



TSX Venture Exchange: AST
Frankfurt Stock Exchange: A7D WKN# A0JDX3
Pink Sheets: ASMGF



TSX Venture Exchange: KTN

NEWS RELEASE – May 06, 2008

Astral Shares Outstanding – 21,996,109
Kootenay Shares Outstanding – 27,866,975

Astral and Kootenay Form JV and Announce 2008 Exploration Program for Jumping Josephine Gold Project

Vancouver, BC - Astral Mining Corporation (TSX-V AST) (“Astral” or “the Company”) and Kootenay Gold Inc. (TSX-V KTN) are pleased to announce that the 2008 exploration program on the Jumping Josephine (JJ) Gold Project in southeast British Columbia has commenced with diamond drilling now underway and a 40 line kilometre three dimensional (3D) Induced Polarization (IP) survey scheduled to start mid-May. Line cutting is currently underway to facilitate the geophysics.

Early in 2008 Astral completed its obligations under the option agreement to earn a 60% undivided interest in the JJ Gold Project (see April 12, 2006 news release for agreement details). The companies are now completing a formal Joint Venture (JV) agreement and have formed a Management Committee which will direct all future exploration work on the project.

Initial drilling will be focussed on infilling and expanding the auriferous structurally-controlled quartz stockwork zone at JJ Main. Subsequently other gold targets currently defined on the property will be drilled in addition to geochemical targets and targets identified by the 3D IP survey. The drill program is anticipated to comprise up to 10,000m to be carried out in two phases. Further geochemical surveys, geological mapping and trenching will also be carried out as part of the 2008 exploration program.

Drilling in 2007 intersected the JJ Main Zone along 15 section lines over a strike length of 700m and to vertical depths of up to 225m below surface. Gold Assay highlights from the 2007 drill program include:

- **9.95 g/t* over 10m¹** (0.290 opt** over 32.8 feet) from hole 001, including 42.61 g/t over 2m (1.243 opt over 6.56 feet)
- **7.01 g/t over 19m²** (0.205 opt over 62.32 feet) from hole 013, including 16.42 g/t over 5m (0.479 opt over 16.40 feet)
- **15.18 g/t over 4m³** (0.443 opt over 13.12 feet) from hole 032, including 56.4 g/t over 1m (1.645 opt over 3.28 feet)
- **7.74 g/t over 5m⁴** (0.226 opt over 16.4 feet) from hole 034, including 15.99 g/t over 2m (0.466 opt over 6.56 feet)
- **13.83 g/t over 3m⁴** (0.403 opt over 9.84 feet) from hole 043, including 35.6 g/t over 1m (1.038 opt over 3.28 feet)
- **8.28 g/t over 6m⁴** (0.241 opt over 19.68 feet) from hole 046, including 43.5 g/t over 1m (1.269 opt over 3.28 feet)
- **12.44 g/t gold over 8m⁴** (0.363 opt over 26.24 feet) from hole 048, including 26.9 g/t gold over 3m (0.784 opt over 9.84 feet)
- **7.96 g/t over 5m⁴** (0.232 opt over 16.4 feet) from hole 051, including 32.4 g/t over 1m (0.945 opt over 3.28 feet)

* grams per tonne

**troy ounce per short ton

(Previously Released on: ¹June 14th 2007, ²July 12th 2007, ³November 14th 2007, ⁴November 29th 2007).

The 3D IP survey will be carried out by SJ Geophysics of Delta and will cover a 2.5km by 5.4km grid centred on the JJ Main Zone. The aim of the survey is to identify quartz-sulphide stockwork vein zones along strike and at depth along the JJ Main trend and to identify parallel zones. Matrix Diamond Drilling of Kimberly has been contracted to conduct the HQ diamond drilling program.

An independent 43-101 report detailing work on the JJ Project up to the end of 2007 by Apex Geoscience has been completed and will be posted on SEDAR (www.sedar.com).

Exploration work on the JJ project is carried out under the supervision of Astral's Project Geologist Dale Brittliffe, P.Geo. Technical information contained in this release has been reviewed by Dr. David A. Terry, P.Geo., Director and Vice President of Exploration for Astral Mining Corporation, and a Qualified Person as defined in National Instrument 43-101.

Astral Mining Corporation is a Canadian-based company engaged in the exploration and development of precious metal properties in North America. By focusing on exploration in mining-friendly districts, the Company minimizes the political and social risks encountered in many other parts of the world. With a new gold discovery at the Company's Jumping Josephine Gold Project in Southern British Columbia, and an experienced technical team and seasoned management, Astral is poised to leverage this expertise into early exploration success. Further details on Astral Mining Corporation and its high-quality portfolio of exploration projects can be found at www.astralmining.com.

Kootenay is an emerging exploration company actively developing mineral projects in British Columbia, Canada and the Sierra Madre Region of Mexico. The Company's top priority remains the ongoing development of its Promontorio Silver project, which encompasses the former producing Promontorio Silver Mine in Northwest Mexico. Further information can be found at: www.kootenaygold.ca

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

"Manfred Kurschner"

Mr. Manfred Kurschner, President & CEO
Astral Mining Corporation

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

"James M. McDonald"

Mr. James M. McDonald, CEO
Kootenay Gold Inc.

For further information on Astral please contact Manfred Kurschner, President & CEO, at 1-800-901-0058 or 604-687-1828, or fax 604-687-1858, or by email info@astralmining.com, or visit the Company's web site at <http://www.astralmining.com>.

For further information on Kootenay Gold, James McDonald, CEO at 403- 238-6986 or Ken Berry, President at 604-601-5655; 1-888-601-5650; www.kootenaygold.ca

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