



**Avocet Mining**

## News Release

For Immediate Release

Date: 7 February 2011

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### **POSITIVE DRILLING RESULTS FROM INATA NORTH**

Avocet Mining PLC (“Avocet” or “the Company”) announces positive results from the ongoing drilling campaign at its flagship Inata gold mine in Burkina Faso. Initial results are from the first 123 reverse circulation drill holes (28,579 metres) that have tested the northern extensions of the resource at Inata North and Sayouba (refer to Figure 1), as well as targeting ore at depth beneath mineralisation that is already included in the existing 1.84 million ounce resource at Inata (excluding Souma). The results show that the resource extends along strike and at depth, and support the Company’s target of doubling reserves at Inata by the third quarter of 2011. Highlights are summarised in Table 1 and include:

#### Inata North

- 39m @ 3.01 g/t Au from 93m (incl. 10m @ 5.41 g/t Au);
- 28m @ 3.13 g/t Au from 146m (incl. 8m @ 4.30 g/t Au and 8m @ 4.61 g/t Au);
- 7m @ 3.23 g/t Au from 150m; and
- 7m @ 3.22 g/t Au from 173m (incl. 3m @ 6.98 g/t Au)

#### Sayouba

- 3m @ 18.5 g/t Au from 31m;
- 17m @ 1.60 g/t Au from 81m;
- 18m @ 1.29 g/t Au from 158m (incl. 5m @ 2.81 g/t Au);
- 7m @ 2.83 g/t Au from 135m (incl. 3m @ 5.86 g/t Au); and
- 12m @ 1.64 g/t Au from 152m (incl. 5m @ 3.03 g/t Au).

Avocet is currently undertaking a 200,000 metre reverse circulation and diamond drilling programme designed to define the full scale of the Inata deposit and the mineralised systems close to Inata. The initial focus is on the Inata mine lease where the Company has completed 55,500 metres of the planned 110,000 metres. Further drilling assays are expected in the coming weeks and months.

The results from this programme confirm the down-dip and strike continuity of gold mineralisation at Inata North and Sayouba. The near surface intercepts in this area are broader than indicated by previous wide-spaced exploration drill holes and of similar gold grade. This suggests an increase in the resource tonnage in the near surface zone to the north of Inata North. Drilling results from Sayouba suggest that both an expansion of the resource tonnage and an increase in gold grades is likely.

Avocet will release regular updates on assay results throughout the coming months and is anticipating a mineral resource update in respect of Inata in April, with a reserve update expected in the third quarter of 2011.

An updated company presentation, including the following financial figures: cash balance of US\$51.7 million and net debt of US\$26.3 million as at 31 January 2011, is being made available today at the Mining Indaba in Cape Town and can be accessed on our website at [www.avocet.co.uk](http://www.avocet.co.uk).

Commenting on the initial drilling results at Inata, Brett Richards, Chief Executive Officer for Avocet, stated:

*“These positive results indicate that we are on track to achieve our target of doubling our reserves at Inata, highlighting the significant mineralisation at Inata and in the Bélahouro district. Drilling is also progressing at our Tri-K project in Guinea and we look forward to announcing results of this drilling in the coming months”.*

*The information in this announcement that relates to Exploration Results is based on information reviewed and audited by Mr Peter Flindell (MAusIMM), Executive Vice President of Exploration for Avocet. Mr Flindell has sufficient experience relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration to qualify as a Qualified Person as defined by the Canadian National Instrument 43-101 for the reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves (NI 43-101) and as a Competent Person as defined by the Australian JORC Code (2004) for the reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Mr Flindell consents to the inclusion of the technical information in this announcement in the form and context in which it appears.*

*All holes were angled at -60 degrees towards the east at an average depth of 150m with the deepest at 500m. Samples were submitted to SGS Laboratory in Ouagadougou and Intertek Mineral Services in Tarkwa, Ghana for Fire Assay using a 50 gram charge.*

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For further information please contact:

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## Notes to Editors

Avocet Mining PLC (“Avocet” or “the Company”) is a gold mining company listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange (Ticker: AVM.L) and the Oslo Børs (Ticker: AVM.OL). The Company’s principal activities are gold mining and exploration in Burkina Faso (as 90 per cent owner of the Inata gold mine), Malaysia (as 100 per cent owner of the Penjom gold mine, the country’s largest gold producer) and Indonesia (as 80 per cent owner of the North Lanut gold mine and Bakan project in North Sulawesi).

