

## MAGHREB MINERALS PLC

### COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXPLORATION DRILLING PROGRAMME ON THE GOLD-COPPER-POLYMETALLIC PROSPECT AT TAN CHAFFAO, ALGERIA

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- An O.R.G.M. drilling rig has been commissioned and mobilised to Tan Chaffao.
- The first drillhole, MTC001, has been drilled to 101.2m near an earlier O.R.G.M. drillhole, DDH S21, to test the along strike and down dip extension of gold-copper mineralisation.
- A similar geological sequence of altered volcano-sedimentary rocks, containing quartz veins and secondary pyrite in chlorite-sericite schists, has been intersected in drillhole MTC001 to that recorded in DDHS21.

Maghreb Minerals plc is pleased to announce that an O.R.G.M. (Office National de Recherche Géologique et Minière) drill rig has been mobilised to Tan Chaffao and the first drill hole has been drilled to 101.2m. Core logging is in progress and the results from core assays are expected at the end of March 2006.

At Tan Chaffao, the geology comprises acid volcanics (porphyritic rhyolites) along the southern eastern edge of the licence area overlain by a volcano-sedimentary unit, including volcanic tuffs, with mafic volcanics (diabase) lateral to and overlying the volcano-sedimentary unit to the North. Major fault structures traverse the area.

Polymetallic (Cu-Zn-Pb) and fine gold bearing mineralisation has been reported in disseminated and massive sulphide veins (up to 50%); pyrite, chalcopyrite, sphalerite and occasional bornite; hosted by altered rhyolites, secondary quartzites, quartzitic schists with sericite and tuffs within a broad aureole of chlorite-quartz-sericite-pyrite alteration.

The first drillhole, MTC001, was located 40m northwest along strike from the previous ORGM drillhole, DDH S21, to test the along strike and down dip extension of the mineralisation. DDH21 reported 17m grading 3.5 gpt Au and 1% Cu, and 21m grading 2.0 gpt Au within 100m from surface. Visual inspection of the drill core from drillhole MTC001 indicates a similar geological sequence, of altered volcano-sedimentary rocks with quartz veins and secondary pyrite in chlorite-sericite schists, to that recorded from drillhole DDH S21. Results from core samples are expected at the end of March 2006.

Chairman, Gordon Riddler, said *"I am pleased to see our exploration programme in Algeria moving ahead and await the results of the first drillhole with interest. The immediate drilling programme is targeted at demonstrating the lateral and down-dip continuity of the known mineralisation in the southern portion of the Tan Chaffao exploration license. Drilling is also aimed at establishing a gold-copper-polymetallic resource. An exploration programme, including drilling, is also planned to test the potential over some 21km, northwards of the current drilling area, on the same hydrothermally altered geologic units."*

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