

Meridian Mining Provides Espigão Exploration Update

13.06.2019 | [CNW](#)

Release of base metals assays give context to larger hydrothermal origin of manganese veins

LONDON, June 12, 2019 - Meridian Mining SE (TSXV: MNO) ("Meridian" or the "Company") today releases all multi-element Diamond Drill Hole ("DDH") results from the Company's 2014-2015 drilling program on the Espigão project in Rondônia ("the Project") (Fig 1). Prior drilling releases were previously reported solely on the manganese content of the vein system. Following the recent development of an intrusive-related mineralization model, the drilling database has been re-assessed. Composites re-calculated for the base metal components: copper ("Cu"), lead ("Pb"), zinc ("Zn") and other pathfinder elements. The review highlights diverse, zoned metal assemblages coincident with geophysical anomalies, reflecting an underlying geological control.

To download the entire DDH results please refer to the link provided on the Company's web site "Espigão" project page www.meridianmining.co/operations/espigao/

Northern Structural Trends

The northern manganese oxide vein systems carry a significant base metal content (Fig 1), with copper and lead assays in excess of 0.1%. At several prospect areas, the results from the DDH* for base metal contents reach percent levels, with examples including:

- DDH_EM_012 (Eduardo Mendes): 19.50m @ 19.9% MnO₂, 0.16% Cu & 1.05% Pb, from 47.65m;
 - including 2.15m @ 28.4% MnO₂, 0.19% Cu & 2.20% Pb, from 53.4m (Fig2);
- DDH_SF_002 (São Felipe): 6.65m @ 53.5% MnO₂, 0.24% Cu & 2.91% Pb, from 38.75m (Fig 3); and
- DDH_ADE_002 (Califórnia): 4.45m @ 37.7% MnO₂, 0.19% Cu & 1.22% Pb, from 17.5m.

*All intersections for the inclined DDH-series holes are estimated to be at least 50 - 65% of the downhole thicknesses.

Peak base metal results for individual drill samples along this trend reach 0.62% Cu & 6.56% Pb. The north-east quadrant of the project area generally shows higher levels of Cu-Pb contents in the composite database. Peak zinc is also observed at Eduardo Mendes (DDH_EM_016; 0.14% Zn).

Central Structural Trends

Base metals remain moderately elevated throughout the structural trends in the more central part (Fig 1) of the Project. The Antônio Gomes area contains massive to brecciated vein and stockwork style vein zones. Half of the holes drilled in this area have returned lead in the >0.1% Pb range. Other metals are elevated but more variable. Vein textures suggest an epithermal emplacement, transitional to epithermal conditions. Zinc locally forms part of the metal content. Examples of intersections illustrating the metal associations over broader or more discrete intervals include:

- DDH_AG_001: 12.25m @ 16.2% MnO₂, 0.04% Cu, 0.23% Pb from 3.00m
- DDH_AG_009: 0.17m @ 61.2% MnO₂, 0.44% Cu, 0.10% Pb, 0.11% Zn from 34.8m

The lead and copper association extends to neighbouring prospects such as Ademir Curral, Ambulancia, and areas within the central mining lease (e.g. Edinei - Zenilda).

Southern Structural Trends

The manganese veins in the southern margin (Fig 1) of the project area are by comparison relatively depleted in their base metal content. Lead in composites is frequently <100 ppm Pb to a maximum of 464 ppm Pb. Copper in composites remain around 730 ppm Cu, with an average content of 730ppm Cu, to a maximum 0.44% Cu. Zinc has an average of 151 ppm to a maximum of 690 ppm Zn.

In one area (Gracioso target), the hydrothermal alteration is marked by a wide package of ferruginous breccias (from surface to 114m), with a finely laminated package appearing at 82.60 - 83.50m. This suggests at least part of the sequence may be related to high-level volcanic to sub-volcanic horizons with altered breccia pipes. The associated litho-geochemical anomalies are similar to those of the basement elsewhere:

- DDH_GR_001: 15.85m @ 0.9% MnO₂, 5.2% Fe₂O₃, 130ppm uranium (U), 0.13ppm tellurium (Te), 3.4ppm Silver from 4.55m

The base metal content of this interval is at background levels (60ppm Cu, 40ppm Pb, 156ppm Zn), but a bedrock concentration of gold is present in the vicinity and requires further constraint to test the metal assemblage underpinning the breccia complex. A tungsten (W) anomaly is present from the collar of the hole, and the position needs to be stepped back to test the full cross-strike of the breccia package.

Potential for Zoned Mineralization

The overall footprint of the mineralization event is broad, and historical drilling in many areas remains at wide spacings (300-500m), and relatively shallow (average depth below surface of ~41m). The development of the intrusive-related mineralization raises the need to test for partitioning of gold and base metals at depth and along strike, with the possibility that different metal assemblages were concentrated in different areas (related to changes in pressure, temperatures or redox conditions in the hydrothermal system).

