



MAGHREB MINERALS PLC

Appointment of Wardell Armstrong to assist with preparation of Bou Jabeur JORC resource statement – drilling started at Gite de l'Est

Maghreb Minerals Plc ("Maghreb" or "the Company"), the AIM-quoted exploration company developing base metal and industrial mineral deposits in North Africa, announces the appointment of **Wardell Armstrong International ("WAI")** to assist with the preparation of a resource statement and to oversee the programme to upgrade the Gite de l'Est zinc-lead-fluorite-barite resource at Bou Jabeur in Tunisia to JORC standards. This work is prior to commencing a Pre-Feasibility Study on the redevelopment of mining operations at Gite de l'Est at Bou Jabeur. Drilling commenced in mid-March at Gite de l'Est, with a view to verifying past assay data at the mine.

Highlights

- Wardell Armstrong International appointed to prepare Bou Jabeur JORC resource statement
- Verification drilling commenced – visible lead-zinc mineralisation intersected between 149m and 160m in first drillhole which is still in progress.

In January 2007, Maghreb announced the successful conclusion of its negotiations with the Office Nationale des Mines ("O.N.M.") to acquire the rights to the Bou Jabeur deposit, whereby Maghreb has the right to earn a 90% interest in the Bou Jabeur exploration permit. The Bou Jabeur exploration permit (EP) covers the ground referred to in the Maghreb AIM Admission document, December 2004, as the Bou Jabeur mine concession, which covers a significant area of mineralisation including the Gite de l'Est zinc-lead-fluorite-barite mine. In 2000 the operators of Bou Jabeur Gite de l'Est quoted a proven, probable and possible reserve (not to JORC standard) of 5.1 million tonnes (Mt) with a grade of 1.38% Pb, 3.76% Zn, 33.2% BaSO₄, and 9.3% CaF₂.

The in-situ value of the deposit is estimated to be in excess of US\$1,000 million, based on recent prices*. (*Zn US\$1.75/lb, Pb US\$0.71/lb, BaSO₄ US\$35/t, CaF₂ US\$230/t.)

Maghreb has commenced drilling at Gite de l'Est. The purpose of the current drilling programme is to verify past resource estimates and to provide metallurgical samples for test work which will form part of the proposed Pre Feasibility Study. Core from 10 of the original O.N.M. drill holes has been located in storage at Bou Jabeur and will be reviewed by WAI to establish if this core is suitable for re-assaying.

The first of the verification drill holes (MBJ1) located immediately to the west of the existing Gite de l'Est headframe, is at a depth of 160m and has intersected visible lead and zinc mineralisation between 149m and 160m. The hole is designed to verify the historic drill hole BJ-5 which has reported mineralisation, notably within two intervals, totalling 69.2m, namely:

- 5.3m grading 0.48% Pb, 5.13% Zn and 9.0 % CaF₂ from 135.0m to 140.3m and
- 63.9m grading 0.74% Pb, 2.56% Zn and 6.09% CaF₂ from 179.5m to 243.4m, including 3.7m grading 0.82% Pb, 2.86% Zn and 3.52% CaF₂, 9.6m grading 1.28% Pb, 6.11% Zn and 2.05% CaF₂ and 15m grading 0.90% Pb, 2.20% Zn and 5.98% CaF₂. *Note: barite assays were not reported for this drill hole.*

A Surpac® geological model is currently being generated by Maghreb. The model encompasses drill hole data and assays for 47 historic drill holes from surface, 10 underground drill holes and underground sampling plans and assays at Gite de l'Est that have been made available by the O.N.M.

In order to reclassify the mineral resource in accordance with JORC (2004), WAI will undertake:

- A review of the geological setting and model for the deposit;
- An audit of proposed/existing sampling methodology including assay procedures for both historical and new drill core sampling routines;
- Monitoring of the verification and carry out an in-fill drill programme where deemed necessary to provide a more robust resource classification; and
- A review of the existing block model and resource classification at a variety of cut-off grades.

Gordon Riddler, Executive Chairman commented:

"We believe that the known resource and past mining operations at the Bou Jabeur Gite de l'Est deposit offer Maghreb an exciting opportunity to move quickly towards joining the ranks of producers. The Gite de l'Est deposit is a rich polymetallic ore body which could generate revenues from four products: zinc and lead concentrates, fluorite and barite.

"The Company is focused on working towards verifying the known resource and in establishing the parameters for recommencement of mining operations at Gite de l'Est as quickly as possible. The deposit has been mined in the past from surface and at shallow depths. Extensive drilling already undertaken on the deposit has established a significant resource.

"The appointment of Wardell Armstrong International reflects our determination to verify and establish a JORC compliant mineral resource for the existing significant Gite de l'Est deposit. This is an important first step towards a Pre-Feasibility Study on the recommencement of mining at Bou Jabeur.

"Gite de l'Est is potentially an exceptional deposit and the next stage in the development of the Company is to define the resource and then to commence mining as soon as practicable".

The sources of some of the information in relation to the Bou Jabeur mine were sourced from O.N.M. The Company has not been able to independently verify the accuracy of some of this information.

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 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.

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