

Aton Announces Results of Surface Sampling at the Semna Prospect, With Intersections of up to 9.7m @ 5.17 G/T Gold Returned From Channel Sample Profiles

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VANCOUVER, B.C., Nov. 21, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- [Aton Resources Inc.](#) (TSX-V:AAN) ("Aton" or the "Company") is pleased to provide investors with an update on exploration activities at the Semna and East Eradiya prospects, currently underway at the Company's 100% owned Abu Marawat concession ("Abu Marawat" or the "Concession"), located in the Eastern Desert of Egypt.

Abu Marawat regional geology, showing the location of the Semna and East Eradiya prospects

Surface sample and channel profile sampling plan of the Semna project

East Eradiya prospect (modified from Google Earth)

Ancient workings at the East Eradiya north zone prospect (the water erosion feature in the nearest pit appears to be an old shaft)

Highlights:

- Channel and grab sampling at the Semna prospect has returned assays of 18.05 g/t Au from individual channel samples and intersections of up to 9.7m @ 5.17 g/t Au from channel sample profiles, and assays up to 10.8 g/t Au from grab samples;
- Field inspection of the East Eradiya prospect has revealed the presence of hitherto unreported and unknown ancient workings on a very extensive scale, largely obscured by alluvial wadi sediments;
- A deep ground penetrating radar geophysical survey has recently been undertaken and completed over the Waayrah, Miranda VMS, Abu Gaharish, Sir Bakis, Semna, Bohlog and East Eradiya prospects, with encouraging preliminary results.

Mark Campbell, President and CEO of Aton, stated: "Results from the area around the old Semna mine are extremely encouraging. I believe that we have identified a large and significant gold deposit. We will be planning on drilling this soon after West Garida. These results and the exciting new discovery of the hitherto unrecognised ancient workings at East Eradiya, just continue to confirm the huge overall potential of the Abu Marawat Concession area. Our recent two year time extension means that the potential to make multiple large commercial discoveries increases significantly."

Semna Prospect

The Semna prospect is located approximately 27km ENE of the Company's Hamama West mineral deposit (see Figure 1), and is accessed via desert tracks from either Hamama or the Abu Marawat deposit to the north. The Semna area has a long history of gold mining, during both ancient and modern times. There is

archaeological evidence in the area suggesting that mining took place during the early Arab, Ptolemaic, and New Kingdom periods, and possibly dates back to as far as the Old Kingdom period, over 4,500 years ago. In modern times, Semna was exploited by the British between 1904-1906 by two companies, the Eridia (Egypt) Exploring Company Limited and Fatira (Egypt) Exploring Company Limited, that worked the Main Vein on two underground levels. By about 1908 however, the British gold mining industry in Egypt had been almost totally eclipsed by the discovery of oil, and was more or less moribund. There was also some further development work of Semna in the 1950s by a subsidiary of the Egyptian Phosphate Company. It has been reported that the Semna mine had the widest vein exploited during the British era of mining in Egypt, which reached up to 6m width in places, and the British reported mining grades of over 2 ounces per ton. Reports from the British Mining Journal from 1905 indicated that some pillars within the ancient stopes assayed up to 5.5 ounces per ton gold.

The mineralisation at Semna is hosted in a heterogeneous quartz diorite body that has been intruded into a package of metasediments with BIF horizons, which outcrop to the west and north of the main Semna mine area. Recent mapping has identified small bodies of outcropping pink granites, probably related to the Younger Granite suite, approximately 750m south of the mine workings. There are 4 distinct mineralized zones – the Main Vein and the South Vein have been the primary focus of historic mining, but there are also workings developed on the North Vein and the Central Veins zone (see Figure 2). The mineralization is strongly structurally controlled, and the mineralization is hosted in a series of steeply dipping shear zones that contain the gold-bearing quartz veins. These sub-parallel quartz veins strike approximately east-west and dip 60-70° to the south, but the dip and strike is quite variable within each vein, and the veins noticeably pinch and swell. The auriferous quartz veins carry significant amounts of accessory sulphide minerals, and are typically quite gossanous and rich in iron oxides at surface, as a response to weathering. Levels of copper are elevated, notably in the Main and North Veins.

Figure 1: Abu Marawat regional geology, showing the location of the Semna and East Eradiya prospects
<http://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/2a2e1626-3d38-45cc-885c-658c9ea4278c>

The Company has recently completed a programme of surface sampling over the Semna area collecting a total of 313 samples (see Figure 2). Of these 278 were collected from a series of channel profiles, and 35 were point samples, either grab or short chip channel samples. Channel samples were manually taken using a hammer and chisel, and were collected over nominal 2m intervals perpendicular to potential mineralization, but their lengths were adjusted according to relevant geological controls and features. Samples were dispatched to ALS Minerals at Rosia Montana, Romania for gold fire assay analysis with analytical code AA-Au23 (repeated by AA-Au25 for samples which returned gold grades greater than 10 g/t Au). Widespread gold mineralization at surface was identified from this sampling programme.

