



3rd January 2007

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

Award of Licences and Trading Update

Alba, the UK based exploration company announces the award of a further five exploration licences and one permit across its diversified commodities portfolio and provides an update of progress in Aberdeenshire.

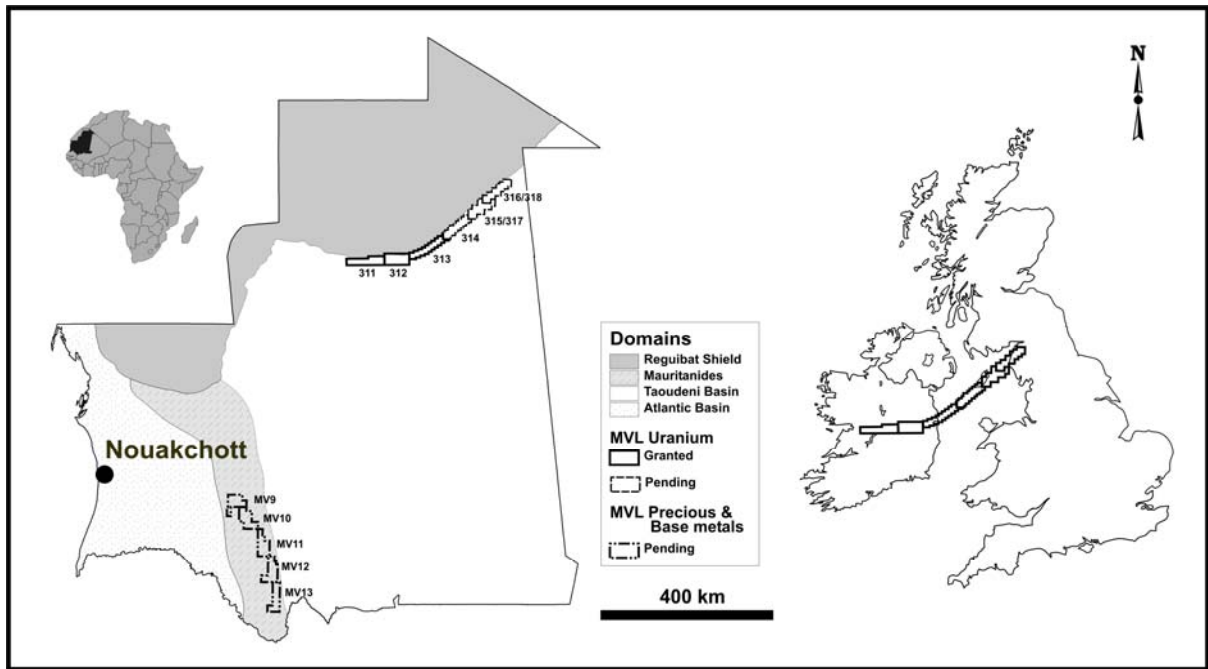
Highlights

- New exploration focus for 2007
- Alba's 50 per cent. owned UK subsidiary Mauritania Ventures Limited ("MVL") awarded third uranium exploration permit in Mauritania
- Crown Estate Commissioners award Alba four gold and silver exploration licences in Scotland
- Alba awarded nickel exploration licence at Milletorp in southern Sweden
- Companhia Vale do Rio Dolce ("CVRD") of Brazil waive option and withdraw from Scottish exploration in Aberdeenshire

Mauritania: Award of third exploration licence

The Company is pleased to announce that MVL has been awarded a third uranium exploration permit (313), which covers an area of 1,493 km², in northern Mauritania. MVL's three uranium exploration permits in Mauritania now total 4,465 km², with three additional uranium exploration permits pending that cover 4,478 km². In addition, two gold and base-metals exploration permits within the same target area and covering approximately 2,985 km² area also pending.

Work programme development has commenced on the uranium permit areas in Mauritania with database construction and detailed target generation studies using remote sensing (Landsat and ASTER). Field-based exploration work will commence in January 2007.



Map showing Mauritania Ventures Ltd permit position in Mauritania and (for comparison) a map of the UK and Ireland with the Mauritania uranium permits superimposed.

