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Ormonde Mining plc

New Gold Zone at Salamanca

DUBLIN & LONDON: 26 January 2006 - Ormonde Mining plc ("Ormonde" or "the Company") reports positive exploration results obtained from the Salamanca Gold Project in western Spain, where it is earning a 90 per cent interest. The results confirm Salamanca as a highly prospective, multi-target gold play. Ormonde plans to advance the project through further exploration including drilling.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Results from a soil sampling survey highlight a large and coherent zone of gold anomalism, measuring **1.5 kilometres in length** and up to **200 metres wide**, possibly representing a new bulk tonnage target in the area.
- Rock samples taken across the survey area from both newly recognised zones and known tungsten-gold occurrences, have returned a number of high-grade gold results including **51.4, 36.6 and 27.3 grams per tonne gold** ("g/t Au").
- Prospecting work has highlighted several additional areas of interest, with one in particular returning sample grades including **56.2, 51.5, 29.9, 23.1 and 21.3 g/t Au** over a wide area, suggesting that gold mineralization may be significantly more extensive than indicated by work of previous operators.

Kerr Anderson, Managing Director, said today,

"We are very pleased with the results so far from Salamanca, and the emergence of new zones with discovery potential combined with the evaluation of known but under-explored tungsten-gold prospects, gives us a very positive outlook for this year's drilling programmes. Salamanca is a rapidly progressing project, demonstrating that in addition to La Zarza we have several projects in Spain which could add substantial value for shareholders."

SOIL SAMPLING

In areas where bedrock is not exposed at the surface, systematic soil sampling gives an indication of underlying gold enriched zones. Ormonde and its JV partners have sampled an area of 14 square kilometres, which covers several tungsten-gold occurrences and is also considered to be highly prospective for further, hitherto unrecognized gold mineralization.

Sampling was carried out on a 200 by 50 metre grid. Interpretation of the sample results has produced an extensive and coherent gold anomaly (greater than 75 parts per billion gold, with a maximum value of 315 ppb) over a portion of the area where no mineralization of any kind has previously been identified. The anomaly has a linear geometry, probably representing a structural trend, with a length of 1.5 kilometres and width between 100 and 200 metres. There is potential for the anomaly to extend further in length into an area as yet unexplored; sampling in this area is currently in progress.

Although bedrock exposure is very poor over the anomalous area, field observations at one locality suggest that mineralization is typified by swarms of arsenopyrite-bearing, quartz-filled fractures within a granite host rock. This is the same granite body which hosts the Barruecopardo Tungsten Mine (see below) and therefore has established mineralizing potential.

Several other anomalous zones have been identified across the survey area, each of which will be the subject of follow-up work in the current sampling phase. Once detailed sampling has identified the priority target areas, a preliminary drilling campaign will ensue.

ROCK SAMPLING

Grab sampling of outcropping veins, loose blocks and mining waste dumps over the same area as the soil survey has further confirmed the prospectivity of the Salamanca vein systems with results as follows:

Total samples: **223**

Highest gold values: **51.4, 36.6, 27.3, 16.8 and 14.3 g/t Au**

Samples over 5 g/t Au: **10 (4 per cent)**

Samples between 1 and 5 g/t Au: **22 (10 per cent)**

Samples between 0.1 and 1 g/t Au: **95 (43 per cent)**.

REGIONAL PROSPECTING

Prospecting has assessed large areas of the permits, and has identified several areas of interest for detailed evaluation. At one area in particular, sampling predominantly of iron oxide rich quartz vein material along a 4.5 kilometre trend suggests that gold mineralization may be significantly more extensive than indicated by previous operator work, with results as follows:

Total samples: **166**

Highest values: **56.2, 51.5, 29.9, 23.1 and 21.3 g/t Au**

Samples over 5 g/t Au: **15 (9 per cent)**

Samples between 1 and 5 g/t Au: **23 (14 per cent)**

Samples between 0.1 and 1 g/t Au: **49 (30 per cent)**.

TUNGSTEN POTENTIAL

In addition to pure gold exploration plays exemplified by the new soil sampling, several tungsten-gold targets will be evaluated with a view to their joint commodity potential. Prices of tungsten concentrates, which are traded through private contracts and not on an open market, have increased three-fold in the past year in market conditions which are expected to remain buoyant for the long term. The Salamanca permits include the Barruecopardo Tungsten Mine, which closed in the early 1980s and which during its operation was one of Europe's largest tungsten producers boasting one of the highest quality tungsten products in the market.

Enquiries to:

Kerr Anderson, Managing Director,
Ormonde Mining plc Tel: +353 (0)46 9073623

Fraser Gardiner, Director,
Ormonde Mining plc Tel: +353 (0)86 3931178

Simon Rothschild / Nicola Biles / Keith Irons
Bankside Consultants Tel: +44 (0)20 7367 8888

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ormonde considers the Salamanca area to be one of the most prospective gold terrains in Spain. The Company has agreements with two private Spanish companies to earn a 90 per cent interest in a permitted area of 720 square kilometres, by staged funding of exploration totalling €2.2 million over a five year period. The permits cover deposits with potential for high-grade zones and several prospects where there has been no or only limited follow-up exploration.

Ormonde Mining plc is quoted on the AIM in London and the IEX in Dublin. The Company's objective is to build a mid-sized mining company by developing gold projects in Spain where it has a strong local Spanish management team, supported by a Board with extensive mine development and exploration experience.

For more information and contact details including email, please visit www.ormondemining.com.