# **Birimian Gold**

Limited

15 April 2016

### ASX : BGS

An emerging West African Exploration Company

Targeting gold and lithium deposits in Mali and Liberia.

Expanding resource inventory at existing assets and via new project generation.

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## BOUGOUNI LITHIUM PROJECT NEW EXPLORATION AREAS GRANTED COMMENCEMENT OF FIELD WORK

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- > New exploration areas granted at the Bougouni Lithium Project
- Project tenure expanded and combined into one large (250km<sup>2</sup>) title granted 100% to Birimian.
- Detailed reconnaissance exploration program underway to follow up known lithium pegmatites and identify undiscovered lithium pegmatites within expanded project area
- Preparations well advanced for commencement of Reverse Circulation drilling and diamond drilling at Goulamina <u>high grade</u>, potential bulk tonnage lithium deposit
- Drilling to commence in early May
- \$3 million rights issue fully underwritten by Merchant Corporate Finance Pty Ltd in progress



Birimian Gold Limited (ASX:BGS; "Birimian" and the "Company") is pleased to advise that the exploration permit covering areas previously applied for within the Bougoni Lithium Project has now been granted to the Company. This milestone secures a large area (250km<sup>2</sup>) of highly lithium prospective tenure under one title owned 100% by Birimian Gold.

The Bougouni Lithium Project hosts the **high-grade lithium pegmatite deposit** at Goulamina which is welldefined in outcrop and provides confidence for the Company to estimate an initial exploration target in the range of **15Mt to 18Mt at grades between 1.8% and 2.2% Li<sub>2</sub>O.** Processing test work has confirmed the viability of the pegmatite at Goulamina to produce **a high quality chemical grade lithium concentrate**.

The Company has immediately commenced fieldwork within the expanded Project area to identify additional prospective lithium pegmatites and to finalise preparations for Reverse Circulation (RC) and diamond drilling at the Goulamina Lithium Pegmatite Deposit. **Drilling is expected to commence in early May.** 

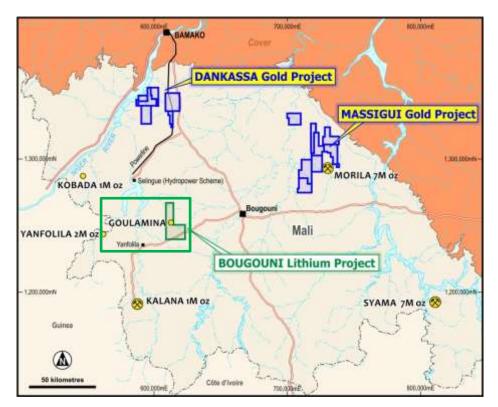


Figure 1. Birimian Gold Limited's Bougouni Lithium Project, Mali. The Company's gold projects are shown in blue outline.

#### **New Exploration Areas**

On 2 March 2016 Birimian Gold announced the acquisition of the Bougouni Lithium Project, situated in southern Mali, approximately 150km by road from Mali's capital, Bamako (Figure 1). The Company acquired the exploration permits which comprise the new Project area via a low cost agreement with a Malian vendor and two permit applications to the Malian Mines Ministry.

The two application areas have now been granted to the Company and subsequently combined with the existing Bogodassale-Est permit, which hosts the Goulamina Deposit, to secure **a 100% interest in a single large (250km<sup>2</sup>) exploration permit**. The merged permit will provided significant benefits for managing tenure and enable the Company to systematically explore the expanded Project area in a rapid and cost effective manner.



Coarse grained "crowded" spodumene rock at Goulamina

#### Goulamina Deposit Geology

The highlight of the Company's recent acquisition is the 100% owned Goulamina Lithium Pegmatite Deposit which indicates significant high-grade and bulk tonnage potential. The Goulamina Deposit is situated in close proximity to a sealed highway, grid power and abundant water. The Selingue hydroelectric power station is situated 45km to the north west of the deposit.

The Goulamina Pegmatite outcrops as a low hill **extending over ~700m of strike and is up to 55m wide** (Figure 2). The entire outcropping hill is comprised of spodumene (lithium) bearing pegmatite. Additional small scattered outcrops along strike and parallel to the main hill suggest significant mineralised extensions will occur beyond the limits of currently visible pegmatite body. Bulk sampling has defined an **average grade** of 2.2% Li<sub>2</sub>O with iron oxide contents between 0.5% and 0.8%; confirming **Goulamina is a high grade** lithium deposit by world standards.

