

Marathon Deposit Drilling Intersects 25.33 g/t Au (uncut) over 14.0 meters with 310.35 g/t Au (uncut) over 1.0 meters, Valentine Lake Gold Camp

TORONTO, ON – January 16, 2017, - Marathon Gold Corporation (“Marathon” or the “Company”) (TSX: MOZ) is pleased to announce the very positive results from the remaining drill holes of the 2016 drilling campaign at the Marathon Deposit, Valentine Lake Gold Camp; including the spectacular 25.33 g/t Au (uncut) over 14.0 meters including 310.35 g/t Au (uncut) over 1.0 meter near surface in drill hole MA-16-154. In addition, wide intervals of high-grade gold were intersected in deeper sections of drill holes MA-16-153 to MA-16-156 and extended MA-15-034 with best deep intercepts included 3.03 g/t Au over 18.0 meters in MA-16-053, 2.64 g/t Au over 40.0 meters in MA-16-154, and 2.84 g/t Au over 31.0 meters in MA-16-156 (Figure 1).

These latest excellent drill results will be incorporated into the upcoming resource update for the Marathon Deposit which is expected to be released by the end of February, 2017. The 50 to 100 meter-wide and sub-vertical mineralized corridor of the Marathon Deposit, consisting of dominantly shallow SW-dipping en-echelon stacked quartz-tourmaline-pyrite-gold veining, has a current well defined strike length of over 550 meters, extends to depth for more than 400 meters, and is open both along strike and to depth.

The 2017 drilling campaign is now underway, with two rigs drilling around the clock at both the Marathon and Leprechaun Deposits. The forthcoming Marathon resource update will be used to optimize new drilling and the results of the winter 2017 drilling at both the Marathon and Leprechaun Deposits, plus planned drilling at the Sprite and Victory Deposits as well as other new gold showings, will all be incorporated into a later 2017 resource update in advance of the PEA for the Valentine Lake Gold Camp.

Highlights:

- Spectacular, near-surface mineralization in MA-16-154 returned 25.33 g/t Au (uncut) over 14.0 meters including 310.35 g/t Au (uncut) over 1.0 meters. These results represent the second highest gold assay ever intersected to date in the Marathon Deposit. The highest gold assay achieved to date was 1183.62 g/t Au over 1.0 meter in MA-14-024.
- Best intercepts 200 meters or more below surface included 3.03 g/t Au over 18.0 meters with 7.03 g/t Au over 3.0 meters and 6.87 g/t Au over 4.0 meters in MA-16-153; 2.64 g/t Au over 40.0 meters with 13.12 g/t Au over 5.0 meter, 8.81 g/t Au over 1.0 meter and 9.67 g/t Au over 1.0 meter in MA-16-154; 1.85 g/t Au over 20.0 meter with 5.57 g/t Au over 4.0 meters and 4.44 g/t Au over 1.0 meter in MA-16-155; 2.84 g/t Au over 31.0 meters with 7.45 g/t Au over 2.0 meters, 4.26 g/t Au over 2.0 meters and 11.82 g/t Au over 4.0 meters in MA-16-156; and 3.40 g/t Au over 5.0 meters with 11.43 g/t Au over 1.0 meter in extended MA-15-034.
- These new deep high-grade gold intercepts occur between 70 - 120 meters down-dip from previous drilling and demonstrate the continuity and strength of the mineralization corridor of the Marathon Deposit. The deeper higher-grade mineralized zone, intersected in previously released drill holes MA-16-101, 107, 109, 111, 112, 113, 116, 127, 128, 130, 136, 149, 150, 151, 152 and MA-15-047 and 032, has a strike length in excess of 400 meters (Figure 1).
- The 50-100 meter-wide (TT) and sub-vertical Marathon Deposit alteration and mineralized corridor, including the 2015 open pit resource shell, extends along strike for at least 1.7 kilometers (Figure 1). Much of this 1.7 km strike length has been drill-tested with only wide spaced holes and therefore requires additional drilling before being included into a resource update. The current 2015 resource pit shell included just 450 meters of the total 1.7 km strike length and the new resource will expand beyond the 500-meter strike length to incorporate the recent very positive results from drilling to the southwest

“The success of our 2016 drilling at the Marathon Deposit has been documented in numerous positive press releases throughout the year and these results will be incorporated into our much-anticipated resource update to be released by the end of February, 2017. We continued to deliver very impressive drill intercepts as we grow both our knowledge of the geometry of gold mineralizing system and gold resources at the Valentine Lake Gold Camp”, said Phillip Walford, President and CEO of Marathon. “An aggressive 2017 winter drilling campaign is now underway as Marathon Gold Corporation continues to build gold resources at the Valentine Lake Gold Camp in advance of an expected late 2017- early 2018 PEA.”

