

Aton Announces Initial Results From the Second Phase of Selective Grab Sampling at the Rodruin Prospect, With Gold Assays Up to 13.90 G/T

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VANCOUVER, British Columbia, March 05, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- [Aton Resources Inc.](#) (TSX-V:AAN) ("Aton" or the "Company") is very pleased to provide investors with an update on exploration activities at the Company's 100% owned Abu Marawat Concession ("Abu Marawat" or the "Concession"), and to announce gold assay results from the second phase of grab sampling at the recently discovered Rodruin prospect.

Abu Marawat regional geology, showing the location of the Rodruin prospect

Sample locations and gold assay results, Phase 2 grab sampling program only

Sample locations and gold assay results, combined Phase 1 and 2 grab sampling programs

Highlights:

- A second phase of selective surface grab sampling has been completed at Rodruin, consisting of a total of 102 samples, including 4 QAQC samples. Samples were analyzed for gold by fire assay and a 33 element geochemical suite;
- Grab samples returned gold assay grades including 13.90 g/t Au and 10.75 g/t Au. Base metal and trace element results are still pending;
- 29 of the 98 "primary" samples (30% of total) returned gold assay grades above 1 g/t Au, and 43 samples (44% of total) returned grades above 0.5 g/t Au;
- This second phase sampling program has confirmed the widespread distribution of surface gold mineralization at Rodruin, and has extended the area over which mineralization has been identified. Widespread gold mineralization occurs at surface on the South Ridge, with mineralization more restricted to discrete high grade zones on the North Ridge.

"These are very solid results over a broad surface area and we are very pleased with them," said Mark Campbell, President and CEO. *"There are more assay results to look forward to, and at the same time we have started work on building a road in to Rodruin in advance of our upcoming drilling program."*

Rodruin Prospect

The Rodruin prospect (see Figure 1) was discovered in early December 2017 by Aton geologists (see news release dated December 14, 2017), and is located approximately 18km east of the Company's Hamama West mineral deposit. The Rodruin prospect is located over an area consisting of 2 approximately E-W trending parallel mountain ridges, in a remote and rugged location. It is currently only accessible on foot, but can be reached via drivable desert tracks which pass within about 3km of the prospect. Work on the construction of an access road to Rodruin from its western side has been started.

Very extensive ancient workings have been identified at Rodruin, covering a large area, and occurring predominantly within a series of carbonate rocks. These ancient mine workings are the largest and most significant workings identified to date in the Concession. The workings are spread over an area of at least 500m x 400m in size, and over a vertical elevation range of more than 100m, and are located predominantly on the South Ridge of the Rodruin prospect, with fewer workings on the North Ridge. The ancient miners exploited high grade gossanous oxide gold mineralization, often associated with gold-bearing quartz veins, with the workings typically localized along structural or shear zones.

Figure 1: - An infographic accompanying this announcement is available at <http://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/8bde33f6-6003-4b25-96b4-2663b7ced657>

Of the 98 grab samples collected, 68 were collected from the South Ridge, and 30 from the North Ridge (see Figure 2). It is apparent that outcropping mineralization is more widespread on the South Ridge, and on the North Ridge is more areally restricted to discrete high grade structurally controlled zones. Surface mineralization further to the west of the main area of workings on the western end of the South Ridge was newly identified and sampled in the Phase 2 program. Additional deep ancient workings on very high grade zones on the South Ridge were identified during the second phase of sampling, but these were not sampled in this program. A summary of the gold assay results is provided in Table 1, and full details of all samples are provided in Appendix A.

February 2018 Phase 2 surface sampling program

A second phase program of surface sampling was carried out in early February 2018, with 98 selective grab samples collected. All samples were crushed to -4mm at the Company's onsite sample preparation facility at Hamama, with c. 500g splits shipped to ALS Minerals at Rosia Montana, Romania for analysis. Samples were analyzed for gold by fire assay using analytical code AA-Au23 (repeated by AA-Au25 for samples which returned gold grades greater than 10 g/t). Samples were also analyzed for Ag, Cu, Pb and Zn as part of a 33 element suite by ICP atomic emission spectrometry, using analytical code ME-ICP61. Base metal and trace element results are still pending, and are not reported herein.

Figure 2: - An infographic accompanying this announcement is available at <http://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/e5f4f9db-b18d-42ab-9aa9-78a5ee5da635>

Figure 3: - An infographic accompanying this announcement is available at <http://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/1bae7edf-537b-4d78-aa16-c7a06de5ea05>

Significant gold assays were returned from many samples, with 30% assaying greater than 1 g/t Au and 44% of the samples assaying over 0.5 g/t Au (see Table 1 and Figure 2). The overall mean average grade of all the samples was 1.06 g/t Au.