An initial Exploration Target at Goulamina is estimated in the range of **15Mt to 18Mt at grades between 1.8% and 2.2% Li<sub>2</sub>O** (see ASX release 2 March 2016)\*. Mineralisation is open along strike and geological evidence suggests strike extensions are likely beneath shallow soil cover. Hard-rock deposits which are currently under development host resources in the range of 16Mt at 1.1% Li<sub>2</sub>O (Mt Cattlin, Galaxy Resources) to 23Mt at 1.4% Li<sub>2</sub>O (Mt Marion, Neometals).

The pegmatite body at Goulamina dips steeply to the east and is expected to be highly amenable to large scale open pit mining. Given the considerable width of mineralisation evident in outcrop (up to 55m) and the favourable orebody geometry it could be expected that the waste to ore ratio during mining would be low, resulting in relatively low mining costs per tonne of ore.

\* The Company notes that this Exploration Target is reported in accordance with the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (2012 Edition). No drilling has been undertaken on the Project area. The potential quantity and grade of this Exploration Target is therefore conceptual in nature. There has been insufficient work to estimate a Mineral Resource and it is uncertain if further exploration will result in the estimation of a Mineral Resource.

#### **Goulamina Processing Test Work**

A detailed evaluation of the commercial potential at Goulamina was undertaken by CSA Global, a highly regarded resource consulting group, in 2008. This work was commissioned and funded by the World Bank as part of the SYSMIN economic development program.

CSA Global undertook systematic sampling of outcropping material at Goulamina to collect a representative bulk sample comprising 3,150kg of material which was subsequently crushed and split to 750kg for detailed processing test work. This work included evaluations of screen sizing to optimize spodumene (lithium) recoveries and preliminary dense media separation tests. Results are summarised below.

Goulamina (-4 +0.075mm)			
Fractions	Mass (%)	Li2O	
		Grade	Recovery
$\delta > 2.84$	31.5	6.69	84.7
δ < 2.84	64.1	0.42	10.9
Recalc.	95.6	2.49	95.6

Table 1: Goulamina screened -4 +0.075mm fraction by dense media separation. Test

 work undertaken by Centre Technologique International de la Terre et de la Peirre.

These excellent results confirm good spodumene (lithium) recoveries (84.7%) and high mass yield to produce a high quality chemical grade (6.7%) spodumene concentrate. For reference, concentrate grades of 6% are typically demanded by global lithium carbonate producers.

The Company has recently acquired additional raw data from the initial phase of processing test work and will commission an expert review of this data with a view to further expanding and optimizing the next phase of technical studies at Goulamina.

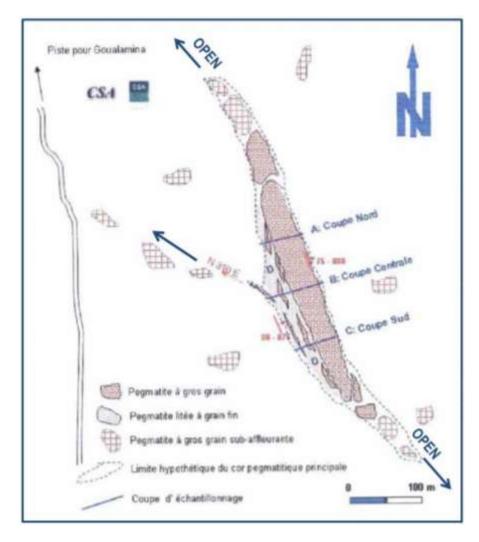


Figure 2. Goulamina Deposit. Outcrop map in plan view. CSA Global (2008)

#### **Exploration Potential**

Previous exploration within the Project area included surface sampling and regional scale geophysical surveying primarily for gold. Pegmatite occurrences were identified during broad scale country-wide development mapping programs undertaken sporadically from the 1950's to 1990's, however there appears to have been **no systematic reconnaissance exploration or drilling targeting lithium pegmatites within the Project area**.

There is significant exploration potential within the broader Bougouni Lithium Project area. A number of potential prospects have already been defined for further evaluation. The Company is excited about the potential for additional discoveries in these areas and has commenced a reconnaissance exploration program comprising detailed mapping and sampling. Results will be reported as they come to hand.