TABLE 1: Significant fire assay intervals from drill holes MA-16-153 to MA-16-157, and extended MA-15-034, Marathon Gold Deposit, Valentine Lake Gold Camp.

DDH	Section	From	To	Core Length (m)	True Width (m)	Gold g/t	Gold g/t (cut)	
MA-16-153	17140	167	171	4	3.4	1.23		
		200	203	3	2.6	2.95		
		210	213	3	2.6	5.61		
		299	304	5	4.3	2.40		
		322	329	7	6.0	5.84		
		including	327	329	2	1.7	19.50	
			341	359	18	15.3	3.03	
including		341	344	3	2.6	7.03		
including		355	359	4	3.4	6.87		
MA-16-154	17240	41	55	14	11.9	25.33	5.52	
including		47	51	4	3.4	87.04	17.70	
including		48	49	1	0.9	310.35	33.00	
		259	299	40	34.0	2.64		
including		270	275	5	4.3	13.12		
including		284	285	1	0.9	8.81		
including		288	289	1	0.9	9.67		
		338	342	4	3.4	2.51		
		345	348	3	2.6	2.49		
MA-16-155	17050	254	257	3	2.7	3.13		
		261	264	3	2.7	3.38		
		345	348	3	2.7	2.32		
		377	380	3	2.7	2.99		
		383	386	3	2.7	2.20		
		411	431	20	18.0	1.85		
including		411	415	4	3.6	5.57		
including		430	431	1	0.9	4.44		
		447	450	3	2.7	2.05		
		469	472	3	2.7	2.53		
MA-16-156	17210	76	80	4	3.4	5.41		
		284	315	31	26.4	2.84		
including		284	286	2	1.7	7.45		
including		297	299	2	1.7	4.26		
including		311	315	4	3.4	11.82		
MA-16-157	16950	61	64	3	2.9	1.51		

		77	80	3	2.9	1.95	
MA-15-034 Ext	17190	250	255	5	4.5	3.40	
including		253	254	1	0.9	11.43	
		270	274	4	3.6	1.48	

