

Commencement of Open Pit Mining Operations

Firefinch Limited (ASX: FFX) (**Firefinch or the Company**) is pleased to announce that open pit mining operations have commenced at the Morila Gold Mine in Mali; Morila is 80% owned by Firefinch.

Mining is underway at Morila Pit 5 (Figures 1 & 2), a mining area located on the western margin of the Morila Super Pit (Figure 3). Malian owned and operated contractor EGTF have mobilised a new 100 tonne class fleet, completed all mining preparatory works including re-establishment of the haul road to the crushers, and commenced mining and haulage to the crusher run of mine (RoM) stockpiles.



Figure 1. Mining Operations at Morila Pit 5.

Work to date has been undertaken injury and incident free, with production levels exceeding plan. Approximately 100,000 tonnes of Morila Pit 5 ore have already been hauled to RoM stockpiles. This complements approximately 530,000 tonnes of ore mechanically mined from the Tailings Facility already stockpiled. The stockpiled ore will be the feed used to commission the recently refurbished plant comminution circuit. Commissioning of the comminution circuit will commence later this month.

Morila Pit 5 has an Indicated and Inferred Mineral Resource of 840,000 tonnes at 1.1g/t and Ore Reserves have not been declared. An Ore Reserve estimate will be disclosed once current drilling has been incorporated into an upgraded Mineral Resource Estimate (refer Table 1 and ASX Announcement 3rd May 2021).

Firefinch's Managing Director, Dr Michael Anderson, commented:

"It is very exciting to be off and running with our first open pit mining operation at Morila. The location of Pit 5 right next to our operating processing plant, combined with recent drilling results that enhanced economics, made it a compelling opportunity to fast-track first production before we commence mining at our other satellite deposits. Importantly all the work has been undertaken safely, and it is very pleasing to have engaged the Malian owned and operated contractor EGTF, to resume mining at Morila Pit 5. Having taken these first steps, we of course remain very focussed on the main prize – bringing the Morila Super Pit back into operation."



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of mining operations at Morila Pit 5.

This announcement has been approved for release to the ASX by the Board.

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Figure 3. Location of Morila Pit 5 relative to the Morila Mine and infrastructure.

This announcement contains certain forward-looking statements with respect to Firefinch’s financial condition, results of operations, production targets and other matters that are subject to various risks and uncertainties. Actual results, performance or achievements could be significantly different from those expressed or implied by those forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statement are no guarantees of future performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors beyond the control of Firefinch that may cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements in this announcement.

Competent Persons Declaration

The information in this announcement that relates to Exploration Results and Mineral Resources at Morila Pit 5 is based on information compiled by Mr Bill Oliver. Mr Oliver is an employee of Firefinch Limited and a member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists and the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Oliver has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and the activity he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the "Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves ('the JORC Code')". Mr Oliver consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

Table 1. Mineral Resources for the Morila Gold Project.

Deposit	Measured & Indicated ⁶			Inferred			Total		
	Tonnes (millions)	Grade (g/t)	Ounces ('000)	Tonnes (millions)	Grade (g/t)	Ounces ('000)	Tonnes (millions)	Grade (g/t)	Ounces ('000)
Morila Pit ¹	21.2	1.60	1,090	17.5	1.37	770	38.6	1.50	1,860
Morila NE ²				0.21	3.07	21	0.21	3.07	21
Samacline ²				3.74	2.56	308	3.74	2.56	308
Tailings ³	1.73	0.50	28				1.73	0.50	28
Morila Pit 5 ⁴	0.72	1.04	24	0.12	1.38	6	0.84	1.10	30
N'Tiola ⁴	2.42	1.05	81	0.01	0.73	1	2.43	1.04	81
Viper ⁴	1.52	1.04	51	0.02	1.41	1	1.55	1.05	52
Domba ⁵	0.20	1.75	11	0.25	1.61	13	0.46	1.67	25
Koting ⁴	0.65	1.04	22	0.28	0.94	8	0.93	1.01	30
Total	28.42	1.43	1,309	22.08	1.58	1,124	50.50	1.50	2,433

¹ The Morila Pit resource is quoted using a 0.4g/t gold cut-off grade.

² The Samacline and Morila NE resources are quoted using a 1.8g/t gold cut-off grade.