#### Forward Work Program

The Company's initial work program is designed to;

- 1) Rapidly evaluate the Deposit at Goulamina to define resources.
- 2) Collect suitable material for additional processing test work to utilise in a preliminary Project Scoping Study. The Company expects this study would be completed by the end of 2016.
- 3) Systematically explore the broader Bougouni Project area to delineate new prospects for subsequent drill testing.

Field preparations for Reverse Circulation and diamond drilling are progressing well. Drilling is expected to commence in early May. It is anticipated that a portion of drill core material from this program will be utilised for the next phase of test work and technical evaluations at Goulamina. This first phase program will define the parameters of subsequent phases of detailed project work, including any eventual Pre-Feasibility and Feasibility Studies.



Goulamina Hill, showing a portion of the outcropping Goulamina Pegmatite.

Mineralisation is approximately 55 metres wide at this location, and dips steeply to the east (left of picture)

#### **Birimian Gold in Mali**

Birimian Gold has a long operating presence in Mali, acquiring and successfully exploring for gold at a number of project areas in the south and west of the country. The acquisition of the Bougouni Lithium Project is the result of a deliberate and ongoing project generation effort which leverages off the Company's significant capabilities in Mali.

The Republic of Mali has an outstanding track record for facilitating and rapidly permitting mineral development projects. The country has a strong mining culture and is the third largest producer of gold in Africa.

#### Fully Funded Exploration Program

The Company is undertaking a fully underwritten 3:7 Non-Renounceable Rights Issue to existing Shareholders to raise approximately \$3,000,000 before costs (the Offer).

The planned Offer is for three (3) new shares for every seven (7) shares held at the record date at an issue price of \$0.062 per share to raise approximately \$2,500,000, with an additional \$500,000 minimum shortfall guaranteed to the Offer underwriter, Merchant Corporate Finance Pty Ltd ("Underwriter"), at its discretion.

Funds raised will be employed to advance the Company's exploration and development plans at the Bougouni Lithium Project in Mali. As noted above, the Company believes there is excellent scope to delineate large open pit mineable lithium resources on the Bougouni property and intends to undertake a staged program of resource evaluation drilling and technical studies to rapidly deliver a preliminary Project Scoping Study.

Offer documenataion was dispatched to eligible shareholders on 6 April 2016.

For further information please contact :

Mr Kevin Joyce Managing Director (08) 9286 3045 info@birimiangold.com

#### <u>Lithium</u>

The lithium market has recently seen strong demand, constrained supply, and increasing lithium prices. Future demand for lithium looks likely to be even stronger, driven primarily by uptake of lithium batteries for electric cars and static storage. Significantly, lithium battery production capacity is set to triple by 2020.

Spodumene is the main lithium bearing mineral in most hard rock lithium deposits. Ores are typically upgraded at the mine site by crushing, screening and dense media separation techniques to produce a spodumene concentrate. Chemical grade concentrate, typically containing 6%  $Li_2O$ , is sold and converted into lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide for use in battery manufacturing and other industrial applications. The current lithium concentrate (6%) price is approximately US\$450/t.

Birimian's Goulamina Deposit has returned highly favourable initial processing testwork results; concentrate grades of 6.7% at Goulamina are in excess of those demanded by global lithium carbonate producers.

#### **Competent Persons Declaration**

The information in this announcement that relates to exploration results is based on information compiled by or under the supervision of Kevin Anthony Joyce. Mr Joyce is Managing Director of Birimian Gold Limited and a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Joyce 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. Mr Joyce consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

#### **Previous Reported Results**

There is information in this announcement relating to previous Exploration Results at the Bougouni Project. The Company confirms that it is not aware of any other new information or data that materially affects the information included in the original market announcement, and that all material assumptions and technical parameters have not materially changed. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original market announcement.

#### Forward Looking Statements

Statements regarding plans with respect to the Company's mineral properties are forward looking statements. There can be no assurance that the Company's plans for development of its mineral properties will proceed as expected. There can be no assurance that the Company will be able to confirm the presence of mineral deposits, that any mineralisation will prove to be economic or that a mine will successfully be developed on any of the Company's mineral properties.