



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

### **Acquisition of Swedish Exploration Licences**

Alba Mineral Resources plc, the UK based exploration company with a diversified commodities portfolio, announces the award of four exploration licences for nickel, copper, cobalt, gold, silver, platinum and palladium (totalling 4501 hectares) in northern Sweden. This acquisition forms part of a strategic partnership with Altius Minerals Corporation (TSX-V: ALS) to explore for magmatic nickel sulphide deposits in Scandinavia. Work programmes have commenced and field programmes are scheduled for early Q2 2007.

#### **Highlights**

- **Award of four exploration licences in northern Sweden, totalling 4501 hectares, for nickel, copper, cobalt, gold, silver and platinum group metals (PGM)**
- **New licence areas considered highly prospective for ultramafic sill-hosted Ni-Cu-Co-PGM mineralization similar to the Thompson Nickel Belt in Canada based on previous geochemical and geophysical surveys**
- **Furuberget licence is only 6 km along strike from the known historical drilled nickel occurrence of Rörmyrberget (4 Mt with a grade of 0.6% Ni and 0.06% Cu)**

Michael Nott, Managing Director, Alba Mineral Resources commented; "The granting of four highly-prospective mineral licences in Sweden significantly enhances the Company's profile with respect to nickel exploration. We believe the similarities in geology between the northern Swedish licences and the Thompson Nickel Belt of Canada are promising, and are encouraged by the abundant nickel mineralization in adjacent areas".

#### **Granting of Exploration Licences**

The four awarded exploration licences in the Vindeln Nickel Belt of northern Sweden are as follows:

- Andersförs (500 hectares)
- Furuberget (770 hectares)
- Rössjön (2751 hectares)
- Skivsjön (480 hectares)

The licences award Alba the rights to explore for nickel (Ni), copper (Cu), cobalt (Co), gold (Au), silver (Ag) and platinum group metals (PGM). A work programme has commenced with

database construction and detailed target generation studies with field sampling programmes planned during the first half of 2007.

In accordance with the Swedish mining law, licences can only be explored by a Swedish registered company. Alba Mineral Resources Sweden AB has been established as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Alba to comply with this law and conduct this exploration work.

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## **Notes to Editors**

Alba Mineral Resources plc is a committed 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, Ireland and Sweden, owned in its own right or in conjunction with other parties.

## **Geology and Mineral Potential of the Licences**

The bedrock geology to the Vindeln Nickel Belt is a 1.90 Ga metamorphosed rift sedimentary sequence intruded by ultramafic sills. Ultramafic sills (intrusions) and lava flows are known to be intimately associated with the formation of magmatic sulphide mineral deposits. The geology and the known mineralization in the Vindeln Nickel Belt show similarities to the world-class Thompson Nickel Belt (Manitoba, Canada). The Thompson Nickel Belt annually produces more than 45,000 tonnes of nickel metal. Nickel sulphide mineralization in the Vindeln Nickel Belt occurs as disseminated to massive sulphide and breccia sulphide in ultramafic rock intruded into the rift stratigraphy and often extends into the wall rock.

The Company believes the four licences awarded by the Swedish Mining Inspectorate (Bergsstaten) are prospective for nickel mineralization based on bedrock geology, overburden geochemistry, geophysics and proximity to known sulphide accumulations. For example, the Furuberget licence is only 6 km along strike from the known historical drilled nickel occurrence of Rörmyrberget: 4 Mt with a grade of 0.6% Ni and 0.06% Cu (source Swedish Geological Survey, SGU).

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