AIM: MARL

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Aggressive Phase II Drill Program Planned at the Hot Maden Gold-Copper Prospect, Eastern Turkey

Mariana Resources Ltd ("Mariana" or the "Company"), the AIM listed exploration and development company with projects in South America and Turkey, announces that it has received notification from JV partner Lidya Madencilik Sanayi ve Ticaret A.S. ("Lidya") that it has completed the minimum (Year 1) exploration expenditure commitment at Hot Maden, as required by the Hot Maden Definitive Agreement (the "Agreement"). In addition, Lidya has also made a USD 150,000 cash payment to Mariana, thereby completing all the necessary requirements to earn-in to an initial 20% interest in the Hot Maden property and to continue with the project earn-in.

In parallel, Lidya has indicated that planning has started for an aggressive Phase II work program at Hot Maden, which will include up to 10,000 metres of diamond drilling. The follow-up diamond drill program will include both step-out drilling (designed to determine the lateral and down dip/plunge extent of the high grade gold-copper zone identified through the Phase I drilling), and infill drilling. In order to earn a further 50% interest in Hot Maden (for a total of 70%), the Agreement requires that Lidya invest a further USD 1.8 million in exploration on the property and make additional cash payments to Mariana totalling USD 350,000.

Chief Executive Officer, Glen Parsons today said:
"Following the ground breaking results from Holes 4 and 5 at Hot Maden both Lidya and Mariana are extremely excited with what the future holds. This is underscored by the planned next phase of step out and infill drilling for up to 10,000m expected to begin in April. This programme will still fall under the fully funded earn in phase by Lidya and encouragingly, the scale reflects the intent to achieve ultimate potential development in an accelerated manner."

"We would like to acknowledge the strong relationship with Lidya and the professionalism of its team with what is shaping to be a very exciting project."

"Following the recent fundraise, the Company is well placed for the upcoming drilling programmes in South America which will be commencing later in March. I look forward to updating shareholders with further progress across our portfolio."

Hot Maden Target Area and Phase I Drilling

Lidya completed a Phase I diamond drill program of 7 holes for 1,647 m at Hot Maden in January, 2015. The programme highlight was the discovery of high grade gold-copper mineralization hosted by silicified and brecciated andesites flanking the the Hot Maden Fault Zone. Key intercepts included:

- **HTD-04: 103m @ 9.0 g/t Au & 2.2 % Cu** from 25m downhole, including a higher grade interval of **18.3 g/t Au & 3.3% Cu** over 33.4m from 79.8m downhole
- **HTD-05: 82m @ 20.4 g/t Au & 1.9% Cu** from 147m downhole, including a bonanza **13m @ 88 g/t Au & 2.5% Cu** from 150m downhole

Link to the previously announced Figures and Diagrams:
http://marianaresources.com/site/media/February_12_NR_Maps.pdf

Based on the limited drilling completed to date, the high grade gold-copper zone at Hot Maden appears to trend broadly north-south, dips steeply to the east and has a true width of around 75m. The high grade zone is currently open in all directions, and may have a plunge towards the south. The principal copper minerals identified are chalcopyrite and bornite. The gold-copper zone contains multiple mineralizing events, with the initial interpretation being that the mineralization style has characteristics of an epithermal style breccia system hosted within the Hot Maden Fault Zone.

In terms of its regional setting, the Hot Maden prospect is located in the Eastern Pontides metallogenic belt of Turkey within a belt of (Late Cretaceous-age?) volcanic and sedimentary rocks. Lidya's initial drill program was focused on approximately 800m of strike extent of the central portion of the Hot Maden Fault Zone and associated "colour anomaly", which is comprised of Fe-oxides (replacing pyrite and other sulphides) and clays and attains a maximum width of up to 700m. The area targeted by the drilling is within a 1200 x 200-400m wide zone of anomalous soil and rock geochemistry. It also lies immediately to the north of where small-scale underground mining of high grade copper-gold mineralisation was undertaken by Russian interests prior to 1923.

Hot Maden Definitive Agreement

Aegean Metals Group Inc., acquired by Mariana on January 16th 2015, signed a Definitive Agreement with Lidya Madencilik Sanayi ve Ticaret A.S. ("Lidya") on 24 June 2014, through which Lidya retains the exclusive right to earn-in to a 70% interest in the Hot Maden Project by incurring a total of USD 3.0 million of combined exploration expenditures and cash payments within a 48 month period, as per the following schedule:

