'Mineral Resource' is a concentration or occurrence of material of economic interest in or on the Earth's crust in such form, quality and quantity that there are reasonable prospects for eventual economic extraction. The location, quantity, grade, continuity and other geological characteristics of a Mineral Resource are known, estimated or interpreted from specific geological evidence and knowledge. Mineral Resources are subdivided, in order of increasing geological confidence into Inferred, Indicated and Measured categories.

stratabound

Confined to layers within a sequence of rock strata – used to describe mineralisation