

March 23, 2010

Avion Gold Corporation – Mali

Merit is currently working with Avion Gold on its project in Mali, West Africa. Responsibilities include cross shift construction management on its expansion programme.

Avion Gold Corporation ("Avion") a Canadian-based gold company acquired the Tabakoto and Segala gold properties, located in Mali, West Africa, from Nevsun Africa Ltd. (a subsidiary of Nevsun Resources Ltd.) ("Nevsun") in May 2008. In consideration for an 80% interest in the past producing gold mine (Tabakoto) and a land package (approx. 101 sq km) Avion paid US\$20 million and granted a 1% percent net smelter return royalty that is buyable. The Government of Mali owns the remaining 20% interest.

Mali is the second largest gold producing country in Africa, with two million ounces of gold produced in 2007. Gold projects account for approximately 80 percent of mining activity in Mali. The Tabakoto and Segala properties, approximately 200 kms south of the city Kayes, are situated in a major gold mining district. AngloGold Ashanti/IAMGOLD (Sadiola Mine) and Randgold (Loulo Mine) operate in the area.

Avion commenced gold production in February 2009. During 2009, Avion achieved the following benchmarks:

- Restart of the mill and gold plant on schedule
- Development of the Segala pit for mining in February
- The successful merger with Dynamite Resources to regain original ownership of the Segala property in May
- 93.5% overall recovery in the mill vs. 90% budgeted to date
- Milling throughput rate at budget to date; and
- 2009 Exploration Program in progress
- 11,000 meters drilled through June (results pending hole logging and sampling)

Gold production for 2009 is forecasted at approximately 55,000 ounces (at a cost of approximately US\$540/oz), rising to 101,400 ounces in 2012. The company believes that a 100% capacity upgrade is warranted, and ongoing studies are taking place, with the goal being to move to 200,000 oz/year by 2011.