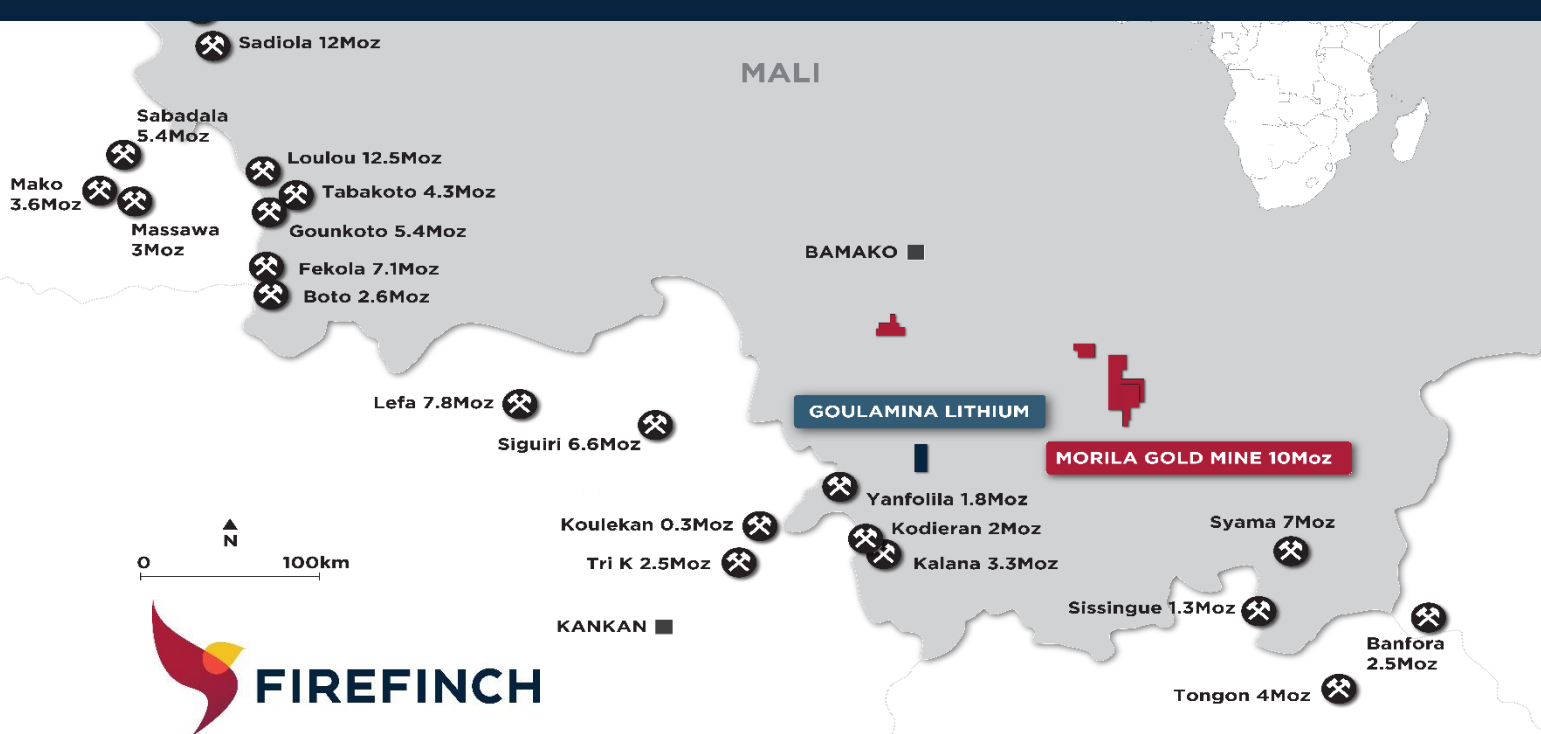
³ The Tailings resource is quoted using a 0.3g/t gold cut-off grade.

⁴ The N'Tiola, Viper, Pit 5 and Koting resources are quoted above cut-off grades based on forecast costs (0.35 – 0.48g/t).

⁵ The Domba resource is quoted using a 0.5g/t gold cut-off grade.

⁶ Detailed breakdown of Measured, Indicated and Inferred Mineral Resources are supplied in the ASX Announcement of 3rd May 2021.

⁷ Numbers in the above table may not appear to sum correctly due to rounding.



Firefinch is a Mali focussed gold miner and lithium developer. Firefinch has an 80% interest in the Morila Gold Mine and 100% of the Goulamina Lithium Project.

Morila has produced 7.5 million ounces of gold since 2000; it was one of the world's highest grade open pits some 12 to 20 years ago. Firefinch acquired the mine at a substantial discount in November 2020 with the view to increase production at the 4.5mtpa mill from a current annual production profile of 40,000 ounces of gold per annum from tailing treatment, towards a target of 70 to 90,000 ounces of gold per annum through mining of small open pits, stocks and tailings from mid-2021. In 2022, the Company plans to further increase production to target 150,000 to 200,000 ounces of gold per annum by re-commencing mining from the main Morila pit to fully exploit the 2.43 million ounces of gold in the Global Resource at Morila (Measured: 1.73Mt at 0.5g/t for 0.03Moz, Indicated: 26.7Mt at 1.49g/t for 1.28Moz and Inferred: 22.1Mt at 1.58g/t for 1.12Moz). A production target of 150,000 to 200,000 ounces of gold per annum has been set by the Company. Morila's geological limits are not well understood, thus exploration is a major focus at Morila, its satellite resources and multiple targets on the 685km² of surrounding tenure.

The Goulamina Lithium Project is one of the world's largest undeveloped deposits and has the potential to be one of the lowest cost producers. All permits are in place, a Definitive Feasibility Study is complete and a Global Resource of 109 million tonnes at 1.45% Li₂O with 1.57 million tonnes of contained Li₂O has been declared comprising 8.4 million tonnes at 1.57% Li₂O in the Measured category, 56.2 million tonnes at 1.48% Li₂O in the Indicated category and 43.9 million tonnes at 1.45% Li₂O in the Inferred category. Firefinch intends to demerge Goulamina into a new ASX listed Company and is conducting a process to investigate partnering, offtake and financing options for the Project.

Firefinch is a responsible miner. We support positive social and economic change through contributing to the communities in which we operate. We seek to buy local, employ local and safeguard the environment and our people's health, safety, and wellbeing.

The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the Mineral Resources at Goulamina and Morila and the production estimates for Goulamina. The Company also confirms that all material assumptions and parameters underpinning the Mineral Resource estimates and production estimates continue to apply and have not materially changed. Please refer to ASX Announcements of 8th July 2020 and 20th October 2020 (Goulamina), 8th February 2021 (Morila Resource), 7th September 2020 and 28th April 2021 (Morila Tailings), 24th November 2020 and 3rd May 2021 (N'Tiola, Viper, Domba, Koting, Morila Pit 5), and 9th February 2021, 28th April 2021 and 5th May 2021 (Morila Gold Production, Ore Reserves and Production Targets).