Phase 2 sampling on the South Ridge confirmed the widespread distribution of mineralization at surface, and extended the known mineralization further to the west (see Figure 3). 57% of the South Ridge samples assayed above 0.5 g/t Au, and the mean average all samples from the South Ridge was 1.29 g/t Au. The median average of the South Ridge samples was 0.75 g/t Au.

Sampling on the North Ridge confirmed that mineralization is more restricted to discrete narrow high grade zones, and is less areally widespread (see Figure 3). Only limited examination of the North Ridge has been undertaken to date, due to the fairly extreme topography in this area.

	ALL SAMPLES		SOUTH RIDGE		NORTH RIDGE	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
> 5 g/t Au :	3	3%	3	3%	3	3%
> 1 g/t Au :	29	29%	29	38%	3	10%
> 0.5 g/t Au :	43	44%	43	57%	3	13%
AVERAGE (MEAN) :	1.06		1.29		0.55	
AVERAGE (MEDIAN) :	0.33		0.75		0.04	
No. of samples	98		68		30	

Table 1: Summary of Phase 2 surface sample gold assays

Discussion

The Rodruin prospect represents a major ancient mining site from which gold was exploited from high grade gossanous structures and quartz veins, localized in or adjacent to the margins of a distinctive gossanous carbonate unit. The mineralization at Rodruin appears to be of a broadly similar carbonate-hosted hybrid VMS-epithermal style to that seen and interpreted at other prospects in the license such as Hamama, Waayrah, and Miranda SE, but it has been extensively tectonized with the development of significant high grade structurally controlled and shear-hosted zones. Rodruin is characterized by the very widespread distribution of mineralization at surface (see Figure 3), and the presence of the high grade zones, which were preferentially exploited by the ancient miners (see new release dated February 6, 2017). The Phase 2 sampling continues to confirm the potential of the Rodruin prospect to host a large body of Au(-Ag-Zn) mineralization, with a significant component of structurally controlled high grade gold zones, occurring in a distinctive, probably replacive, mineralized carbonate unit.

Rodruin is now the primary focus of the Company's exploration efforts. Further surface sampling is ongoing, and work has started on the construction of a road into the prospect, with the aim of allowing drilling to commence by April 2018.

About Aton Resources Inc.

[Aton Resources Inc.](#) (AAN: TSX-V) 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, 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.

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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.

Neither TSX Venture Exchange nor its Regulation Services Provider (as that term is defined in policies of the TSX Venture Exchange) accepts responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.

