

SEMAFO Further Expands the Wona-Kona Deposit at Mana

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Including Values of Up to 6.06 g/t Au Over 40 Meters and in a Parallel Zone, 4.09 g/t Au Over 17 Meters

MONTREAL, QUEBEC -- (Marketwire) -- 05/30/12 -- SEMAFO (TSX: SMF)(OMX: SMF) today announced drill results from the Wona-Kona deposit at its Mana Mine in Burkina Faso, returning consistent wide zones of mineralization and extending the gold oreshoots. These impressive results support the Corporation's decision to revisit the mining scenarios and assess potential improvements to the Wona-Kona overall project economics. Recent drilling continues to add significant mineralization within both the Wona SW and Kona sectors, where shallowly plunging oreshoots have been traced down more than 400 vertical meters.

Since SEMAFO's press release dated October 18, 2011, 125 diamond drill holes (52,494 meters) were completed along the Wona-Kona deposit, for which the Corporation is in receipt of all assay results for the remaining 2011 diamond drilling work as well as for 2012 drill holes up to and including WDC494. The Corporation's current turnaround time for diamond drill results stands at less than one month, a significant improvement from 2011. Thus, SEMAFO's geology team is afforded more flexibility to allow for immediate reaction to incoming results in order to optimize processes and costs.

Wona-Kona Drill Result Highlights

DDH No.	Zone	Section (N)	From	To	Au(i) /	Length(ii)
WDC335	Wona	16650	277.0	292.0	2.97 g/t /	15.0 m
WDC340	Kona	18450	241.0	266.0	2.62 g/t /	25.0 m
WDC348	Wona	16675	496.3	509.9	5.51 g/t / (5.99 g/t uncut)	13.6 m
WDC355	Wona	16350	305.0	315.5	3.89 g/t /	10.5 m
WDC358	Wona	15400	191.2	214.0	2.09 g/t /	22.8 m
WDC363	Wona	15950	217.7	228.0	1.87 g/t /	10.3 m
WDC374	Wona	15975	398.0	410.0	2.03 g/t /	12.0 m
WDC388	Kona	17375	84.0	96.0	3.92 g/t /	12.0 m
WDC389	Kona	17425	92.0	103.0	2.13 g/t /	11.0 m
WDC392	Kona	17425	54.0	70.0	4.03 g/t /	16.0 m
WDC393	Kona	17475	48.0	72.0	2.16 g/t /	24.0 m
WDC395	Kona	17575	103.0	116.0	3.88 g/t /	13.0 m
WDC397	Kona	17525	80.0	104.0	4.81 g/t / (4.95 g/t uncut)	24.0 m
WDC403	Kona	17325	724.0	734.0	2.88 g/t /	10.0 m
WDC408	Wona	15650	408.0	448.0	6.06 g/t / (8.87 g/t uncut)	40.0 m
WDC410	Wona	15250	259.0	296.0	3.56 g/t / (3.92 g/t uncut)	37.0 m
WDC411	Wona	16525	785.0	797.0	1.35 g/t /	12.0 m
WDC413	Wona	15550	253.0	271.0	2.55 g/t /	18.0 m
WDC419	Wona	16175	378.0	388.3	3.33 g/t /	10.3 m
WDC440	Wona	15500	359.0	395.0	3.38 g/t /	36.0 m
WDC467	Kona	19100	393.7	406.6	1.77 g/t /	12.9 m
WDC484	Wona	15800	473.2	485.0	2.62 g/t /	11.8 m
WDC487	Wona	15700	480.6	499.0	3.53 g/t / (4.13 g/t uncut)	18.4 m
WDC492	Wona	16275	589.1	606.5	3.27 g/t / (5.95 g/t uncut)	17.4 m

(i) All individual samples are cut at 15 g/t as per Wona Deposit procedures.

(ii) All lengths are measured along the hole axis; additional information is required to determine true widths.

Drill hole intersections noted in the above table are presented on the attached Wona-Kona longitudinal map (Figure 1), which displays the contoured grade-thickness product. A comprehensive table including all recent

drill results can be found in Appendix 1.

Parallel Zone Drill Result Highlights (Proximal to Main Zones)

DDH No.	Zone Section (N)	From	To	Au(i) / Length(ii)
WDC329	Para Wona	15450	353.0	369.0 3.31 g/t/ 16.0 m
WDC350	Para Kona	18275	158.0	177.0 3.70 g/t/ 19.0 m
WDC362	Para Wona	15400	356.0	371.0 2.61 g/t/ 15.0 m
WDC369	Para Wona	15950	418.2	430.0 2.81 g/t/ 11.8 m
WDC409	Para Wona	15300	272.0	284.0 1.72 g/t/ 12.0 m
WDC411	Para Wona	16525	803.0	820.0 4.09 g/t/ 17.0 m (4.83 g/t uncut)
WDC411	Para Wona	16525	825.5	861.0 3.14 g/t/ 35.5 m (3.46 g/t uncut)
WDC413	Para Wona	15550	332.0	353.0 3.81 g/t/ 21.0 m (4.41 g/t uncut)
WDC425	Para Wona	15150	253.0	268.0 3.27 g/t/ 15.0 m (4.15 g/t uncut)
WDC484	Para Wona	15800	495.6	523.5 2.75 g/t/ 27.9 m (2.92 g/t uncut)
WDC492	Para Wona	16275	612.7	623.4 2.56 g/t/ 10.7 m
WDC492	Para Wona	16275	655.0	668.0 2.39 g/t/ 13.0 m
WDC492	Para Wona	16275	677.6	701.0 4.02 g/t/ 23.4 m (4.15 g/t uncut)

(i) All individual samples are cut at 15 g/t as per Wona Deposit procedures.
(ii) All lengths are measured along the hole axis; additional information is required to determine true widths.

