



Joint ASX Announcement and Media Release

1 December 2010

# Strategic alliance with Gryphon Minerals Ltd Acquisition of Highly Prospective Permits in Liberia, West Africa

# **Highlights**

- Gryphon to assist Tawana with the acquisition and exploration of mineral permits in West Africa
- Gryphon to gain exposure through Tawana to highly prospective mineral districts outside of its core geographical strategy
- Tawana's proven and highly experienced team to receive high level technical advice from Gryphon
- Alliance to target prospective areas for gold, iron ore, base metals and other minerals throughout West Africa
- Initial strategic move into Liberia which remains largely underexplored and has significant potential to host world class mineral deposits
- Five permits covering approximately 3800 km<sup>2</sup> of underexplored and highly prospective Archean and Birimian greenstone belts are currently under application, with the expectation of granting in the near term
- Three permits are adjacent to the world class Ity gold mine (5Moz) and along strike from New Liberty gold deposit (1.5Moz)
- Gryphon to become a substantial shareholder in Tawana

The Directors of Tawana Resources NL (ASX:TAW) are pleased to announce a strategic alliance agreement with West African gold explorer, Gryphon Minerals Limited (ASX:GRY) and the acquisition of several highly prospective mineral permit applications in Liberia, West Africa.

Gryphon has been exploring in West Africa for over half a decade and as part of Tawana's expansion into West Africa the strategic alliance provides Tawana with access to Gryphon's experienced exploration and technical team and operational and logistical expertise.

Tawana has considerable experience operating in West Africa, through its CEO Len Kolff, who was employed by the Company in July 2010. Len joined Tawana having worked over the past decade at Rio Tinto, where he was involved in a range of high profile projects including the Simandou iron ore project in Guinea, West Africa. Len's responsibilities have encompassed a broad range of disciplines, including the design, implementation and supervision of multi-commodity exploration programs throughout Africa.

West Africa is the fastest growing gold producing region in the world and while Liberia has significant potential to host large, world class deposits of gold, copper, iron ore and other minerals it remains largely under explored.

#### Strategic Alliance

Under the agreement, Gryphon will assist Tawana with the identification, acquisition and exploration of mineral permits in West Africa, which are outside of Gryphon's core geographical growth strategy. Gryphon will also assist Tawana to establish itself in West Africa and provide high level technical, operational and logistical advice.

Key points and rationale of the Alliance include:

- Gryphon to assist Tawana with exploration, operational and logistical activities in West Africa;
- Gryphon will provide high level technical advice in relation to exploration programs of Tawana's West African minerals interests;
- Gryphon to assist Tawana in the acquisition of mineral permits in West Africa, which are outside Gryphon's core geographical growth strategy;
- Gryphon will hold a strategic stake in Tawana, an African focused exploration company with extensive technical and operational experience in and throughout West Africa and Africa;
- Gryphon will continue to focus on the aggressive exploration and development of its Banfora Gold Project in Burkina Faso and the Tijirit Gold Project in Mauritania while maintaining exposure to Liberia and other parts of West Africa for gold and other minerals;
- Tawana's management and Board has exploration, operational and logistical experience in Africa;
- The transaction provides both companies with geographical and mineral diversification; and
- Both Gryphon and Tawana are well supported by key broking houses supportive of West Africa and have a proven ability to raise funds.

Len Kolff, CEO of Tawana said "The support of Gryphon's experienced technical team, complements Tawana's existing technical capabilities and puts us in a strong position for exploration success in West Africa".

"Liberia has significant potential to host large, world class deposits of gold, copper, iron ore and other minerals yet it remains largely underexplored".

Gryphon will continue its aggressive exploration programs in Burkina Faso and Mauritania. "Through our strategic interest in Tawana, Gryphon is able to gain exposure to potential world class discoveries in gold and as importantly other minerals, in other West African countries while we maintain our focus at Banfora and Mauritania" said Steve Parsons, Managing Director.

"The alliance with Tawana combines the exploration and technical expertise of both companies and effectively delivers to Gryphon a low risk, early stage exploration arm".

#### Acquisition of Liberian permits

As the first acquisition under the alliance Tawana will acquire highly prospective mineral permit applications covering over 3,800km<sup>2</sup> of ground in Liberia.