Appendix A – Gold Assay Results

Sample ID	Easting	Northing	Location	Au (g/t)	Description
13613	552990	2913121	North Ridge	0.01	Fe-stained shear zone in carbonate altered tuffs
13614	552966	2913112	North Ridge	0.02	Fe-stained sheared, silicified and carbonate altered tuffs
13615	552965	2913106	North Ridge	0.05	Purple/black/yellow gossan in sheared, altered tuffs
13616	552925	2913037	North Ridge	0.02	Fe-stained sheared contact between carbonate and tuffs
13617	552951	2913029	North Ridge	0.03	Black/brown gossan on sheared and carbonate altered tuffs
13618	552958	2913016	North Ridge	0.10	Carbonate with brown gossan (and some hemimorphite?)
13619	552990	2912981	North Ridge	0.33	Soft black-brown gossan
13620	552981	2913016	North Ridge	0.01	Highly sheared and altered carbonate, with black/brown gossan
13621	552996	2912983	North Ridge	1.44	Highly sheared red-brown gossan
13622	553007	2912980	North Ridge	0.23	Mineralized (?) carbonate with red-brown gossan
13623	553013	2912974	North Ridge	0.15	2m wide shear zone with black/red gossan in carbonate
13624	553022	2912990	North Ridge	0.32	Soft black gossan in sheared, altered carbonate
13625	553031	2913014	North Ridge	10.75	Gossanous shear vein in ancient workings
13626	553097	2913099	North Ridge	0.05	Shear zone with black Mn? alteration
13627	553136	2913083	North Ridge	0.02	Mineralized (?) carbonate with iron oxides and minor brown-red gossan
17581	552322	2913023	South Ridge	0.69	Red-brown/yellowish gossanous material, from old working
17582	552280	2913043	South Ridge	1.90	Ancient working, silicified and mineralized carbonate with gossan, on tuffs
17583	552285	2913041	South Ridge	1.40	Ancient working, silicified and mineralized carbonate with gossan, on tuffs
17584	552289	2913044	South Ridge	0.88	Ancient working, silicified and mineralized carbonate with hemimorphite in tuffs
17585	552287	2913020	South Ridge	1.64	Ancient working, silicified and mineralized carbonate with hemimorphite in tuffs
17586	552283	2913000	South Ridge	0.77	Ancient working, silicified and mineralized carbonate with hemimorphite in tuffs
17587	552281	2913004	South Ridge	1.95	Ancient working, soft brown gossan
17588	552422	2913060	South Ridge	1.44	Ancient working, carbonate with some gossan and malachite staining
17589	552445	2913058	South Ridge	4.26	Mixed sheared tuffs and carbonate, with highly gossanous material on tuffs
17590				5.13	<i>Duplicate of 17589</i>
17591	552451	2913030	South Ridge	5.02	Carbonate with highly gossanous material and some iron oxides
17592	552485	2913038	South Ridge	0.06	Silica-carbonate outcrop with veinlets of dark material and some iron oxides
17593	552520	2913041	South Ridge	0.02	Silica-carbonate outcrop, mixed with sheared tuffs
17594	552549	2913013	South Ridge	0.07	2-3m wide Fe-rich sheared zone, highly altered
17595	552444	2912947	South Ridge	0.32	Ancient working, mineralized carbonate with gossan
17596	552440	2912944	South Ridge	0.89	Ancient working, soft brown gossan
17597	552443	2912931	South Ridge	0.18	Mineralized carbonate with hemimorphite-rich gossan, 1m inside old working
17598	552471	2912903	South Ridge	0.11	Outcrop of highly silicified and mineralised, gossanous carbonate
17599	552502	2912895	South Ridge	0.85	Very friable soft gossan material in fractured carbonate
17600	552538	2912891	South Ridge	0.22	Gossanous, sheared contact of carbonate
18615	552597	2912876	South Ridge	1.41	Outcrop of patchy gossan on sheared carbonate contact
18616	552610	2912886	South Ridge	2.14	Ancient working, carbonate with abundant brown gossan
18617	552612	2912885	South Ridge	1.31	Ancient working, carbonate with strong black-brown gossan from unconsolidated tuffs

Sample ID	Easting	Northing	Location	Au (g/t)	Description
18618	552616	2912843	South Ridge	4.28	Ancient working, on sheared contact between tuffs and carbonate
18619	552655	2912861	South Ridge	0.74	Black to red gossan, pyritic boxwork texture
18620	552627	2912886	South Ridge	0.83	Patchy gossan in carbonate
18621	552671	2912879	South Ridge	1.58	Black to red patchy gossan in carbonate
18622	552621	2912895	South Ridge	4.45	Gossan with carbonate, old working
18623	552574	2912902	South Ridge	3.19	Dark red gossan, limonite and hematite-rich, from ancient underground workings
18624	552441	2912989	South Ridge	0.33	Small ancient working, red-brown gossan, with some baryte