Figure 2: Surface sample and channel profile sampling plan of the Semna project
<http://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/a42b6970-85b8-4a7f-a1d3-0e123ad257f2>

The 63 channel sample profiles varied between 2m and 32m, averaging 8m, in length. Of the 278 samples collected, 69 (or 25% of the samples) returned assays of greater than 1 g/t Au, of which 16 samples returned assays greater than 5 g/t Au (6% of the samples). Mineralization was identified in almost all the profiles sampled, and surface channel sample intersections were returned from all the areas sampled (Figure 2). Mineralized intersections included 9.7m @ 5.17 g/t Au (from channel SMC-039 on the South Vein), 6.9m @ 4.24 g/t Au (from channel SMC-010 on the Main Vein), and 12.9m @ 1.55 g/t Au (from channel SMC-058 on the North Vein). A selection of the intersections is tabulated below in Table 1, and all surface intersections are presented in Appendix A.

Channel Profile ID	Intersection				Zone
	From (m)	To (m)	Width (m)	Au (g/t)	
SMC-003	0.0	4.5	4.5	4.11	Main Vein
SMC-010	0.0	6.9	6.9	4.24	Main Vein
SMC-035	0.0	10.2	10.2	2.20	South Vein
SMC-039	0.0	9.7	9.7	5.17	South Vein
SMC-040	0.0	10.8	10.8	2.43	South Vein
SMC-058	0.0	12.9	12.9	1.55	North Vein
SMC-063	2.0	9.6	7.6	3.01	Main Vein

Table 1: Selected surface channel sampling mineralised intersections

Of the 35 grab and individual channel samples, 10 (or 29% of the samples) returned assays of greater than 1 g/t Au, of which 3 samples returned assays greater than 5 g/t Au (9% of the samples), up to a maximum of 10.8 g/t Au from a folded and sheared quartz vein. Results of all grab and individual channel samples are presented in Appendix B.

East Eradiya Prospect

The north zone, the main area of interest at East Eradiya is located approximately 1000m to the east of the Eradiya granite pluton (see Figure 1), in a broad area of low relief and was identified from satellite imagery which indicated a large area of scattered ancient buildings and ancient workings (see Figure 3). Initial inspection of the imagery suggested that the workings were washing sites and no signs of mining were identified. Earlier field inspection of a previously identified site, the south zone, about 0.7 km to the SE had suggested the presence of ancient processing waste only and no evidence of *in situ* extraction. Follow-up field inspection of the north zone indicated the presence of large amounts of processing waste from ancient mining activity, and the main area of interest is littered with crater-like dumps with distinctive bowl shaped hollows in their centers (see Figure 4), which initially appeared to be washing sites. However, on closer inspection some of these appear to contain the remains of inclined shafts and several possible crown holes were identified. The sites of at least three shafts are clear, but piles of excavated spoil are widespread and probably indicate further shafts. Crown holes away from the shafts indicate that underground workings are extensive and the amount of surface spoil is very significant compared to other ancient mining sites in the area, again suggesting the ancient workings are very extensive. The whole area is covered by a thin veneer of alluvial debris which largely obscures the underlying geology, but around the shafts this can be seen to be less than 1m thick.

Figure 3: East Eradiya prospect (modified from Google Earth)

<http://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/2da6412a-1f98-4c69-85dc-d43514b9a2a4>

From the very limited exposure it is clear that the ancient miners were targeting quartz reefs hosted by a shallowly eastward dipping shear zone. The sheared rock is highly weathered and appears to have been intensely hydrothermally altered. Two sets of quartz veins are visible, one sub-vertical, and the other set of veins dipping parallel to the fabric of the shear zone. The vein quartz is heavily copper-stained with supergene chrysocolla and malachite, and limonite after sulphides. From the limited exposures and the surface topography the shear zone would appear to sub-crop over an area a little under 500m long and 180m wide, striking NNE. Other ancient workings have been identified to the west of the East Eradiya, close to the granite contact. The host rock appears to be a tuffaceous andesitic unit, mostly comprising lapilli tuffs.

Figure 4: Ancient workings at the East Eradiya north zone prospect (the water erosion feature in the nearest pit appears to be an old shaft)

<http://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/c8da1676-d4d4-4421-920a-91fbc62cfe2f>

Following the identification of extensive ancient workings in the area a programme of deep ground penetrating radar geophysical profiling has been carried out at the East Eradiya north zone. Surface trenching is also planned to expose the mineralised structures to allow mapping and sampling at East Eradiya.

