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News Release

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POSITIVE DRILLING RESULTS FROM INATA, BURKINA FASO

Avocet Mining PLC (“Avocet” or “the Company”) announces positive results from the ongoing drilling campaign at its flagship Inata gold mine (“Inata”) in northern Burkina Faso. The latest drilling results are from the Minfo deposit (“Minfo”), which is the southernmost of five open pits in the current mine plan that are distributed along a 6 kilometre segment of the 18 kilometre long mineralised structure that hosts Inata (refer to Figure 1).

Assays have been received for 54 reverse circulation (“RC”) drill holes (5,583 metres) and 7 RC with diamond tail (“RD”) drill holes (1,396 metres) from a total programme of 62 RC drill holes (6,600 metres), 11 RD holes (2,100 metres) and 5 diamond (“DD”) drill holes (1,300 metres). These holes have tested mineralisation beneath and along strike from Minfo, which is part of the expanded Inata Mineral Resource of 1.84 million ounces, announced on 7 September 2010. The results received to date indicate that the resource at Minfo extends along strike and at depth. Highlights are summarised in Table 1 and include:

- 21 m @ 4.72 g/t Au from 5 m (incl. 14 m @ 6.25 g/t Au)
- 29 m @ 2.20 g/t Au from 89 m (incl. 7 m @ 5.65 g/t Au)
- 13 m @ 2.88 g/t Au from 80 m (incl. 6 m @ 4.16 g/t Au)
- 14 m @ 2.46 g/t Au from 50 m (incl. 2 m @ 7.06 g/t Au)
- 24 m @ 1.38 g/t Au from 13 m (incl. 5 m @ 2.03 g/t Au and 3 m @ 3.16 g/t Au)
- 8 m @ 3.23 g/t Au from 48 m (incl. 4 m @ 5.91 g/t Au)
- 6 m @ 4.13 g/t Au from 90 m (incl. 3 m @ 7.44 g/t Au)

Mineralisation at Minfo is associated with sheared quartz veins that strike east-west for 700 metres and dip steeply to the south. The identified mineralised structure correlates with a conductivity anomaly mapped by last year’s heliborne geophysical (VTEM) survey that

continues to the east for 4.5 kilometres through several known prospects and artisanal workings, including the Ouzeni and Filio prospects.

Drilling has been conducted on 50 metre spaced, north-south oriented lines over the main Minfo deposit. The recognition of the larger structure and nearby prospects in the results of the VTEM survey encouraged the Company to drill two step-out fences at 700 metres and 900 metres to the east of Minfo. One hole on each section (INRC1643 and INRC1648) returned broad, high-grade mineralised intervals that are wider and higher grade than at Minfo itself. This new discovery suggests potential for an additional open pit or an extension to the planned Minfo open pit.

Following these encouraging results the Company is currently conducting follow up infill and deepening holes drilling to the east of Minfo to connect Minfo with the newly discovered zone. The results of these remaining 17 drill holes in the current programme are awaited and will be reported separately.

Avocet is currently undertaking a 200,000 metre RC and DD programme designed to define the full extents of the Inata deposit and test the potential of the known mineralised systems close to Inata. The initial focus is on the Inata mining lease where the Company has completed 83,445 metres of the planned 110,000 metres. Further drilling results will be reported on a regular basis as they become available.

Commenting on the drilling results from Minfo, Brett Richards, Chief Executive Officer for Avocet, stated:

“Inata continues to return positive drilling results that encourage us to believe that it is a much larger ore body than originally delineated where the extension along strike and down dip remain open. Avocet looks forward to reporting further results from the ongoing drilling programmes at Inata, Bélahouro and in Guinea, as we believe these will underpin significant resource and reserve growth for the Company over the coming years.”

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 north at an average depth of 100 metres with the deepest at 192metres. Samples were submitted to SGS Laboratory in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso for Fire Assay using a 50 gram charge.

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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 and in the Company’s preliminary results statement for 2010, dated 22 February 2011.

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 13,500 ounces per month. Other assets in West Africa include exploration permits in Burkina Faso (the most advanced being the Souma trend at Bélahouro, some 20 kilometres from Inata, with a Mineral Resource of 561,100 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. The mine 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 Lebong Tandai, owns the remaining 20 per cent.

