



**Alba Mineral Resources plc  
("Alba" or "the Company")**

**Alba Enters Joint Venture With Boliden Tara Mines Limited.**

Alba Mineral Resources plc (AIM: ALBA), the UK based exploration company, is pleased to announce that it has signed a Joint Venture arrangement (the Joint Venture) with Boliden Tara Mines Limited (Tara) on 31 March 2006 to explore for gold at the Company's Lough Gowna licence block in Ireland. Alba and Tara each hold a 50% interest in the licence block which the two companies jointly applied for and were awarded on 27 May 2004.

Under the cooperative venture both parties have committed to fund an initial study of the Lough Gowna block's potential for palaeoplacer and shear hosted gold mineralization.

The Joint Venture has compiled and digitally acquired all relevant historical exploration data for the project and intends to shortly commence exploration which will focus on the quartz-pebble conglomerate target-horizon. An ultra-fine stream sediment survey is planned during April 2006, with any highlighted anomalous areas to be subjected to detailed follow-up surveys to generate drill-targets

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors**

Alba Mineral Resources PLC is a junior explorer with a diversified commodity portfolio, primarily nickel, gold, copper, cobalt and platinum group metals, focussed on the Appalachian-Caledonide trend, a zone extending from the eastern seaboard of North America to Scandinavia. Alba currently has interests in a number of well researched properties in Scotland and Ireland, owned in its own right or in conjunction with other parties.

## **Background**

The Lough Gowna Block gold project consists of six contiguous exploration licences totaling 222.50 square kilometres at the southwestern end of the Slieve Glah Shear Zone, on the southwestern margins of the Longford-Down Inlier, approximately 20km north-east of Longford Town, Co. Longford.

The main target of exploration activity on the block is gold-bearing quartz pebble conglomerates which have been previously identified in the lower Carboniferous clastic beds that unconformably overly Ordovician and Silurian turbidites. Gold has been panned from streams in the area and a sample of quartz pebble conglomerate outcrop taken by Tara Mines Ltd. in 1992 returned a value of 1.0 g/t gold.