In December 2010 Avocet announced that it had signed a binding agreement for the conditional sale of its South East Asian assets to J&Partners L.P, a private company, for US\$200 million. The transaction with J&Partners will leave Avocet as a West African gold producer with a clear strategy for growth in that region. Further details can be found in the press release dated 24 December 2010

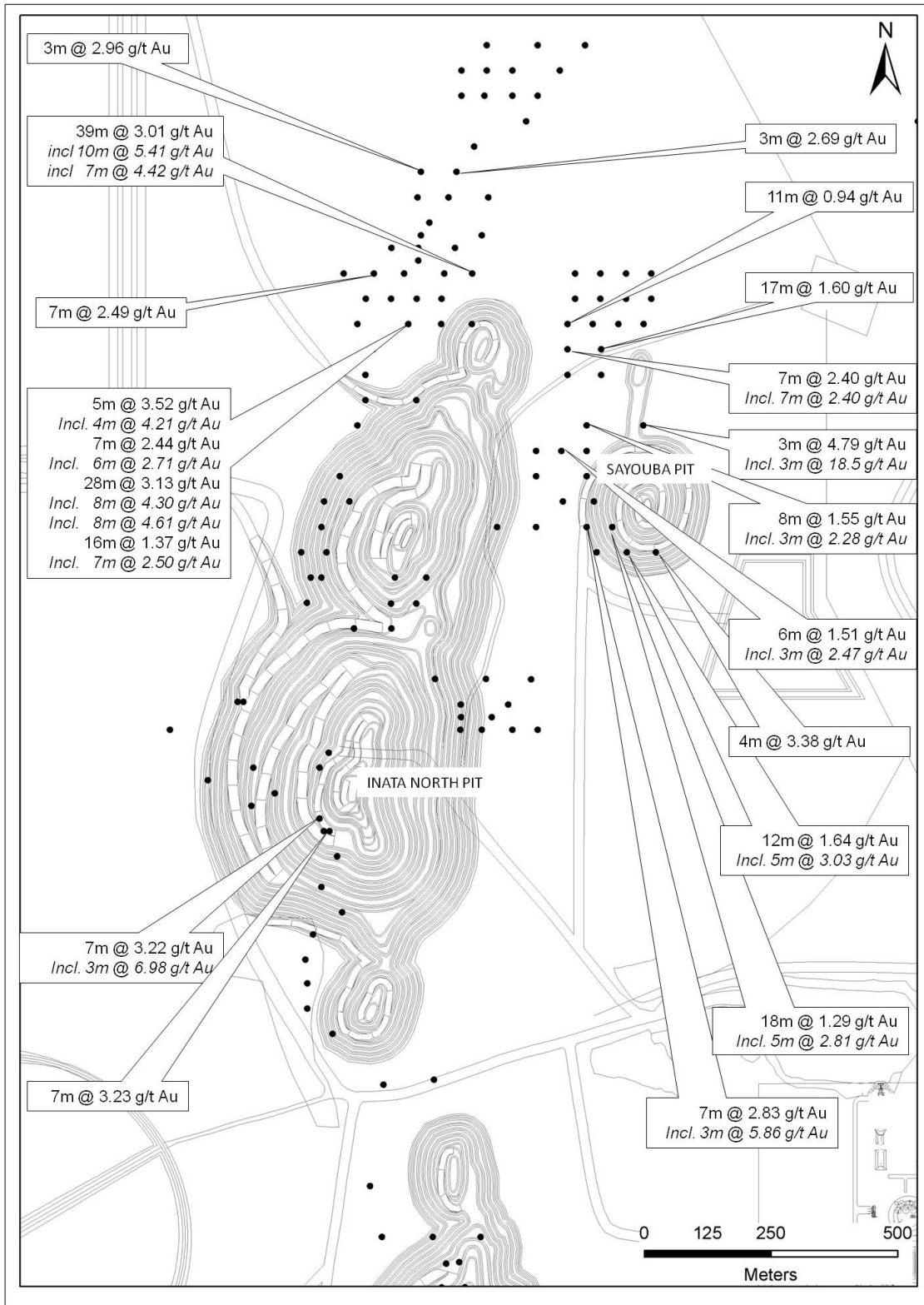
### *Background to operations*

The Inata deposit presently comprises a Mineral Resource of 1.84 million ounces and a Mineral Reserve of 1.08 million ounces. Inata poured its first gold in December 2009 and has now reached a production rate in excess of 12,000 ounces per month. Other assets in West Africa include exploration permits in Burkina Faso (the most advanced being the Souma trend at Bélahouro with a Mineral Resource of 560,000 ounces), Guinea and Mali (the most advanced being the Tri-K gold exploration project in Guinea with a Mineral Resource of 666,500 ounces).