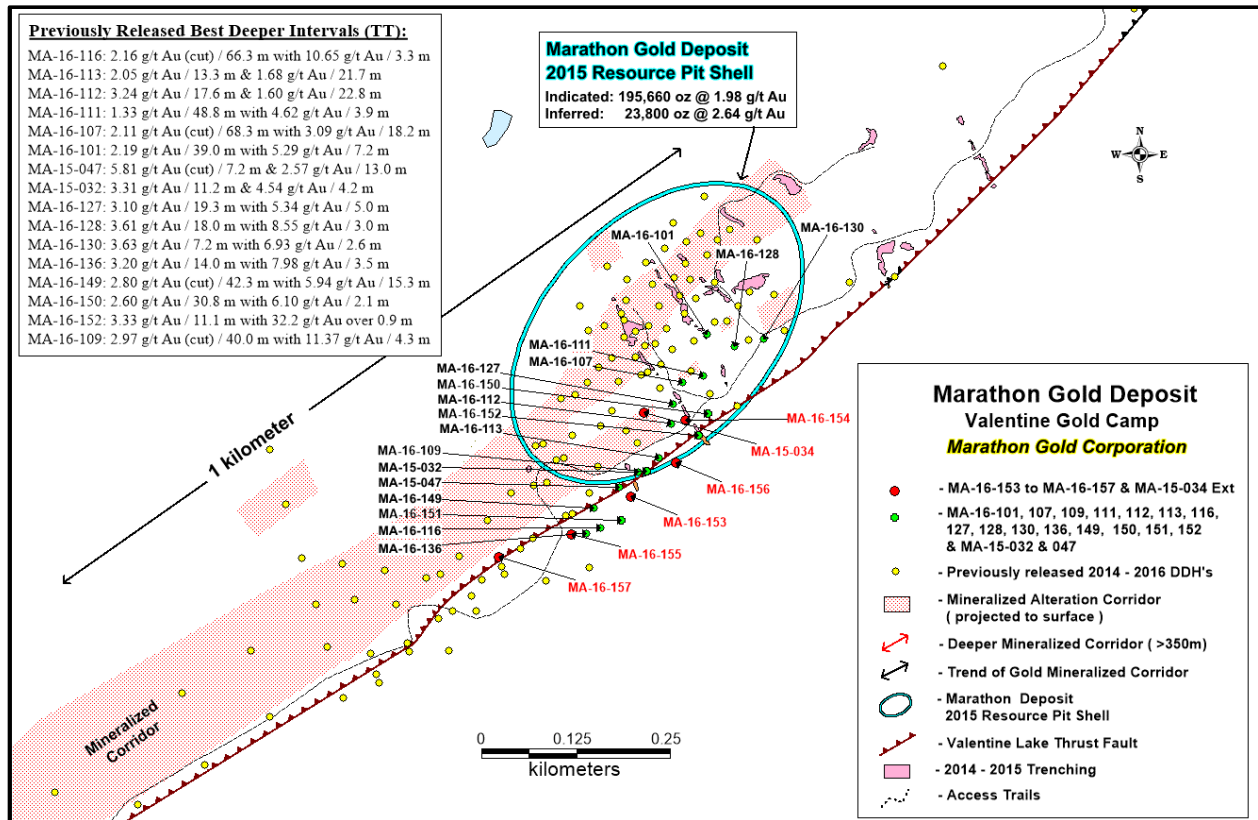


Figure 1: Location map showing the new drill holes MA-16-153 to MA-16-157, and extended MA-15-034, as well as the previously released deep targeted drill holes MA-16-101, MA-16-107, MA-16-109, MA-16-111, MA-16-112, MA-16-113, MA-16-116, MA-16-127, MA-16-128, MA-16-130, MA-16-136 and MA-16-149, MA-16-150, MA-16-151, MA-16-152 and extended drill holes MA-15-032 and MA-15-047. Figure 1 also shows the 2015 Marathon Deposit resource pit shell, the more than 400-meter strike length of the deeper high-grade mineralized corridor as well as the more than 1 kilometer strike length of the near surface mineralization.

All of the samples were fire assayed at Eastern Analytical Laboratory Ltd., in Springdale, Newfoundland.

Marathon Gold Corporation acknowledges the financial support of the JEA Program, Department of Natural Resources, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Research and Development Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador has granted approximately 75% of the costs of the current metallurgical program to Marathon Gold and we appreciate this support.

Sherry Dunsworth, M.Sc., P. Geo., VP of Exploration, Marathon's Qualified Person, has reviewed the contents for accuracy and has approved this press release on behalf of Marathon. All core samples were collected using established QC/QA protocols including insertion of blanks, standards and duplicates at regular intervals in each sample batch. All reported core samples were analyzed for Au by fire assay (30g) with AA finish at Eastern Analytical Limited, Springdale, NL. Significant mineralized intervals are reported in Table 1 as core lengths and estimated true thickness (70-85% of core length).

About Marathon Gold

Marathon Gold Corporation (TSX: MOZ) is a gold exploration company rapidly advancing its 100% owned Valentine Lake Gold Camp located in Newfoundland, one of the top mining jurisdictions in the world. The Valentine Lake property currently hosts four near-surface, mainly pit-shell constrained, gold resources totaling 1,060,100 oz. gold at 2.20 g/t (Measured & Indicated) and 200,000 oz. gold at 2.85 g/t (Inferred), (April 2015). These resources occur over a 20-km system of gold bearing veins – much of the 24,000-hectare property has not been explored in detail to date. The 2016 drilling campaign at the Marathon Deposit has outlined a significant underground resource in addition to the current resource. Drilling in 2017 will continue to focus on expanding the Marathon Deposit at surface and to depth with a resource updated expected in the second quarter or 2017. The property is accessible by year-round road, and is located within Newfoundland's electrical grid. The Company has constructed and maintains a 50-person all-season camp at the project. Recent metallurgical tests have demonstrated 93% to 98% recoveries via conventional milling and 50% to 70% recoveries via low cost heap leaching at both the Leprechaun and Marathon Deposits. To find out more information on the Valentine Lake Gold Camp please visit www.marathon-gold.com.

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