Areas under application cover previously unexplored Archean and Birimian greenstone belts with sequences of banded iron formations, volcanoclastics and mafic rock types that are highly prospective for gold mineralisation.

There are reports of numerous artisanal workings along the belts which have had no modern day gold exploration undertaken on them. The mineral permit applications are for both gold and base metal exploration.

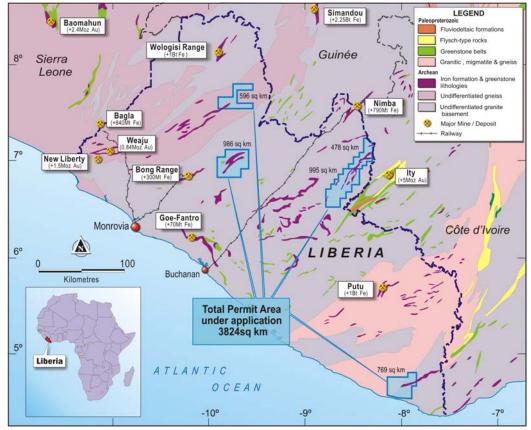


Figure 1: Location of Liberian permits

#### Consideration

As consideration for entering into the agreement and the acquisition of the permits, subject to shareholder approval, Tawana will issue Gryphon 100,000,000 fully paid ordinary shares, representing approximately 15% of the issued capital on an undiluted basis and offer Gryphon the right to nominate one nominee to the Board of Directors.

#### **About Liberia**

Liberia is a democratic country run by elected President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first elected female head of state in 2005. The country is hugely prospective and hosts several world class iron ore deposits but yet is completely underexplored for gold and non-ferrous metals. Liberia has a modern and transparent mining code and the government is supportive of foreign investment especially in the exploration and mining industry to help unlock the value of its potential mineral wealth. Tawana will be one of the first ASX listed companies into Liberia following in the footsteps of mining majors BHP Billiton, Arcelor-Mittal and Severstal.

Liberia is located in West Africa dominantly within the Archean aged Kenema Man Domain and lesser Birimian sediments to the east. There are a large number of world class mineral deposits located in the Archean and Birimian rocktypes throughout West Africa including Obuasi (+40Moz) and Tasiast (+14Moz). West Africa is one of the fastest growing mineral provinces in the world and Liberia currently hosts several world class iron ore deposits and is underexplored for gold.

### Background to Gryphon

Gryphon is a highly successful gold explorer who has been operating in West Africa since 2006. Its key projects are the Banfora Gold Project in Burkina Faso, which it has taken from a grass roots project to defining an inferred resource of 21Mt @ 2.2g/t for 1,500,000 oz gold and the recently acquired Tijirit Gold Project in Mauritania.

Gryphon is focused on growing and developing a multi-million ounce gold district at Banfora in the near term as well as exploring the highly prospective Tijirit Gold Project adjacent to the 14Moz+ Tasiast Gold Mine.

#### **Background to Tawana**

Tawana Resources NL is a dual listed minerals explorer on the ASX and JSE, first incorporated on the ASX in 2001. Tawana has diamond exploration projects in South Africa, Botswana and Australia as well as a 6.7% indirect interest in the Thabazimbi Iron Ore and Avontuur Manganese projects of Aquila Resources Ltd in South Africa. The Company is rationalising its diamond projects as recently announced to the ASX in August 2010 and reviewing gold and base metal opportunities throughout Africa.

## For further information, please contact:

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#### **Competent Persons Statement**

Information in this report from data collection to wireframe interpretation, at Nogbele and Fourkoura Prospects and geostatistical modeling calculations is based on work by Mr Sam Brooks which was reviewed by Mr Michael Fox. Mr Brooks is a full time employee of Gryphon Minerals, and a member of the AIG. Mr Fox is a full time employee of Gryphon Minerals and a member of the AIG with sufficient experience relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit to qualify as competent person defined by the 2004 Edition of the "Australian Code for Reporting of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves". Mr Fox consents to the inclusion in this report of the matters based on information in the form and context in which it appears.

The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results, Mineral Resources or Ore Reserves is based on information compiled by Mr Stephen Parsons, who is a Member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Stephen Parsons is a full-time employee of the company. Mr Stephen Parsons has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposits under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Stephen Parsons consent to their inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.