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## **EXTENSION OF FEJ LAHDOUM MINE OPTION INDEPENDENT ENGINEERING STUDY TO BEGIN**

**LONDON: 28 April 2005**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Maghreb Minerals has received a 6 month extension on its option on the Fej Lahdoum mine concession, Tunisia
- An Independent Engineering study has been commissioned to evaluate the feasibility of the expansion of mining operations at Fej Lahdoum to feed a 1,000 tpd milling operation.
- A preliminary drilling programme has commenced on the Ouled Moussa exploration license, Bou Jabeur, Tunisia.

### **Fej Lahdoum, Tunisia**

Maghreb Minerals Plc, (“Maghreb Minerals”) (MMS.L) is pleased to announce that the Directeur Général des Mines in Tunisia has granted Maghreb Minerals a 6 month extension of **Maghreb Mineral’s** option over the Fej Lahdoum mine. Maghreb Minerals holds an option on the mine concession whereby the Company, by completing 3,000 metres of drilling, will earn the right to negotiate with the Tunisian Mines Department for Maghreb Minerals to assume responsibility for the

operation and expansion of mining at Fej Lahdoum. The Company has completed four drill holes on the Dar N'Hal Sud deposit at Fej Lahdoum, a total of approximately 800 metres.

Maghreb Minerals has commissioned Resource Engineering & Development Limited to undertake an Independent Engineering Study, to commence in mid May 2005. The purpose of the Independent Engineering Study is to assess the feasibility of boosting production from the existing mining operations at Fej Lahdoum from the current 100 tpd to 1,000 tpd, sufficient to provide ore feed to a 1,000 tpd milling operation.

### **Bou Jabeur Mine Concession and the Ouled Moussa Exploration Permit, Tunisia**

Maghreb Minerals has an exploration permit on Ouled Moussa which is a property adjacent to the Bou Jabeur mine concession and which is critical to the future viability of the Bou Jabeur mine. Consequently, Maghreb Minerals has commenced its preliminary drilling programme on its Ouled Moussa exploration permit and has completed two holes totaling approximately 150 metres.

Given the renewal of the Ouled-Moussa exploration permit in July 2005, and in conjunction with the commencement of a work programme on the mine concession, Maghreb Minerals anticipates that an extension will be granted of the Bou Jabeur mine concession (which expired on 4 April 2005) in due course.

*AIM listed Maghreb Minerals PLC (MMS.L) is exploring for lead and zinc (Pb-Zn) deposits in North Africa. The Company owns nine exploration permits covering over 241 sq km in areas of active Mines and past production in northern Tunisia and has a conditional option in relation to the Fej Lahdoum Mine Concession owned by the Tunisian government.*

*In Fej Lahdoum, the Dal N'Hal Sud deposit is a fault offset extension, situated some 100 metres south-east, of the main D'Hal Nord orebody*

*∴ The Dar N'Hal Sud measured resource was estimated by the Office Nationale des Mines at 400,000 tonnes at a grade of 5.6% Pb and 7.7% Zn (13.3% combined Pb+Zn). Work in 1991 on the main D'Hal Nord orebody estimated a reserve of 1.4 million tonnes grading 5.6 % Pb and 6.0 % Zn.*

*Maghreb Minerals has a planned exploration programme in Tunisia using modern exploration techniques and a broad conceptual model based on Mississippi Valley Type deposits. Maghreb Minerals believes that its conceptual model for the control of mineralisation in the region represents a significant departure from the exploration model applied historically to this metallogenic rich region. Maghreb Minerals believes that exploration to date has failed to test the full mineralisation potential of the region.*