FIGURE 1 –MINFO DRILLING SUMMARY

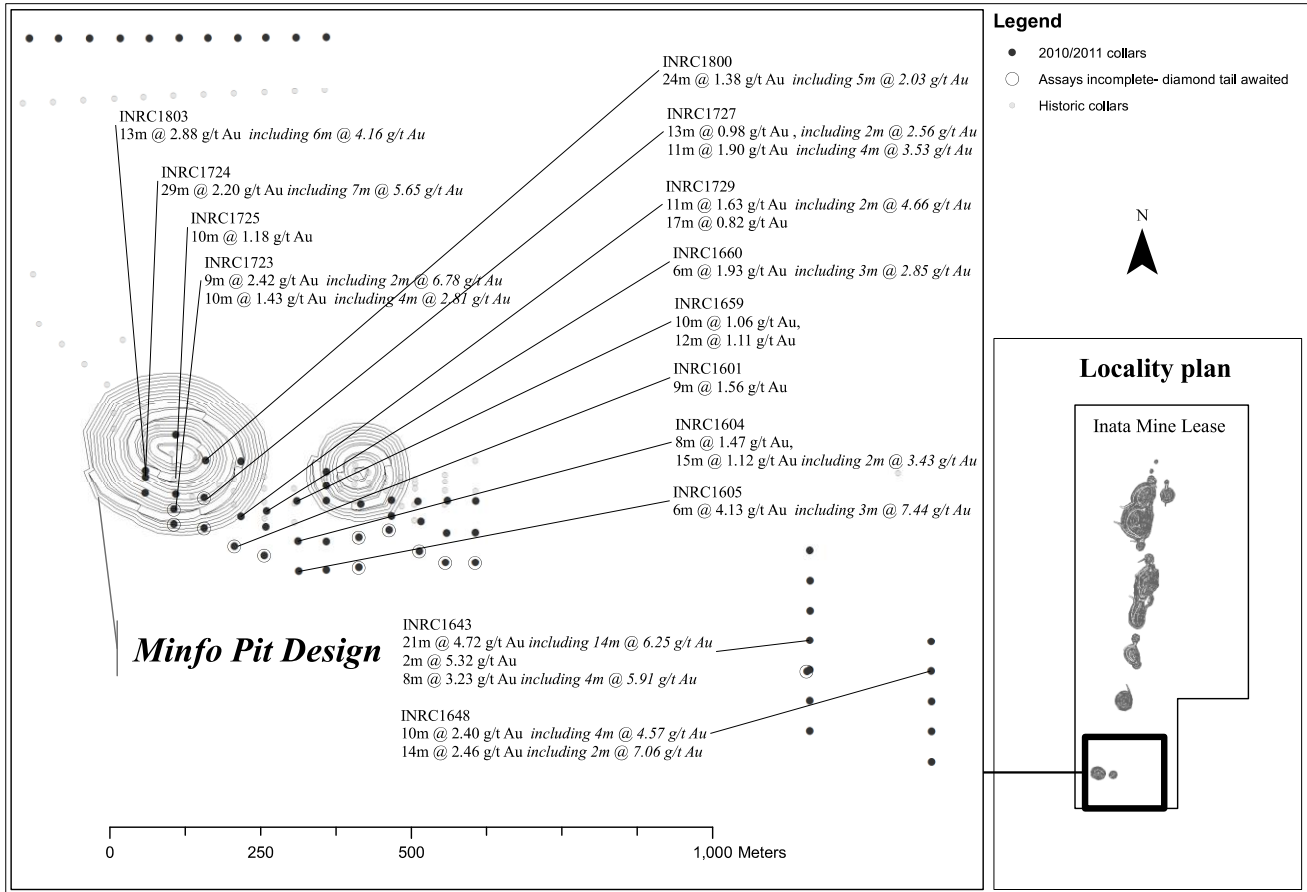


TABLE 1 – SUMMARY OF DRILLHOLE INTERCEPTS AT MINFO, INATA, BURKINA FASO

Hole ID	East	North	RL	Az	Dip	EOH (m)	From (m)	To (m)	Width (m)	Grade (g/t Au)	Including
INRC1598	681,509	1,583,851	331	90	-60	75	30	31	1	0.54	
INRC1601	682,061	1,583,110	325	0	-60	165	144	153	9	1.56	1m @ 2.90 g/t Au
							156	157	1	5.52	
							164	165	1	0.51	
INRC1602	682,103	1,583,139	326	0	-60	162	68	72	4	1.61	1m @ 3.89 g/t Au
							85	86	1	3.54	
							89	93	4	2.21	1m @ 6.63 g/t Au
							96	99	3	0.69	
							102	107	5	0.60	
							110	114	4	0.90	
							119	120	1	0.52	
							123	124	1	0.50	
INRC1604	682,156	1,583,116	325	0	-60	165	107	111	4	1.52	1m @ 4.18 g/t Au
							116	124	8	1.47	1m @ 2.41 g/t Au
							138	153	15	1.12	2m @ 3.43 g/t Au
							160	161	1	1.01	
INRC1605	682,157	1,583,066	325	0	-60	137	90	96	6	4.13	3m @ 7.44 g/t Au
INRC1607	682,203	1,583,183	327	0	-60	158	2	5	3	0.82	
							32	33	1	1.01	
							38	39	1	0.62	
INRC1608	682,203	1,583,115	325	0	-60	191	99	101	2	1.06	
							108	111	3	0.75	
INRC1610	682,203	1,583,068	325	0	-60	95	91	92	1	0.52	
INRC1616	682,450	1,583,130	325	0	-60	114	23	24	1	0.66	
INRC1621	681,510	1,583,799	331	0	-60	75	19	20	1	0.68	
INRC1629	681,510	1,583,402	329	0	-60	75	8	9	1	2.82	
INRC1630	681,510	1,583,348	329	0	-60	78	63	64	1	0.68	
INRC1632	681,510	1,583,250	327	0	-60	75	5	6	1	0.51	
INRC1642	683,005	1,583,000	322	0	-60	75	29	30	1	1.12	
INRC1643	683,005	1,582,951	321	0	-60	75	5	26	21	4.72	14m @ 6.25 g/t Au
							31	33	2	5.32	
							40	42	2	1.38	
							48	56	8	3.23	4m @ 5.91 g/t Au
							60	62	2	1.23	
							69	74	5	1.49	1m @ 3.00 g/t Au
INRC1647	683,206	1,582,949	319	0	-60	75	1	2	1	0.50	
							15	16	1	1.21	
							48	49	1	1.09	
							59	60	1	0.60	
INRC1648	683,206	1,582,900	318	0	-60	75	36	46	10	2.40	4m @ 4.57 g/t Au
							50	64	14	2.46	2m @ 7.06 g/t Au
INRC1650	683,206	1,582,800	318	0	-60	75	60	61	1	7.93	
INRC1653	682,404	1,583,183	325	0	-60	138	26	28	2	0.61	
INRC1654	682,354	1,583,181	326	0	-60	138	0	4	4	1.74	1m @ 4.12 g/t Au
							13	14	1	0.60	
							43	44	1	1.59	
							47	48	1	0.86	
							64	65	1	1.95	
INRC1655	682,311	1,583,183	326	0	-60	141	7	8	1	0.57	