It is already known that bedrock gold has been concentrated in at least one target area. At Coice de Cobra, trenching returned 28.00m @ 0.8g/t Au in saprolite (including 0.50m @ 23.5g/t Au and 0.50m @ 9.1g/t Au). The peak results from a six-hole drill in 2017 was 4.35m @ 3.2g/t Au from 20.65m (DDH_CC_003)¹. The host quartz-sulphide veins share the same orientation as the manganese vein system. Further analysis of the Company's core and pulp collection is warranted to better understand the distribution in the manganese veins themselves (only 55% of holes drilled for manganese were analysed for gold, with a peak of 331 ppb over 0.35m in hole DDH_CF_004).

Other related pathfinder elements (Figures 8 through to 11) are recognized. Rare earth element Lanthanum (La) is seen as anomalous to levels of several hundred ppm in the manganese veins, particularly in the northern vein systems. A peak of 0.10% La was returned in the sparsely tested area on the eastern perimeter of the project:

¹ Meridian news release of Nov. 20, 2017

- DDH_MR_008A (Marafom): 7.8m @ 8.4% MnO₂, 0.1% Cu, 0.42% Pb, 0.10% La from 8.5m.

Tungsten (W) is generally a minor metal, typically at levels of <100ppm, and in the 100-400ppm range in the northern area. The peak assay returned in the database is

- DDH_MOI_002 (Moises) 1.00m @ 11.2% MnO₂, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Pb, 0.12% W from 20.15m.

Molybdenum (Mo) values are generally low; peak values of 103 ppm Mo are seen in DDH_ACS_003 and 114 ppm Mo in DDH_ADV_005, in the northern area:

- DDH_ACS_003 (14 de Abril): 0.73m @ 47.2% MnO₂, 400ppm Cu, 3.86% Pb, 103ppm Mo from 6.85m.

Peaks in these metals often appear at the margins of the known manganese zones. Rare earths such as lanthanum and tungsten have a possible spatial association to IOCG style deposits or intrusive related systems.

Next Steps

The Company is looking to initiate multi-element scanning on soil samples through portable XRF analysis. Soil XRF analysis is also being incorporated into the preproduction programs, to test for metal assemblages in the immediate halo to the manganese veins. Quartz veins and ferruginous breccia zones seen along strike from the veins have traditionally not been a past focus for analytical work.

Corridors defined by the recent modelling of the Company's magnetic data will be subject to reconnaissance field work, to extend the knowledge of the surface expression of the footprint to the hydrothermal centres. Follow-up work will be extending also to the tin greisen² recognized along strike from the Antonio Gomes prospect.

Mr Clark, Interim CEO & President, states, "The hydrothermal mineralisation of the Company's Espigão Project displays an impressive suite of related metals: manganese, copper, lead, zinc (Figures 4-7), tin and gold. By combining these metals with vectoring elements (Figures 8-11), the Company can draw analogies to other polymetallic systems that have manganese veins in proximity. While remaining focused on managing costs and producing high quality Mn concentrates, the Company's geologists are reviewing the historical and modern data sets to assess the full range of generative models, from IOCG potential given the recognition of wide ferruginous breccia zones and the diverse pathfinder element suite, to intrusive-related gold / base metal systems, which are the focus of aggressive exploration campaigns within the same geological terrains in neighbouring states to the east."

Qualified Person: The technical information about the Company's exploration activity has been prepared under the supervision of and verified by Dr. Adrian McArthur (B.Sc. Hons, PhD. FAusIMM), the Chief Geologist of Meridian Mining, who is a "qualified person" within the meaning of National Instrument 43-101.

² Meridian news release of Nov. 22, 2018.

Notes:

Analysis have been conducted by an accredited SGS Laboratory in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Gold in drill core has been analysed by methods FAA323 and FAA505 (fire assay of 30g / 50g charge), with samples containing visible gold analysed by screen fire assay (SGS method FAASCR). Manganese and multi-element results have been determined by XRF techniques (XRF79C) for major oxides in mineralized zones, supplemented by multi-acid digest and ICP-OES analysis (ICP40B) in areas of trace mineralization or wall-rock alteration. Multi-element work on the Gracioso breccia was conducted by a lithogeochemical package at ALS in Lima, Peru (methods ME-XRF26, ME-MS42, ME-MS81, ME-4ACD81, Au-AA26, C-IR07, S-IR08). Analytical quality is monitored by certified references and blanks. Until dispatch, samples are stored in the company's supervised stockpile yard or exploration office. The samples are couriered to the assay laboratory using a commercial contractor (Eucatur). Pulps are returned to the Company and archived.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Meridian Mining SE

Gilbert Clark

Interim CEO, President and Director

ABOUT MERIDIAN

Meridian Mining SE is focused on the acquisition, exploration, development and mining activities in Brazil. The Company is currently focused on exploring and developing the Espigão manganese and gold projects,