Activity update:

- Metallurgical testwork on the four 120kg bulk composite samples of oxide and transitional mineralised material from the Hamama West deposit delivered to Wardell Armstrong International in the UK is well underway, and preliminary coarse bottle roll and agitated leach tests on the samples have been completed with encouraging results. The crushed metallurgical samples are currently undergoing percolation and agglomeration testing, after which the column leach tests will be expected to be started shortly.
- Cube Consulting have commenced work on a revised mineral resource estimate for the Hamama West deposit. This revision will incorporate the results of the spring 2017 drilling programme, and will include also results from the Crocs Nose Zone to the south-west of the Hamama West Main Zone, which was not included in the maiden mineral resource estimate.

- A deep ground penetrating radar geophysical survey has recently been undertaken and completed over the Waayrah, Miranda VMS, Abu Gaharish, Sir Bakis, Semna, Bohlog and East Eradiya prospects, with encouraging preliminary results. The programme was undertaken by Terravision Exploration of the UK, industry leaders in the provision of deep GPR services to the mining and exploration sector. Detailed interpretation of the results is underway, and it is anticipated that the final report on this programme will be completed within the next month.
- Further sampling programs have now been completed over several of the regional target areas, including the Sir Bakis, Abu Gaharish, Bohlog and Massaghat prospects, and results from these sampling programs will be reported shortly.

About Aton Resources Inc.

[Aton Resources Inc.](#) (TSX-V:AAN) is focused on its 100% owned Abu Marawat Concession (‘Abu Marawat’), located in Egypt’s Arabian-Nubian Shield, approximately 200 km north of Centamin’s Sukari gold mine. Aton has identified a 40 km long gold mineralized trend at Abu Marawat, anchored by the Hamama deposit in the west and the Abu Marawat deposit in the east, containing numerous gold exploration targets, including three historic British mines. Aton has identified several distinct geological trends within Abu Marawat, which display potential for the development of RIRG and orogenic gold mineralization, VMS precious and base metal mineralization, and epithermal-IOCG precious and base metal mineralization. Abu Marawat is over 738km² in size and is located in an area of excellent infrastructure, a four-lane highway, a 220kV power line, and a water pipeline are in close proximity.

Qualified Person

The technical information contained in this News Release was prepared by Roderick Cavaney BSc, MSc (hons), MSc (Mining & Exploration Geology), FAusIMM, SEG, GSA, SME, Vice President, Exploration, of [Aton Resources Inc.](#) Mr. Cavaney is a qualified person (QP) under National Instrument 43-101 Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects.

For further information regarding [Aton Resources Inc.](#), please visit us at www.atonresources.com or contact:

Mark Campbell
President and Chief Executive Officer
Tel: +1-936-689-2589
Email: mcampbell@atonresources.com

Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Some of the statements contained in this release are forward-looking statements. Since forward-looking statements address future events and conditions; by their very nature they involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Actual results in each case could differ materially from those currently anticipated in such statements.

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Appendix A – Semna channel profile intersections

Channel Profile ID	Length (m)	Start Location		End Location		Intersection From (m)
		X	Y	X	Y	
SMC-001	14.0	558592	2924755	558581	2924750	12.0
SMC-003	12.5	558579	2924814	558578	2924804	0.0
SMC-004	3.0	558617	2924807	558618	2924805	0.0
SMC-005	7.8	558626	2924800	558621	2924798	0.0
SMC-006	3.6	558636	2924795	558634	2924793	0.0

SMC-007	6.8	558645	2924796	558641	2924793	0.0
SMC-009	2.0	558699	2924768	558699	2924767	0.0
SMC-010	6.9	558709	2924759	558712	2924763	0.0
SMC-011	4.0	558716	2924750	558716	2924752	0.0
SMC-012	7.7	558750	2924752	558750	2924757	0.0
SMC-013	7.8	558762	2924760	558763	2924766	1.8
SMC-014	12.2	558796	2924733	558799	2924723	0.0
SMC-020	2.4	558669	2924700	558669	2924700	0.0
SMC-021	8.0	558669	2924688	558674	2924692	0.0
SMC-022	2.7	558681	2924695	558681	2924697	0.0
SMC-023	8.5	558660	2924679	558666	2924682	6.5
SMC-026	12.0	558697	2924670	558688	2924667	6.0
SMC-027	5.2	558696	2924691	558696	2924694	0.0
SMC-034	12.5	558749	2924606	558747	2924596	4.0
SMC-035	10.2	558591	2924567	558589	2924559	0.0
SMC-036	6.0	558617	2924567	558620	2924570	0.0
SMC-037	3.5	558626	2924567	558627	2924566	0.0
SMC-038	4.0	558636	2924558	558635	2924556	0.0
SMC-039	9.7	558641	2924568	558636	2924562	0.0
SMC-040	10.8	558611	2924563	558610	2924554	0.0
SMC-043	9.0	558668	2924606	558662	2924602	5.0
SMC-044	32.0	558613	2924716	558625	2924743	20.0
SMC-046	11.0	558649	2924721	558645	2924713	4.0
SMC-049	9.7	558573	2924602	558566	2924601	0.0
SMC-056	3.7	558799	2924868	558797	2924868	0.0
SMC-058	12.9	558826	2924867	558818	2924859	0.0
SMC-059	6.4	558907	2924881	558903	2924881	0.0
SMC-061	4.0	558955	2924928	558954	2924929	0.0
SMC-062	20.0	558891	2924600	558958	2924889	0.0
SMC-063	9.6	558700	2924776	558696	2924769	2.0