							27	28	1	0.57	
							34	35	1	0.76	
							40	41	1	0.52	
							52	54	2	1.30	
INRC1656	682,311	1,583,157	326	0	-60	150	32	36	4	1.72	
							60	61	1	0.74	
							67	68	1	0.88	
INRC1657	682,203	1,583,232	327	0	-60	112	17	20	3	0.86	
INRC1659	682,154	1,583,182	327	0	-60	128	0	1	1	0.86	
							11	21	10	1.06	1m @ 2.88 g/t Au
							24	26	2	0.59	
							32	43	11	0.85	
							51	52	1	0.50	
							55	67	12	1.11	1m @ 2.60 g/t Au & 1m @ 4.75 g/t Au

Hole ID	East	North	RL	Az	Dip	EOH (m)	From (m)	To (m)	Width (m)	Grade (g/t Au)	Including
INRC1660	682,104	1,583,166	327	0	-60	116	40	46	6	1.93	1m @ 5.65 g/t Au
							59	62	3	2.85	
							65	77	12	0.78	
							80	83	3	0.79	
							92	93	1	0.65	
INRC1661	682,353	1,584,453	320	90	-60	168	100	101	1	0.56	
							134	135	1	1.41	
INRC1723	681,953	1,583,168	326	0	-60	141	142	146	4	0.57	
							95	104	9	2.42	
INRC1724	681,903	1,583,223	328	0	-60	158	107	117	10	1.43	1m @ 3.31 g/t Au & 2m @ 6.78 g/t Au 4m @ 2.81 g/t Au
							130	135	5	1.17	
							89	118	29	2.20	
INRC1725	681,953	1,583,220	327	0	-60	128	157	158	1	0.56	2m @ 2.38 g/t Au & 7m @ 5.65 g/t Au
							70	71	1	0.66	
INRC1727	682,005	1,583,187	326	0	-60	120	83	93	10	1.18	1m @ 2.01 g/t Au & 1m @ 2.54 g/t Au 1m @ 5.86 g/t Au
							109	113	4	2.14	
							118	125	7	0.56	
							51	52	1	1.20	
							60	73	13	0.98	
INRC1729	682,061	1,583,156	326	0	-60	192	79	90	11	1.90	2m @ 2.56 g/t Au 4m @ 3.53 g/t Au
							96	99	3	0.76	
							104	107	3	0.87	
							72	83	11	1.63	
							87	104	17	0.82	
INRC1800	682,002	1,583,250	331	0	-60	120	118	119	1	1.55	2m @ 4.66 g/t Au & 1m @ 2.22 g/t Au 1m @ 2.61 g/t Au
							13	37	24	1.38	
INRC1802	681,953	1,583,292	331	0	-60	130	4	5	1	0.82	5m @ 2.03 g/t Au & 3m @ 3.16 g/t Au
							13	15	2	0.55	
							18	19	1	0.56	
							90	92	2	1.96	
							95	96	1	0.56	
INRC1803	681,903	1,583,234	328	0	-60	111	26	27	1	0.60	1m @ 2.42 g/t Au
							80	93	13	2.88	
INRD1721	681,902	1,583,195	327	0	-60	146.95	81	82	1	1.18	6m @ 4.16 g/t Au
							116	124	8	1.17	

Notes: 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. INRD001 is a diamond tail drilled by conventional triple tube wireline diamond drilling by Boart Longyear.
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