Parallel zone intersections are not presented on the Wona-Kona longitudinal map (Figure 1) as they pertain to different mineralized lenses flanking the main zone.

Additional wide mineralization was encountered, such as in holes WDC408 and WDC484, which have increased the size of the oreshoot bottom swell located between 15200N and 16000N. In addition, holes WDC492 and WDC411 both have added new extensions to a parallel oreshoot located at 600 vertical meters on section 16500N. The depth extent of this parallel wide zone remains untested. Although not as wide, hole WDC422 on section 16850N (2.43 g/t Au over 9 meters) suggests a potential continuation of this mineralization to the north.

At Kona, new plunge extensions were encountered at depth as indicated by holes WDC340, and WDC467, along with other nearby intersections such as holes WDC336 (4.61 g/t Au over 7 meters), WDC474 (6.91 g/t Au over 7 meters), and WDC483 (5.39 g/t Au over 8.3 meters). In addition, hole WDC494 (5.04 g/t Au over 7

meters, section 18000N) significantly increases the potential below the south half of the Kona sector. This hole may also represent the down-plunge extension of the Main Wona oreshoot.

"Recent drilling shows significant continuity of the wider mineralization at depth and often returned gold bearing parallel zones," stated Michel Crevier, Vice-President Exploration and Mine Geology and SEMAFO's Qualified Person. "These results further substantiate our decision to revisit the Wona-Kona mining scenarios with the potential to improve the overall project economics."

Further diamond drilling at Mana will continue to explore for oreshoot extensions followed by closer-spaced drilling within the shoots. Priority area selection and hole spacing will be adapted to the different mining scenarios being considered.

Michel Crevier, P.Geo, MScA, Vice-President, Exploration and Mine Geology and SEMAFO's Qualified Person has reviewed this press release for accuracy and compliance with National Instrument 43-101.

All individual samples represent approximately one-meter in length of core, which was sawn in half. Half of the core is kept on site for reference and its counterpart is sent for preparation and gold assaying at the ALS Chemex laboratories in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso or at SEMAFO's Mana Mine Laboratory, which uses separate sample preparation equipment exclusive to exploration samples. Each sample is fire-assayed for gold content on a 50-gram sub-sample. In addition to ALS Chemex's own QA/QC (Quality Assurance/Quality Control) program and Mana Laboratory's own QA/QC program, an internal quality control and quality assurance program is in place throughout the sampling program, using blind duplicates, blanks and recognized industry standards.

About SEMAFO

SEMAFO is a Canadian-based mining company with gold production and exploration activities in West Africa. The Corporation currently operates three gold mines: the Mana Mine in Burkina Faso, the Samira Hill Mine in Niger and the Kiniero Mine in Guinea. SEMAFO is committed to evolve in a conscientious manner to become a major player in its geographical area of interest. SEMAFO's strategic focus is to maximize shareholder value by effectively managing its existing assets as well as pursuing organic and strategic growth opportunities.

CAUTION CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This press release contains forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions and accordingly, actual results and future events could differ materially from those expressed or implied in such statements. You are hence cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include words or expressions such as "potential", "improvements", "suggests", "increases", "will", "committed", "evolve", "become", "pursuing", "growth", "opportunities" and other similar words or expressions. Factors that could cause future results or events to differ materially from current expectations expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements include the ability to improve the Wona/Kona overall project economics, the ability of hole WDC422 on section 16850N to suggest a potential continuation of the mineralization to the north, the ability of hole WDC494 to increase the potential below the south half of the Kona sector or represent the down-plunge extension of the Main Wona oreshoot, the ability to execute on our strategic focus, fluctuation in the price of currencies, gold or operating costs, mining industry risks, uncertainty as to calculation of mineral reserves and resources, delays, political and social stability in Africa (including our ability to maintain or renew licenses and permits) and other risks described in SEMAFO's documents filed with Canadian securities regulatory authorities. You can find further information with respect to these and other risks in SEMAFO's 2011 Annual MD&A and 2011 Annual Information Form, as updated in SEMAFO's 2012 First Quarter MD&A,

and other filings made with Canadian securities regulatory authorities and available at www.sedar.com. These documents are also available on our website at www.semafo.com. SEMAFO disclaims any obligation to update or revise these forward-looking statements, except as required by applicable law.

The above information has been made public in accordance with the Swedish Securities Market Act and/or the Financial Instruments Trading Act.

Appendix 1 and Figure 1 are available at the following link:
http://media3.marketwire.com/docs/SEMAFO_Appendix1_Fig1.pdf.

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