Sweden: Award of eighth exploration licence

The Swedish Mining Inspectorate (Bergsstaten) has recently granted Alba an eighth nickel exploration licence in southern Sweden. The Milletorp Nr1 licence covers an area of 4.96 km², and is centred on a gabbro intrusion that contains disseminated sulphide mineralization. Milletorp is situated 24 km south of Kleva Ni-Cu-Co mine near Vetlanda, a past producing mine, where the Company has another exploration licence located nearby. Several of the granted licences demonstrate potential for other metalliferous targets, which the Company will also evaluate.

Scotland: Crown Estate Commissioners issues gold and silver exploration licences

The Crown Estate Commissioners have issued four gold and silver exploration licences in Alba's favour at Aberfeldy and Ochil Hills, both in Perthshire, Kilmelford in Argyllshire and at Arthrath in Aberdeenshire.

Each licence represents a different style and age of mineralization: Dalradian mesothermal-vein (Aberfeldy), Devonian epithermal (Ochil Hills) Devonian intrusion-hosted (Kilmelford), and Ordovician mafic intrusion (Arthrath). Land access negotiations are underway and upon conclusion of access agreements it is hoped that field programmes will be initiated during Q2 2007.

Agreement with CVRD

Alba have been advised by INCO (Europe) Ltd, whose parent company were recently acquired by CVRD, that they will not be exercising their option to continue exploration activities at the Company's Aberdeenshire property in Scotland.

This decision is based partly on their interpretation of recent geophysical results where moderate and low conductors were established over the 7 km strike length of the project area, and CVRD's criteria for continued involvement. Alba will continue to work on the property and the wider regional area, with a view to assessing the potential of the known area as a large tonnage, economically viable deposit

Managing Director's Statement

Michael Nott, Managing Director, Alba Mineral Resources commented, "We are particularly pleased to have been awarded a third uranium exploration permit in Mauritania where we have established a large ground position now totalling some 4,465 sq kilometres on especially prospective ground. We will commence our ground exploration work employing surface radiometrics and lithochemical sampling in January 2007.

Whilst we are disappointed that CVRD have decided to withdraw from the agreement in Scotland, the Company believes that the nickel project in Aberdeenshire, with established infrastructure, continues to have economic merit when compared to other sulphide nickel occurrences throughout the world. Alba will continue with an exploration programme, both locally and regionally, to explore the economic potential of this known area of mineralization.

In addition to our work in Aberdeenshire and Mauritania, the licences in Sweden and Scotland offer the Company significant opportunities to carry forward additional projects with the positive goal of establishing economically viable deposits.

We plan to focus our exploration efforts on these areas within the constraints of the financial resources available to the Company and the Company will be looking to raise additional funds in the foreseeable future to enable it to continue to advance the development of its project portfolio."

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Notes to Editors

Alba Mineral Resources plc is a committed, technically driven explorer with a commodity focus on uranium, nickel and gold. Alba currently has interests in a number of well researched properties owned in its own right or in conjunction with other parties, primarily in Scotland, Mauritania and Sweden. The Company also has gold and base metal interests in Scotland and Ireland.

The Company's overall corporate and exploration strategy will continue to be one of developing a portfolio of well-researched, promising and prospective exploration properties that will be pursued further, either in the Company's own right or in conjunction with other parties.

To create and realise value, projects will be either sold outright (in whole or part), spun off into a separate company, joint ventured to include a cash consideration and/or maintaining a 'Net Smelter Return' or developed into operating mines. The Company will have a principal focus on the Arthrath nickel-copper-platinum group elements project in Scotland, uranium and copper-gold in Mauritania, and nickel and copper-gold in Sweden.

Alba will actively assess, as a priority, the uranium potential of the three uranium permits awarded in Mauritania, and are fully committed to continuing nickel exploration in Sweden as part of a collaborative exploration effort part funded by the Altius Minerals Corporation of Canada.

Precious- and base- metal properties in Ireland and Scotland will continue to form part of the Company portfolio and will be carried forward on a timely basis, with a view to seeking joint ventures on each where warranted