



Avocet Mining

Avocet Mining PLC

7th Floor 9 Berkeley Street

London W1J 8DW

Tel +44 (0) 20 7907 9000

Fax +44 (0) 20 7907 9019

E-mail avocetmining@avocet.co.uk

www.avocet.co.uk

News Release

For Immediate Release

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ZGC RESOURCES INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY AT JILAU PIT

Avocet Mining PLC ("Avocet" or "the Company") is pleased to announce an increase in the gold resources at ZGC's Jilau operations in Tajikistan of 802,000 ounces to over 2.7 million ounces of contained gold. This represents a 40% increase in the resource base net of depletion. ZGC now has total resources of 5.6 million ounces of contained gold that meet the guidelines of the JORC code. These are contained in the Jilau, Khirskhona, Taror and Chore deposits. The 3,000km² joint venture area controlled by ZGC contains an additional 11.3 million ounces of resources categorised by Soviet standards (C+P), but not to JORC compliant standards.

In November 2004, Avocet increased its equity interest in ZGC from 49% to 75% (the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan holds the remaining 25%). The Company then commenced an expansion and refurbishment of operations with the main objectives of increasing gold production and lowering unit costs. Part of that expansion plan was infill and definition drilling in and around the main Jilau open pit, known as Jilau Main. Drilling and ongoing waste stripping in the pit has now merged the Jilau Main and Jilau North open pits into the one Jilau Pit.

Exploration results increased the resource base for the Jilau Pit by 389,000 ounces using a 0.5 g/t Au cut off grade and net of depletion. However, with the successful commencement of low-cost dump leach operations adjacent to the Jilau Pit and our ability to treat low-grade ore, the cut-off grade has now been lowered to 0.3 g/t Au. This has contributed to an overall resource increase for the Jilau Pit of 645,000 ounces to a total of 2,317,100 ounces gold. Additional drilling at the smaller Khirskhona open pit to the north has increased resources by 157,000 ounces to 421,700 ounces above a 0.3 g/t Au cut-off. All deposits remain open at depth and along strike. The Company is confident of future significant increases in the resource base for Jilau's operations.

The table below lists the revised resources in the Jilau district using a 0.3 g/t cut-off:

	Measured + Indicated		Inferred		Total	
	tonnes	grade	tonnes	grade	tonnes	grade
	ounces		ounces		ounces	
Jilau Main	38,670,100	1.05	28,215,900	0.79	66,886,000	0.94
	1,304,500		716,200		2,020,700	
Jilau North	4,145,400	0.90	5,158,400	1.06	9,303,800	0.99
	120,300		176,100		296,400	
Khirsikhona	9,449,000	0.73	6,835,000	0.91	16,284,000	0.81
	222,400		199,300		421,700	
Total Jilau Pits	52,264,500	0.98	40,209,300	0.84	92,473,800	0.92
	1,647,200		1,091,600		2,738,800	

ZGC will complete a new mine production schedule based on the expanded resources by May 2006. Given Jilau's resource potential, the Company is looking at options to increase substantially gold production above the 85,000 ounces per year currently planned.

Current operations at Jilau are concentrated on waste removal at the Jilau Pit where the Company expects to reach consistent high grade ore by the summer of 2006. This should allow the operation to return to break even cash flow with a substantial pick up in gold production from the current level of approximately 3,000 ounces per month.

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.

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.

For further information please contact:

Avocet Mining PLC

John Catchpole (Chief Executive)

Jonathan Henry (Finance Director)

020 7907 9000