

News Release

For Immediate Release

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EXCITING DRILL RESULTS CONFIRM RESOURCE POTENTIAL AT BAKAN

Avocet Mining PLC (“Avocet” or “the Company”) is pleased to announce continued exploration success from the Bakan District in the Company’s 80% owned Mongondow Contract of Work (CoW) in Indonesia, on which the Company’s North Lanut mining operation is located. The Bakan District is approximately 25km from North Lanut and is the main new initiative in the Mongondow CoW with the potential for the discovery of a significantly larger deposit than the Company’s initial target of 500,000 ounces.

Following the results of scout drilling reported on 11 July and 16 November 2005, Avocet has focused on defining the gold resource hosted by the Durian and Osela prospects in the Bakan District. The Company has recently completed a 27-hole (3,511.2 metres) resource-definition diamond drilling programme at Durian. This programme, drilled on 50-metre centres, has confirmed continuous, oxidised, high-sulphidation epithermal mineralisation over a minimum strike length of 600 metres, width of 100-150 metres and depth of up to 150 metres from surface.

Table 1 summarises the significant intersections, including 78m at 2.47 g/t Au, 58m at 1.88 g/t Au, 86m at 1.40 g/t Au, 79.3m at 1.56 g/t Au and 29m at 3.56 g/t Au. Hole locations are laid out in **Figure 1**. The higher grade intercepts occur where NW-striking faults intersect the NNE-trending ridge that hosts the deposit. There is also a zone of higher-grade mineralisation (> 2 g/t Au) at 10-50 metres depth along the ridge. This will have a positive impact on the economics of any resources.

The style of mineralisation at Durian is similar to that at the Company’s Riska deposit, currently being mined at North Lanut. Metallurgical test work is underway to confirm preliminary results that show the ore is amenable to the low cost dump leaching process employed at North Lanut. Like Riska, Durian is situated on a ridge, which minimises the potential waste to ore stripping ratio.

Drilling rigs are currently undertaking a similar first-phase, resource definition programme at the nearby Osela prospect. This should be completed by the end of May. Formal grade modelling in June will allow us to report indicated and inferred resources in the summer of 2006. A second-phase drilling programme for grade-infill, metallurgical and geotechnical purposes will follow in the second half of 2006. Avocet is targeting a minimum 500,000 ounce resource base for the development of a new mine in the Bakan District by 2008. The Bakan District has the potential for the discovery of a significantly larger deposit than the Company’s initial target of 500,000 ounces being

discovered on account of additional mineralisation already identified in the Camp and Main Ridge areas (see press release of 11 July 2005).

Avocet is a mining company listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange. The Company's principal activities are gold mining and exploration in Malaysia (as 100% owner of the Penjom mine, the country's largest gold producer), Tajikistan (as 75% owner and operator of the ZGC, Tajikistan's principal gold mine), and Indonesia (as 80% owner of the North Lanut gold mine in North Sulawesi). The Company has a number of advanced mining and exploration projects in Asia and owns 29% of Dynasty Gold Corporation, a Canadian listed exploration company active in Western China.

All references to resources and exploration results have been approved for release by Mr Peter Flindell, BSc (Hons) MAusIMM, Chief Geologist for Avocet, who has more than 20 years experience in the field of activity concerned and is a Competent Person as defined by the JORC Code (2004). He has consented to the inclusion of the material in the form and context in which it appears.

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Table 1: Recent significant drillhole intersections from the Durian Prospect

