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NEWS RELEASE

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AVOCET HIRES CHIEF GEOLOGIST; ENCOURAGING RESULTS FROM MALAYSIAN AND INDONESIAN GOLD RESOURCES

Avocet Mining PLC (“Avocet” or “the Company”) announces the appointment of Peter Flindell as Chief Geologist. With over sixteen years’ experience in gold and copper exploration, resource evaluation and reserve development in S.E. Asia and North America, Peter will be responsible for all Avocet’s mine, project and grassroots exploration.

Prior to joining Avocet, Peter spent twelve years with Newmont Mining Corporation (“Newmont”), where he held a number of key technical and management positions, including Exploration Manager for the Western Pacific Region. During his career with Newmont, he played a leading role in the exploration and development of the two million ounce Mesel gold mine in North Sulawesi, Indonesia, and was responsible for the discovery of Avocet’s North Lanut project which is about 40 km from Mesel. He was also involved in the early assessment and evaluation of Newmont’s US\$2 billion Batu Hijau copper-gold mine in Sumbawa, Indonesia.

Peter is a geology graduate from the Australian National University and is a member of the Society of Economic Geologists and the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

Peter’s appointment will enhance Avocet’s recently stated strategy of focusing on its gold business. The success of the Penjom gold mine in Malaysia, coupled with positive results from the North Lanut project in Indonesia, will provide Avocet with a strong foundation for expanding its exploration and development activities in the region.

Penjom, Malaysia

Penjom’s production for the quarter ending 30 June 2002 was an estimated 27,460 ounces of gold. This was better than expected because the independently audited mineral resources included within the present open pit design (as announced on 7 February 2002) has for the past eight months underestimated the mine’s realised ore tonnes and gold grades by 25% in terms of contained gold. This underestimation is a result of the complex nature of the ore bodies and the consequent requirement to have a higher than normal degree of conservatism in their evaluation. The following table compares Penjom’s life-of-mine ore production from the audited mineral resources included within the present open pit design, after adjusting for production up to 31 March 2002, with the Company’s new estimate of ore production.

	Tonnes	Grade (Au g/t)	Troy Ounces
Company’s Estimate	2,678,225	6.75	581,500
Audited Estimate	1,720,244	6.03	333,650
Difference	+36%	+12%	+43%



The Company's new estimate above not only includes its own re-interpretation of Penjom's audited resources based on reconciliation results to date, but also a reduction in cut-off grades from 2.0 g/t to 1.5 g/t to reflect higher gold prices, and the addition of approximately 100,000 ounces previously omitted. This additional resource had been under evaluation for possible extraction by underground mining methods. Although results showed that the economics of underground mining were comparable with mining the resource in a new open pit design, the latter option was selected as more compatible with existing operations. However, underground mining remains an option for possible resources outside Penjom's current pit limits. This potential and a number of other exploration targets at Penjom will be the focus of a new, high priority exploration programme.

North Lanut, Indonesia

North Lanut includes two adjacent gold deposits, Riska and Effendi, which are the most advanced of the gold prospects discovered by Newmont within the 460 square miles of exploration and mining rights that the Company acquired from Newmont in March 2002.

To date, the Company has received results for the first 18 diamond drill holes completed. The table below summarises the results from all holes.

Drill Hole	From (m)	To (m)	Interval (m)	Average Grade (g/t Au)
NLD-56	0	153.5	153.5	1.28
incl.	34.2	78.2	44.0	2.03
and	102.2	136.5	34.3	1.85
NLD-57A	49.0	174.4*	125.4	3.30
incl.	81.0	113.0	32.0	8.27
NLD-58	59.0	110.7*	51.7	1.24
NLD-59	37.0	41.0	4.0	2.02
NLD-60	0	111.7*	111.7	1.53
incl.	75.5	85.5	10.0	6.41
and	97.5	109.5	12.0	3.36
NLD-61	57.5	148.7*	91.2	3.40
incl.	69.5	73.5	4.0	18.7
and	113.0	117.0	4.0	12.0
NLD-62	65.5	93.5*	28.0	1.08
NLD-63	63.5	84.0	20.5	1.89
NLD-64	92.0	104.5	12.5	2.23
NLD-65	18.0	32.0	14.0	1.25
NLD-66	81.0	89.0	8.0	1.27
NLD-67	5.0	19.0	14.0	1.32
NLD-68	68.0	84.0	16.0	1.13
NLD-69	19.0	51.0	32.0	1.50
NLD-70	110.0	124.0	14.0	1.86
NLD-71	46.0	58.0	12.0	0.82
NLD-72	40.5	164.5	124.0	2.18
incl.	116.5	144.5	28.0	2.91
NLD-73	0	141.7	141.7	2.22
incl.	94.0	108.0	14.0	10.2

* indicates that mineralisation is open at depth

Note: Standard sampling procedures were followed whereby drill core was sawn in half using a diamond saw then sampled on two metre or smaller intervals, leaving half of the core for archival storage on site in Indonesia. Gold is analysed using a standard fire assay technique by an independent Indonesian subsidiary of Analabs. Analabs is an internationally recognised firm owned and

operated by Scientific Services Ltd., an Australian Stock Exchange listed company.

The North Lanut drill programme is assessing the potential for a 400,000 ounce measured and indicated gold resource in the upper 175 metres of the Riska deposit where the ore is most likely to be amenable to low cost open pit mining and heap leaching. This involves testing the core of the deposit to evaluate grade continuity and provide samples for metallurgical test work. It also involves drilling the flanks of the deposit to assess the lateral extent of mineralisation.

In general, the Company's exploration results to date indicate that Riska, alone, could meet Avocet's minimum ore resource target. Newmont's drilling results on both Riska and Effendi outlined a mineral inventory of 800,000 ounces of gold with an average grade of 1.2 g/t. Avocet anticipates that it will complete a pre-feasibility study on the North Lanut project sufficient to make a mine development decision by the end of 2002.

Avocet is a mining company listed on the main board of the London Stock Exchange although it has recently announced its intention to move to the Alternative Investment Market (AIM). The Company's principal activities are gold mining and exploration in Malaysia and Indonesia and the operation of a tungsten mine in Portugal.

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