Penjom is Malaysia’s largest gold mine and was developed by Avocet in an area of historic alluvial mining. The mine is located in Pahang State, approximately 120 km north of the country’s capital, Kuala Lumpur.

North Lanut in North Sulawesi, Indonesia, was developed by Avocet from the exploration stage and has produced over 270,000 ounces since it was commissioned in 2004. North Lanut is located within a Contract of Work, which includes exploration and mining rights over approximately 50,000 hectares in an area highly prospective for gold. Avocet holds an 80 per cent interest and an Indonesian company, PT Leborg Tandai, owns the remaining 20 per cent.

Figure 1 – Inata Mining Permit



**TABLE 1 – SUMMARY OF DRILLHOLE INTERCEPTS AT INATA NORTH AND SAYOUBA**

Hole ID	East	North	RL	Az	Dip	EOH (m)	From (m)	To (m)	Width (m)	Grade (g/t Au)	Including	Prospect
INRC1590	683,023	1,589,652	353	90	-60	204	187	190	3	0.77		Inata North
							193	199	6	1.05		Inata North
INRC1594	683,044	1,589,752	346	90	-60	166	163	166	3	0.56		Inata North
INRC1600	683,193	1,589,800	341	90	-60	198	119	123	4	0.37		Inata North
INRC1603	683,246	1,589,851	341	90	-60	202	38	43	5	0.41		Inata North
INRC1606	683,295	1,590,052	339	90	-60	200	138	143	5	1.49		Inata North
<b>INRC1700</b>	<b>683,246</b>	<b>1,589,103</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1.55</b>	3m @ 2.28 g/t Au	Sayouba
INRC1701	683,248	1,589,051	343	90	-60	177	92	97	5	0.49		Sayouba
							100	103	3	1.36		Sayouba
							113	120	7	1.11		Sayouba
							132	138	6	1.00		Sayouba
							144	150	6	0.75		Sayouba
INRC1702	683,196	1,589,051	342	90	-60	201	155	161	6	1.51	3m @ 2.47 g/t Au	Sayouba
INRC1703	683,247	1,589,000	342	90	-60	199	97	100	3	2.86		Sayouba
							131	135	4	0.43		Sayouba
<b>INRC1704</b>	<b>683,261</b>	<b>1,588,951</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>202</b>	119	123	4	0.42		Sayouba
							143	149	6	0.64		Sayouba
							<b>152</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1.64</b>	5m @ 3.03 g/t Au	Sayouba
							<b>179</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.38</b>		Sayouba
<b>INRC1706</b>	<b>683,249</b>	<b>1,588,903</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1.29</b>	5m @ 2.81 g/t Au	Sayouba
INRC1707	683,073	1,588,903	341	90	-60	186	149	153	4	1.62		Sayouba
<b>INRC1709</b>	<b>683,267</b>	<b>1,588,849</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2.83</b>	3m @ 5.86 g/t Au	Sayouba
INRC1710	683,444	1,590,250	344	90	-60	198	69	74	5	1.56		Inata North
<b>INRC1712</b>	<b>683,358</b>	<b>1,589,102</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4.79</b>		Sayouba
							<b>31</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18.5</b>		Sayouba
INRC1713	683,544	1,590,650	344	90	-60	200	86	89	3	0.55		Inata North
							178	181	3	1.65		Inata North
<b>INRC1715</b>	<b>683,219</b>	<b>1,589,200</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>192</b>	158	164	6	1.23		Sayouba
							<b>167</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2.40</b>	5m @ 3.23 g/t Au	Sayouba
INRC1716	683,286	1,589,200	342	90	-60	176	85	89	4	1.30		Sayouba
							100	107	7	1.02		Sayouba
<b>INRC1719</b>	<b>683,209</b>	<b>1,589,250</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>192</b>	70	75	5	1.75		Sayouba
							<b>173</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.94</b>		Sayouba
							187	192	5	0.77		Sayouba
<b>INRC1720</b>	<b>683,278</b>	<b>1,589,251</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1.60</b>		Sayouba
							105	108	3	1.11		Inata North
INRC1722	683,961	1,589,302	350	90	-60	204	75	78	3	1.51		Inata North
							119	126	7	0.84		Inata North
							118	125	7	0.56		Inata North
<b>INRC1730</b>	<b>682,921</b>	<b>1,589,478</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>204</b>	72	75	3	0.85		Inata North
							108	114	6	0.45		Inata North
							<b>127</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.12</b>		Inata North
							145	149	4	0.79		Inata North
INRC1731	683,042	1,589,475	349	90	-60	168	20	28	8	0.64		Inata North
							112	116	4	0.79		Inata North
							157	162	5	0.73		Inata North
<b>INRC1732</b>	<b>682,973</b>	<b>1,589,552</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0.57</b>		Inata North
							<b>141</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1.71</b>		Inata North
<b>INRC1733</b>	<b>683,054</b>	<b>1,589,552</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>204</b>	32	37	5	1.27		Inata North
							<b>44</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0.69</b>		Inata North
							91	96	5	1.55		Inata North
INRC1747	682,998	1,589,752	344	90	-60	312	218	222	4	1.33		Inata North
							234	238	4	0.82		Inata North
							281	285	4	1.17		Inata North

