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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Marusia Diamond Indicator Mineral Suite Confirmed**

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**Stratabound Minerals Corp.** is pleased to report additional results from its Marusia diamond exploration property in the Otish Mountains area of central Quebec. The 2,950 hectare property is located less than 25 kilometres south of the Ashton/Soquem property containing the Renard diamond discoveries.

The company has received electron microprobe analyses of 63 mineral grains submitted to R. L. Barnett Geological Consulting. These comprised grains which had been identified under the microscope as kimberlite indicator minerals by SGS Lakefield Research Ltd., including ilmenites (8), chromites (11), olivines (31), pyrope garnets (3), and clinopyroxenes (10). Results are positive, with kimberlite provenance confirmed for all of the chromites, olivines and pyropes, and for five of the eight ilmenites. The clinopyroxene grains were determined to be of crustal origin.

The five positive ilmenite grains are picroilmenites characterized by high magnesium (10.98 to 14.21 wt% MgO), high titanium (54.29 to 56.11 wt% TiO<sub>2</sub>), low iron (28.19 to 33.54 wt% FeO), elevated nickel (0.14 to 0.30 wt% NiO), and some chromium (0.20 to 0.71 wt% Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>). Picroilmenites of these compositions are considered important exploration indicators, and are commonly used to locate kimberlite pipes.

The chromite grains are considered significant by virtue of high magnesium (7.70 to 12.58 wt% MgO), high chromium (45.55 to 60.10 wt% Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), high titanium (0.93 to 3.45 wt% TiO<sub>2</sub>) and high nickel (0.12 to 0.31 wt%) contents. Chromium-titanium chromites containing greater than 0.8 wt% TiO<sub>2</sub> have been shown to be characteristic of kimberlites and lamproites, the common bedrock hosts for diamond deposits worldwide.

The garnet grains were determined to be low-calcium G9 pyropes (4.52 to 6.17 wt% CaO) containing 2.03 to 7.32 wt% Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, indicating lherzolitic upper mantle derivation. Pyrope garnets are commonly present in kimberlites.

The olivines are the extremely magnesian forsterite variety, an end-member of the olivine solid-solution series originating in the upper mantle. Of the 31 Marusia grains analyzed, 24 are in the 90.04 to 93.06 wt% forsterite range, and three are 88.16 to 89.44 Fo. Again, these olivine compositions are typical of those found in kimberlite rocks. Furthermore, Geological Survey of Canada Bulletin 423 (Fipke, Gurney and Moore, 1995) reports that highly magnesian-rich forsteritic olivine (Fo 90.2 to 96.6) with significant amounts of nickel (0.2 to 0.49 wt% NiO) is a common inclusion in

diamonds from both kimberlites and lamproites. It is therefore noteworthy that 28 of the 31 Marusia olivine grains contain significant amounts of nickel (0.25 to 0.54 wt% NiO).

All the confirmed indicator minerals were recovered from glacial till samples that were collected, on average, 400 metres down-ice from 16 of the initial 30 aeromagnetic targets selected for ground follow-up.

These 16 magnetic anomalies appear to form four separate clusters, each encompassing an area of one to two square kilometers. Only one anomaly lies outside these proposed clusters.

The company is encouraged by these results. Many kimberlite targets in the Otish Mountains area are reported to have very short dispersal trains of kimberlite indicator minerals and negligible background counts. These current results are therefore highly positive and merit detailed follow-up.

Aeromagnetic anomaly B5, a 200 x 100 metre feature, is of particular interest. Sample 95052, less than 250 metres down-ice from B5, yielded five chromites, four olivines, two G9 pyropes and one picroilmenite, all with excellent geochemistry. Four of these chromites contain weight percentages of 9.37 to 12.58 MgO, 58.55 to 60.10 Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 1.95 to 3.06 TiO<sub>2</sub>, and 0.27 to 0.37 NiO. The olivines are Fo90.45 to Fo91.64, with 0.33 to 0.43 wt% NiO. The G9 pyropes contain 4.52 and 6.17 wt% CaO, with 2.03 and 7.32 wt% TiO<sub>2</sub>, respectively. The picroilmenite contains weight percentages of 14.21 MgO, 55.95 TiO<sub>2</sub>, 28.19 FeO, 0.16 NiO and 0.35 Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

All of the glacial till samples were assayed for precious metals, as a portion of the property is underlain by the same rocks that host the significant past producing Eastmain River Gold Mine eight kilometers south of Marusia. Three samples contained anomalous gold geochemistry, and a fourth sample yielded a grain of native gold.

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