Notes:

1. Channel profiles sampled over nominal, but not exclusively, 2m intervals
2. Intersections calculated using a 0.5 g/t Au cutoff grade
3. Intersections both less than 2m in width and grading less than 1 g/t are not included in this table
4. Start location refers to the start coordinate of the first channel sample; end locations refers to the start coordinate

Appendix B – Semna grab samples and individual channel samples

Sample ID	X	Y	Au (g/t)	Sample Type	Sample Description
14667	558583	2924755	10.80	Grab	Folded quartz vein in shear zone
14678	558713	2924759	2.61	Chip channel	Small stockwork quartz veins in sheared, altered hangingwall diorite
16308	558890	2924600	1.46	Chip channel	Underground working 40cm wide shear zone, with 5cm quartz vein
16325	558725	2924640	0.92	Grab	Main Vein quartz vein in old workings, with some sulphides
16388	558669	2924700	0.18	Chip channel	Highly sheared diorite hangingwall of the Main Vein
16402	558715	2924699	4.11	Chip channel	Altered diorite footwall
16409	558728	2924600	0.68	Chip channel	Hangingwall contact, sheared diorite & 10cm quartz vein
16411	558727	2924601	0.11	Chip channel	Footwall, of sheared diorite rock
16412	558715	2924596	0.18	Chip channel	Intermediate dyke with 2 quartz veins

16417	558671	2924562	3.81	Grab	Shear zone with 10cm quartz vein in old adit
16418	558670	2924563	0.22	Grab	Grab sample from old adit, mainly vein quartz
16446	558560	2924612	1.42	Grab	Main Vein quartz vein
16539	558517	2924831	0.01	Chip channel	Altered and sheared diorite
16541	558509	2924775	0.05	Chip channel	Shear zone in altered diorite, with small quartz veins
16542	558554	2924732	0.02	Chip channel	Sheared diorite footwall of mined out quartz vein
16543	558556	2924732	0.07	Chip channel	Altered sheared diorite, with 10cm quartz vein
16553	558526	2924698	<0.01	Chip	Altered, sheared diorite, with 3cm quartz vein
16554	558522	2924664	0.01	Chip	Shear zone, with 10cm vuggy quartz vein
16555	558523	2924646	<0.01	Chip	Sheared diorite
16556	558522	2924645	0.01	Chip	Sheared diorite, with 1cm quartz vein
16564	558575	2924607	7.51	Grab	Quartz vein material with 90% oxidised sulphides, from South Vein
16565	558579	2924602	3.99	Grab	Dump material from South Vein
16569	558633	2924714	0.90	Chip	Altered sheared diorite (hangingwall)
16603	558630	2924724	0.64	Grab	Grab sample of quartz with high sulphide
16604	558605	2924772	0.17	Chip	Highly sheared rock, with some small quartz veins
16605	558612	2924775	0.07	Chip	Highly sheared rock, with some small quartz veins
16612	558467	2924832	0.03	Chip	Chip sample from quartz vein
16618	558710	2924972	0.02	Grab	Grab sample from quartz vein
16638	558908	2924893	0.01	Grab	2 quartz veins (40cm & 30cm) in diorite
16642	558956	2924924	0.11	Grab	2 intersecting quartz veins
16643	558954	2924924	0.14	Chip channel	Highly sheared diorite & sheeted quartz veins, 10cm
16644	558953	2924913	0.29	Grab	Grab sample from c.2m wide quartz vein
16645	558954	2924913	1.18	Chip	Shear zone & small quartz vein
16651	558930	2924832	9.63	Chip channel	Shear zone
16652	558930	2924833	0.29	Chip channel	Sheared, altered rock & quartz vein

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