18625				0.005	<i>Blank sample</i>
18626	552491	2912980	South Ridge	0.06	Outcrop of highly silica-carbonate with weak mineralization
18627	552500	2912976	South Ridge	0.07	Outcrop of highly silica-carbonate, with some mineralization, iron oxides
18628	552540	2912956	South Ridge	0.01	Outcrop of highly silica-carbonate, with some mineralization, limited
18629	552569	2912937	South Ridge	0.88	Gossanous shear zone, highly altered with iron oxides, hematite and
18630	552579	2912948	South Ridge	1.06	Friable soft gossan, in shear zone
18631	552578	2912952	South Ridge	0.09	Carbonate altered tuffs, with brown/yellow gossan
18632	552646	2912987	South Ridge	1.58	Black/yellowish gossan, in shear zone
18633	552640	2912996	South Ridge	0.40	Slaty tuffs replaced by limonite and hematite, with some patches of
18634	552524	2913030	South Ridge	0.04	Gossanous silica-carbonate
18635	552473	2913042	South Ridge	0.07	Silica-carbonate, weakly gossanous
18636	552749	2912711	South Ridge	0.02	Mixed carbonate and altered tuffs, black and brown Mn and Fe (?) a
18637	552712	2912748	South Ridge	0.04	Outcrop of mineralized silica-carbonate, weakly gossanous
18638	552712	2912738	South Ridge	0.30	Shear zone in altered carbonate, with Fe oxides
18639	552700	2912766	South Ridge	0.05	Outcrop of silica-carbonate with some black/brown gossan
18640	552708	2912783	South Ridge	13.90	Dark black gossan, with quartz veins in fractures
18641	552739	2912759	South Ridge	0.43	Gossanous material between carbonate and altered tuffs
18642	552766	2912746	South Ridge	1.92	Ancient working, dark brown/black gossan
18643	552783	2912752	South Ridge	1.20	Ancient working, mineralized carbonate, with dark red gossan
18644	552783	2912728	South Ridge	0.43	Ancient working, shear zone with dark brown/black gossan
18645	552808	2912700	South Ridge	0.17	Fe oxide-rich shear zone on boundary of carbonate with altered tuffs
18646	552840	2912714	South Ridge	0.00	Outcrop of altered silica-carbonate, weakly mineralised
18647	552832	2912804	South Ridge	0.30	Outcrop of altered silica-carbonate, with some brown gossan
18648	552799	2912765	South Ridge	4.04	Deep red-brown gossan, on a quartz vein contact
18649	552856	2912801	South Ridge	0.00	Sheared tuffs, with iron oxides
18650	552796	2912771	South Ridge	0.61	Remobilized dark brown to black gossan
18651	552708	2912855	South Ridge	0.93	Silica-carbonate, with limonite, iron oxide and black (Mn?) staining
18652	552702	2912882	South Ridge	1.21	Silica-carbonate, with gossan
18653	552704	2912907	South Ridge	0.62	Silica-carbonate, with gossan
18654	552720	2912934	South Ridge	4.59	Ancient working, with deep brown/dark yellowish gossan
18655				<0.005	<i>Blank sample</i>
18656	552807	2913093	North Ridge	0.17	Silica-carbonate, with sheared brown/black gossan
18657	553008	2912954	North Ridge	0.31	Silica-carbonate, with brown/black gossan
18658	553011	2912965	North Ridge	1.23	Silica-carbonate with red-brown/black/yellowish gossan between arg
Sample ID	Easting	Northing	Location	Au (g/t)	Description
18659	552950	2912980	North Ridge	0.01	Sheared tuffs with some gossan, within carbonate
18660	552938	2913018	North Ridge	0.05	Strongly gossanous silica-carbonate, and highly carbonate altered t
18661	553100	2913159	North Ridge	0.01	Fe oxide-stained shear zone, in tuffs?
18662	553053	2913173	North Ridge	0.04	Silica-carbonate band with dark brown gossan in shear zone (25cm
18663	553015	2913140	North Ridge	0.87	Sheared zone, with dark black/red gossan
18664	553026	2913142	North Ridge	0.02	10cm wide quartz vein, with dark material in sheared rock
18665	553024	2913106	North Ridge	0.01	Folded quartz veinlets in sheared tuffs, with black/brown Mn?, limon
18666	553002	2913080	North Ridge	0.03	Sheared tuffs, with limonite and hematite, and abundant dark Mn?
18667	552970	2913075	North Ridge	0.01	2m wide zone of gossanous material in carbonate
18668	552980	2913039	North Ridge	0.03	3m wide zone of dark gossanous material in carbonate
18669	553065	2913028	North Ridge	0.03	50cm wide zone of sheared dark gossanous material in carbonate
18670	553103	2912996	North Ridge	0.07	Black soft material in strongly weathered zone
18671				<0.005	<i>Blank sample</i>
18841	552282	2913084	South Ridge	0.39	Silicified gossan, on sheared contact
18842	552278	2912996	South Ridge	1.26	Silicified gossan, at old working
18843	552280	2912996	South Ridge	0.96	Dark red/yellowish gossan from old underground working
18844	552413	2913032	South Ridge	1.52	Outcrop of gossanous mineralized (?) carbonate

18845	552434	2913019	South Ridge	0.07	Outcrop of gossanous, mineralized carbonate, with 20cm wide quartz
18846	552458	2913005	South Ridge	0.38	Outcrop of gossanous, mineralized silica-carbonate
18847	552579	2912941	South Ridge	0.01	Outcrop of gossanous carbonate
18848	552633	2913000	South Ridge	1.35	Highly altered and sheared material
18849	552308	2913027	South Ridge	3.45	Ancient working, red-brownish soft gossan
18850	552317	2913024	South Ridge	0.68	Red-brown/yellowish gossan, sampled 10m inside old working

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