

CELTIC MINERALS LTD.

#1870, 205 – 5th Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2V7
Telephone: (403) 261-2890
Fax: (403) 264-0793
E-mail: info@celticminerals.com
Web Site: www.celticminerals.com

Trading Symbol: CME:TSX-VEN
Shares Outstanding: 35,409,685

Press Release #04-04
Date: February 6, 2004

CRATER MOUNTAIN TRENCHING RETURNS HIGH GOLD GRADES

Celtic Minerals Ltd. (CME:TSX-VEN) is pleased to announce that the initial stage of a trenching program carried out at the Crater Mountain property in Papua New Guinea returned ***an extremely encouraging interval of 48m @ 9.97 g/t gold (including 4m of 50.4 g/t gold and 4m of 41.6 g/t gold) in one trench and 20m of 1.23 g/t gold in a further trench.*** These are the best trench results achieved at Crater Mountain to date. The trenching was carried out by our Joint Venture partner *New Guinea Gold Corp (NGG:TSX-VEN)* in December 2003.

Much of the Crater Mountain area is covered with recent volcanic ash, which obscures the geology and geochemistry of the bedrock. The trenching was intended to assist in the siting of further drill holes by providing data beneath the ash, and to attempt to locate higher gold grades at surface which may represent continuity with the gold intersected at depth in drill holes.

Seven hand-dug trenches totaling approximately 460m in length were dug at the Nevera prospect on Crater Mountain. Trenches were up to 3m in depth. Of the four trenches that reached bedrock, Trench 7 yielded 48m of 9.97g/t gold while Trench 6 encountered 20m of 1.23g/t gold, but approximately two thirds of the trench did not penetrate overlying scree/landslip deposits (not bedrock) and thus did not completely achieve the objective of testing bedrock. The remaining two trenches yielded anomalous gold of up to 0.8g/t gold.

Historical Drilling and Exploration

Seven historical drill holes have been completed on the Nevera prospect with the best results from DDH NEV 2 which returned 115m at 1.83 g/t gold with the hole terminated at a depth of 340m while still in gold mineralization and NEV 5 which returned 24m at 6.55 g/t gold also ending while still in gold mineralization. Trench 7 was located approximately 500m west of DDH NEV 2 and approximately 50m south of historic DDH NEV-4, which returned 34m @ 0.84 g/T gold including 4m @ 4.25 g/T gold. Regionally, the drilling and trenching is contained within a 12 square kilometer region of epithermal alteration including vuggy silica, crustiform/colloform textures, active mineralized hot spring ooze in multiple locations and hydrothermal breccia.

Acquisition Of Additional Exploration License

Due to the positive trenching results and favorable geological setting for a potential major gold bearing mineralized system, Celtic has applied for an exploration license with the PNG department of Mining *covering an additional 751 km² surrounding the original 44 km² joint venture license*. The registrar has accepted the application. The new exploration licence will also be included in the joint venture. Under the terms of the joint venture, Celtic will earn a 75% interest by funding CDN \$4 million in exploration expenditures.

Why Explore In Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea is “Elephant Country” in the search for large-scale gold and copper deposits. Both of Celtic’s present properties, Crater Mountain and Malaumanda, have that world class potential. Celtic considers the geological potential of the Papua New Guinea to be unmatched. New Guinea is the site of some of the largest copper and gold mines and ore deposits in the world.

Celtic encourages the public to visit its website at www.celticminerals.com for updated information on its properties in Papua New Guinea or to email us at info@celticminerals.com to be added to the Company’s e-mail list for press releases and updates.

The technical data in this release was prepared by or under the supervision of Peter A. McNeil, Director of New Guinea Gold Corporation. Mr. Peter McNeil is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists and meets the requirements of NI 43-101 for a qualified person. Mr. McNeil has a M.Sc. in Geology and approximately 20 years experience in the mineral exploration industry, mostly in Papua New Guinea.

The trench samples were analyzed for Au by fire assay with AA finish and Ag, As and Cu by ICP at ALS Chemex in Townsville, Queensland, Australia. All trench samples were 4 m in length.

The TSX Venture Exchange has not reviewed and does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.

For further information, please contact:

John Steele, President
Celtic Minerals Ltd.
Phone: (416) 703-3694
Fax: (416) 703-3695
Email: jsteel@attglobal.net

Thomas Hart, Corporate Development
Celtic Minerals Ltd.
Phone: (403) 261-2890
Fax: (403) 264-0793
Email: tom@celticminerals.com