TIMELINE	WORK COMMITMENT	CASH PAYMENTS TO AEGEAN	% EARNED BY LİDYA
OPTION PERIOD – **BY THE END OF YEAR 1**	$500,000 (Firm Minimum Commitment by Lidya)	$0 (If Lidya Abandons the Option)	20%
OPTION PERIOD – EARN-IN PERIOD – **UPON THE END OF DECISION PERIOD (60-DAY)**		$150,000 (First Cash Payment – If Lidya Continues with the Option)	0%
OPTION PERIOD – EARN-IN PERIOD – **BY THE END OF YEAR 2**	$500,000 (Second Investment)	$75,000 (Second Cash Payment – If Lidya Continues with the Option)	12.5%
OPTION PERIOD – EARN-IN PERIOD – **BY THE END OF YEAR 3**	$500,000 (Third Investment)	$75,000 (Third Cash Payment – If Lidya Continues with the Option	12.5%
OPTION PERIOD – EARN-IN PERIOD – **BY THE END OF YEAR 4**	$1,000,000 (Fourth Investment)	$200,000 (Fourth Cash Payment – If Lidya Continues with the Option)	25%
TOTAL	$2,500,000	$500,000	70%

****ENDS****

Qualified Person

The information in this release has been reviewed by Eric Roth, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director of Mariana Resources. Mr Roth holds a Ph.D. in Economic Geology from the University of Western Australia, is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM), and is a Fellow of the Society of Economic Geologists (SEG). Mr Roth has 25 years of experience in international minerals exploration and mining project evaluation.

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About Mariana Resources

Mariana Resources Ltd is an AIM quoted exploration and development company with an extensive portfolio of gold, silver and copper projects in South America and Turkey. In Peru, Mariana holds options to earn up to 70% interests in the highly prospective Soledad Cu-Au-Ag and Rurimarac Au-Ag prospects in Central Peru. In Suriname, Mariana has an option to earn up to a 50.01% interest in Nassau Gold Limited, a JV company between Mariana and Sumin Resources Limited ("Sumin") which in turn holds an option to earn up to 80% of the Nassau Gold Project. The Nassau Gold Project is a 28,000 Ha exploration concession located approximately 125 km SE of the capital Paramaribo and immediately adjacent to Newmont Mining's 4.2Moz Au Merian project. In southern Argentina, the Company's core gold-silver projects are Las Calandrias (100%), Sierra Blanca (100%), Los Cisnes (100%), Bozal (100%). These projects are part of a 200,000+ Ha land package in the Deseado Massif epithermal gold-silver district in mining-friendly Santa Cruz Province. On January 16, 2015, Mariana completed the acquisition of TSX.V-listed Aegean Metals Group Inc. ("Aegean"), which holds 100% interests in the Hot Maden Au-Cu and Ergama Au-Ag prospects in Turkey. Both of these projects are currently being advanced by JV partner funding. In addition, Mariana also acquired 100% interests in the Doña Ines Au-Ag and Exploradora East Cu prospects in northern Chile through the Aegean transaction.

About Lidya Madencilik Sanayi ve Ticaret A.S.

Lidya is a metal mining exploration company that has been operating in Turkey since 2009. Lidya is part of the Çalik Group, one of Turkey's largest private conglomerates with activities in the areas of mining, energy, finance, construction, textiles, telecom and media. Lidya established a strategic partnership with Canadian TSX listed mining company Alacer Gold Corp in August 2009. This was the first major international partnership in the Turkish mining sector with the primary goal of discovering and developing new gold and copper mines throughout Turkey. Alacer and Lidya are 80:20 Joint Venture partners at the Çöpler Gold Mine in central-eastern Turkey, which produced 227,000 ounces of gold during 2014 at all-in cash costs of USD 695/oz.

Safe Harbour

This press release contains certain statements which may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are made as at the date of this press release and include, without limitation, statements regarding discussions of future plans, the realization, cost, timing and extent of mineral resource estimates, estimated future exploration expenditures, costs and timing of the development of new deposits, success of exploration activities, permitting time lines, and requirements for additional capital. The words "plans", "expects", "budget", "scheduled", "estimate", "forecasts", "intend", "anticipate", "believe", "may", "will", or similar expressions or variations of such words are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other factors that may cause actual results to vary materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements, including, but not limited to: the effects of general economic conditions; the price of gold, silver and copper; misjudgements in the course of preparing forward-looking statements; risks associated with international operations; the need for additional financing; risks inherent in exploration results; conclusions of economic evaluations; changes in project parameters; currency and commodity price fluctuations; title matters; environmental liability claims; unanticipated operational risks; accidents, labour disputes and other risks of the mining industry; delays in obtaining governmental approvals or in the completion of development or construction activities; political risk; and other risks and uncertainties described in the Company's annual financial statements for the most recently completed financial year which is available on the Company's website at www.marianaresources.com . Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are based upon reasonable assumptions and have attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in forward-looking statements, there may be other factors that cause results not to be as anticipated, estimated or intended. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements. Accordingly, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. We do not undertake to update any forward-looking statements, except in accordance with applicable securities laws.