



MAGHREB MINERALS PLC

Drilling starts at Zriba – Guebli deposit

Maghreb Minerals Plc (“Maghreb” or “the Company”), the AIM-quoted exploration company developing base metal and industrial mineral deposits in North Africa, announces the commencement of a 1,200m drilling programme on the Zriba-Guebli permit. The drilling is being carried out by two rigs and the programme is expected to be completed in July 2007.

The Zriba-Guebli permit covers the past producing Zriba mine and an extension of the mineralisation, named the Guebli deposit. The Zriba mine, a room and pillar mining operation, is reported by Tunisian authorities to have produced: 35,000 – 40,000 tonnes per annum of fluorite, prior to closure, for a total production of approximately 4 Million tonnes (“Mt”) of ore, grading 25% fluorite (CaF_2) and 1-2% Pb-Zn. The mine operated between 1967 and 1992, when it was closed due to the then low mineral prices.

At recent fluorite prices of around US\$235 per tonne, a production level of 40,000 tonnes per annum would equate to annual revenues in the order of US\$10 million. Recent fluorite imports into Tunisia have been closer to the level of US\$20 million per annum which allows scope for expanding production beyond historic levels to meet the domestic demand for fluorite. Acid grade fluorite is used in the production of hydrofluoric acid (HF), which is an intermediate for the production of aluminium fluoride and all chemicals that contain fluorine. Aluminium fluoride is used in aluminium fluxes in the aluminium industry. HF is used in a variety of processes including the purification of uranium.

The Office Nationale des Mines (“O.N.M.”) estimates the remaining mineral resources in the southern part of the Zriba mine and at Guebli to be of the order of 4Mt, including 850,000t in reserves (Not to International Reporting Standards). Mineralisation is typically shallow with the potential for some production to be mined by open cut methods.

Expressions of interest have already been received from parties interested in providing development capital and product off-take as soon as a viable resource has been established on this permit.

Gordon Riddler, Executive Chairman commented:

“The Company’s focus is on moving as rapidly as possible to pre-feasibility and production on this permit. With substantial resources already known to be in place, as well as indications of project funding and product marketing, it is a particularly interesting deposit. Drilling is a major component in evaluating the

potential of the resource and I am pleased to have been able to deploy two drilling rigs to the property and thereby accelerate the evaluation programme”.

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.

ENQUIRIES:

Maghreb Minerals Plc

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7556 7038

Gordon Riddler, Executive Chairman

Hanson Westhouse Limited

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7601 6100

Tim Metcalfe / Anita Ghanekar

Bankside Consultants

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7367 8888

Michael Padley / Michael Spriggs