



Suite 108, 1st Floor, 75 Cannon Street  
London EC4N 5BN  
T: +44 (0)20 7556 7038  
F: +44 (0)870 351 2031

## **MAGHREB MINERALS PLC**

### **Djebba - Drilling programme significantly expands target area**

#### **Pre-feasibility scheduled for H2 2006**

Maghreb Minerals Plc ("Maghreb" or "the Company"), the AIM-listed exploration company developing both base and precious metal deposits in North Africa, announces that its recent drilling programme in Tunisia has significantly increased the potential areas of mineralisation.

The exploration programme has extended the zinc-lead target zone at Djebba in Tunisia beyond the area where a 2.7 million tonne resource is known.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Recent drilling at Djebba has significantly extended the area of zinc and lead ("Zn+Pb") mineralisation.
  - Drill holes MDJ1 and MDJ2, located 400 metres south of the previously established 2.7Mt grading 6.14% Zn and 3.34% Pb measured mineral resource in Miocene sediments, have significantly extended the target zone for mineralisation. MDJ1 reported 5.2 metres @ 19.2 % combined Pb+Zn and MDJ2 10.45 metres @ 19.1% combined Pb+Zn, at depths of just over 20 metres below surface.
  - Drill holes MDJ7 and MDJ 9, intersected strong mineralisation in part of a 3km long brecciated contact zone between the Cretaceous and Triassic rocks, interpreted as the probable feeder for the mineralisation, and in addition intersected a zone of previously unknown mineralisation associated with faulting within impure Cretaceous limestones.  
  
MDJ 7 reporting mineralisation over 28 metres of better than 3% Zn with the best intersection being 8.55 metres grading of 9.55% Zn and 10.36% combined Zn+Pb at a depth of 32.85 metres from surface including 4.55 metres grading of 14.25% Zn and 15.5% combined Zn+Pb.

- Previous preliminary metallurgical test-work on samples from the Miocene Basin demonstrated good recoveries for Zn+Pb to zinc and lead to concentrates using conventional flotation.
- On completion of the planned follow-up drilling which will test the recent gravity survey results, the Company plans to commence a pre-feasibility study on the development of a mining operation at Djebba, mining both high grade near surface mineralisation in the Miocene Basin rocks and extensions to the mineralisation to the north and south discovered in the recent drilling programme in the contact zone between the Triassic and Cretaceous rocks and in the Cretaceous limestones.

### **TARGET ZONES EXTENDED AND STILL OPEN**

The Company's drilling programme at Djebba over the past 4 months has significantly extended the zone of known mineralisation and has confirmed three types of target:

1. the Miocene Basin to the west of the Triassic-Cretaceous contact,
2. the breccia zone at this unconformable contact which likely represents the probable feeder zone for the mineralisation at Djebba and
3. the discovery of extensive mineralisation MDJ7 and MDJ9 in impure limestones of Cretaceous age.

The Miocene Basin lies to the north-west of the main Triassic-Cretaceous contact and Miocene brecciated clays and sandstones, which increase in thickness to the west, remain open and untested for mineralisation.

The recently completed residual gravity interpretation suggests high anomalies which may reflect extensions to the Zn+Pb mineralisation.

To the south near where the Miocene Basin goes under Eocene cover rocks, recent drilling by the Company (MDJ 1 and MDJ2) has established significant mineralised intersections within 25 metres of the surface. Zinc and lead sulphide mineralisation has also been discovered nearby in a recently dug water well to the east of these drill holes.

Along 3km of the brecciated contact between the Triassic and the Cretaceous rocks strong mineralisation has been intersected (MDJ7, MDJ8 and MDJ9) and the rest of this brecciated contact remains to be explored to the north and to the south.

Drill holes MDJ7 and MDJ9 have also established the presence of mineralisation within fault zones in the Cretaceous rocks which has hitherto not been evaluated and closed off.

## DRILL ASSAY DATA FROM RECENT DRILLHOLES

HOLE	FROM (m)	TO (m)	INTERVAL (m)	ZN (%)	PB (%)	COMBINED ZN%+PB%
MDJ1	23.05	28.25	5.2	5.91	13.24	19.15
	including		2.05	6.63	25.86	32.49
MDJ2	21.85	32.3	10.45	17.52	1.57	19.09
	including		6.8	24.58	1.04	25.62
MDJ7	32.85	41.40	8.55	9.55	0.81	10.36
including	34.00	38.55	4.55	14.25	1.11	15.35
	44.44	64.44	20.0	2.67	0.42	3.09
including	47.40	49.70	2.0	6.25	1.46	7.71
	96.8	100.15	3.50	5.22	0.21	5.43
including	97.95	100.15	2.2	6.08	0.20	6.27
MDJ9	63.40	82.65	19.25	3.54	0.56	4.10
including	65.40	69.15	3.70	5.13	0.76	5.90
including	79.60	80.00	3.10	4.52	1.54	6.06

*Drill hole MDJ 8, which intersected the Cretaceous and the brecciated Cretaceous-Triassic contact zone, reported low grade zinc mineralisation over an interval of 14 m.*

*Note: for a map showing the drill hole locations, please refer to the company's website [www.maghrebminerals.co.uk](http://www.maghrebminerals.co.uk)*

## PREVIOUS PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY METALLURGICAL TESTWORK AT DJEBBA

A pre-feasibility study undertaken in 1989 by a Canadian group, SIDAM-Minorex, on the then known mineralisation in the Miocene basin sediments, established a "reserve" of 2.7 Mt grading 6.14% Zn and 3.34% Pb, including an open-pit "mineable reserve" of 805,000 tonnes at 6.59% Zn and 4.09% Pb .

Metallurgical test work on samples of near surface partially oxidized material grading 9% Zn and 3.5% Pb reported recoveries of better than 70% using standard flotation to a 48% Zn in Zinc concentrate and 60% Pb in lead concentrate.

Metallurgical test work on samples of less oxidized material reported higher recovery rates of 75% for Zn to a 52% Zn in zinc concentrate and 70% recovery of Pb to a 64.8% Pb in lead concentrate.

## STRONG LOCAL SUPPORT

The exploration project at Djebba has the strong support of the local community and employs a number of the people from the local village.

## DJEBBA AND FEJ LAHDOUM COULD FEED CENTRAL PROCESSING PLANT

Djebba is located only 10 km from the Company's other major centre of exploration in Tunisia, Fej Lahdoum. It is expected that a centrally located processing plant could process ore from both Fej Lahdoum and Djebba. The Company expects to resume drilling at Fej Lahdoum on the completion of the current computing modelling of the known areas of mineralisation.

*Gordon Riddler, Executive Chairman of Maghreb Minerals plc, said:*

*"This latest phase of exploration drilling has extended significantly the target zones for zinc and lead mineralisation by successfully establishing three separate host rocks for the mineralisation: one, the basin sediments of Miocene age, a second, the probable contact feeder zone and lastly within the Cretaceous limestones. The recent gravity interpretation has identified a number of additional drilling targets which will be pursued prior to moving into a pre-feasibility study stage.*

*In the last 6 months the Company has made significant progress and has now identified a number of potentially large deposits within both Tunisia and Algeria. It is our intention to develop these areas, in particular in Tunisia, and we expect to be able to prove a minimum combined resource of 10 Mt, in the not too distant future".*

*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

**Westhouse Securities LLP**

Tim Metcalfe / Richard Morrison

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.