Hole ID	East (m)	North (m)	RL (m)	Azimuth (°)	Dip (°)	Depth (m)	From (m)	To (m)	Interval (m)	Grade (g/t Au)	Comments
BKD038	645204	62452	750	270	-55	90.3	16.0	36.0	20.0	0.95	
BKD039	645139	62402	754	270	-65	190.7	44.0	184.0	140.0	0.72	incl. 4m @ 4.13 g/t Au from 58m
BKD040	645181	62501	752	270	-60	141.2	6.0	46.0	40.0	0.81	
BKD041	645181	62550	750	270	-65	109.0	4.0	109.0	105.0	0.84	incl. 2m @ 5.85 g/t Au from 28m; and 6m @ 3.16 g/t Au from 54m
BKD042	645190	62649	755	270	-65	148.2	12.0	50.0	38.0	0.61	
							84.0	122.0	38.0	0.76	
BKD043	645006	62248	734	90	-55	160.4	10.0	32.0	22.0	0.88	
BKD044	645071	62354	727	90	-60	139.3	1.4	12.0	10.6	1.28	
							34.0	68.0	34.0	1.06	
							74.0	122.0	48.0	0.54	
BKD045	644915	62265	754	215	-60	91.7	11.0	22.0	11.0	0.77	
BKD046	644922	62260	753	90	-60	140.0	2.0	22.0	20.0	1.51	
							82.0	102.0	20.0	0.78	
BKD047	645163	62451	751	270	-60	90.0	18.0	48.0	30.0	0.53	
BKD048	644980	62152	757	90	-65	136.6	3.0	32.0	29.0	0.49	
							58.0	124.0	66.0	0.77	
BKD049	645218	62550	735	270	-55	182.5	41.0	57.0	16.0	0.73	
							80.0	99.0	19.0	1.03	
BKD050	645006	62195	750	215	-55	95.0	0.0	78.0	78.0	2.47	incl. 35m @ 4.73 g/t Au from 12m
BKD051	645058	62251	751	90	-55	145.0	58.0	64.0	6.0	1.70	
							74.0	120.0	46.0	0.53	
BKD052	644949	62205	744	90	-55	171.6	11.0	38.0	27.0	1.08	
							44.0	63.0	19.0	0.43	
BKD053	645222	62500	738	270	-50	99.1	13.0	56.0	43.0	1.24	incl. 6m @ 4.31 g/t Au from 47m
BKD054	645036	62201	755	90	-70	153.6	12.0	70.0	58.0	1.88	incl. 16m @ 4.72 g/t Au from 38m
							114.0	153.6	39.6	0.69	
BKD055	645015	62150	769	90	-65	163.7	18.0	76.0	58.0	1.66	incl. 6m @ 2.29 g/t Au from 33m; and 12m @ 3.42 g/t Au from 53m
							105.0	135.0	30.0	1.07	incl. 4m @ 2.88 g/t Au from 115m
BKD056	645180	62605	758	270	-70	126.2	2.0	88.0	86.0	1.40	incl. 23m @ 3.53 g/t Au from 26m
BKD057	645181	62401	747	270	-55	130.9	41.0	65.0	24.0	1.16	incl. 4m @ 2.76 g/t Au from 49m
							101.0	125.0	24.0	0.78	
BKD058	645005	62099	759	90	-55	72.0	41.0	67.0	26.0	0.42	
BKD059	645090	62302	765	270	-65	107.0	18.0	65.0	47.0	0.48	
							78.0	90.0	12.0	1.37	incl. 4m @ 2.51 g/t Au from 84m
BKD060	645233	62600	733	270	-55	79.2	64.0	79.2	15.2	0.45	
BKD061	645117	62350	759	90	-65	121.3	42.0	121.3	79.3	1.56	
BKD062	645221	62650	742	270	-60	142.6	2.0	42.0	40.0	0.77	
							123.0	129.0	6.0	2.77	incl. 3m @ 4.66 g/t Au from 124m
BKD063	645103	62401	745	270	-70	137.0	30.0	59.0	29.0	3.56	incl. 13m @ 6.70 g/t Au from 44m
							65.0	124.0	59.0	0.87	incl. 9m @ 2.84 g/t Au from 69m
BKD067	645169	62307	750	270	-55	147.1	15.0	40.0	25.0	1.28	incl. 7m @ 2.43 g/t Au from 31m
							62.0	81.0	19.0	0.53	

Notes: Individual gold assays have a top cut of 100 g/t Au for intercept calculations.
All holes are drilled from surface using conventional triple-tube diamond drilling techniques.
Core recoveries exceed 95% for all mineralised intervals reported.
Holes 064, 065 and 066 are drilled at Osela.

Figure 1: Plan of drillhole intersections from the Durian Prospect