Hole ID	East	North	RL	Az	Dip	EOH (m)	From (m)	To (m)	Width (m)	Grade (g/t Au)	Including	Prospect
INRC1748	683,049	1,589,801	344	90	-60	240	195	198	3	0.72		Inata North
INRC1750	683,025	1,589,852	345	90	-60	270	216	219	3	2.96		Inata North
							222	225	3	0.43		Inata North
INRC1751	683,149	1,589,853	343	90	-60	246	132	135	3	2.69		Inata North
							178	181	3	1.00		Inata North
INRC1752	682,990	1,589,452	348	90	-60	275	141	150	9	0.60		Inata North
INRC1752							249	253	4	1.04		Inata North
INRC1753	682,915	1,589,452	347	90	-60	345	99	108	9	0.92		Inata North
							134	138	4	0.54		Inata North
							164	170	6	0.71		Inata North
<b>INRC1754</b>	<b>682,732</b>	<b>1,588,326</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3.22</b>	3m @ 6.98 g/t Au	Inata North
<b>INRC1755</b>	<b>682,915</b>	<b>1,589,425</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.79</b>		Inata North
							<b>125</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1.65</b>		Inata North
							<b>207</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1.28</b>		Inata North
							218	224	6	1.55		Inata North
							246	251	5	0.78		Inata North
<b>INRC1756</b>	<b>682,744</b>	<b>1,588,301</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>240</b>	110	113	3	0.88		Inata North
							<b>150</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3.23</b>		Inata North
							160	167	7	0.85		Inata North
INRC1757	682,777	1,588,254	288	90	-60	150	89	92	3	0.86		Inata North
<b>INRC1758</b>	<b>683,027</b>	<b>1,589,400</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>264</b>	43	46	3	0.82		Inata North
							<b>93</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3.01</b>	10m @ 5.41 g/t Au 7m @ 4.42 g/t Au	Inata North
							154	159	5	1.34		Inata North
<b>INRC1759</b>	<b>682,973</b>	<b>1,589,400</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3.52</b>	4m @ 4.21 g/t Au	Inata North
							49	54	5	1.80		Inata North
							59	62	3	1.54		Inata North
							<b>136</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2.44</b>	6m @ 2.71 g/t Au	Inata North
							<b>146</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3.13</b>	8m @ 4.30 g/t Au	Inata North
							<b>184</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1.37</b>	8m @ 4.61 g/t Au	Inata North
<b>INRC1760</b>	<b>682,886</b>	<b>1,589,400</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>276</b>	130	137	7	1.26	7m @ 2.50 g/t Au	Inata North
							147	155	8	0.82		Inata North
							205	209	4	0.72		Inata North
							<b>220</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2.49</b>		Inata North
INRD0062	682,910	1,589,351	347	90	-60	90	85	89	4	0.67		Inata North
INRD0063	682,828	1,589,400	345	90	-60	180	78	81	3	1.01		Inata North

Note: Individual gold assays have a top cut of 30 g/t Au and a lower cut of 0.5 g/t Au for intercept calculations.  
Maximum internal waste allowed is 2m and minimum mineralised interval is 1m  
All holes are drilled from surface using conventional reverse circulation drilling techniques and conducted by West African Drilling Services, a recognised independent drilling contractor.  
All samples have been prepared and analysed by SGS Laboratories in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Gold has been analysed by fire assay using a 50-gram charge.  
All sample batches have passed Avocet's QAQC protocols