

16 February 2012

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

Drill Intercepts from Ban Klong, Laos

Highlights

- **First hole of Feb 2012 drilling program intercepted 20m at 7.1 g/t Au from 6m**
- **Program of 59 RC drill holes totaling 5,000m in progress**
- **Previous results included: 6m at 26.2g/t gold from 22m in hole BBRC31**
- **Target analogous to Sepon, Laos and Carlin, Nevada**

Argonaut Resources NL (ASX: ARE) is pleased to announce initial results from the 5,000m RC drilling program currently in progress at the Ban Klong prospect within the Ban Bak area on the company's Xekong concession in southern Laos.

The program is targeting gold mineralisation discovered in 2011 by Argonaut as a result of systematic programs of surface geochemical sampling, channel sampling and drilling. The exploration program is targeting replacement style gold mineralisation analogous in nature to mineralisation found at the Sepon gold mine in Laos and at the Carlin trend in Nevada, USA.

Preliminary fire-assay results have been received for holes BBRC44 and BBRC43 (see attached figure). Highlights include:

- **20m at 7.10g/t gold from 6m in drill hole BBRC44;**
 - including **8m at 15.81g/t gold from 6m;** and
- 6m at 1.07g/t gold from surface in BBRC45.

At the time of writing nine holes had been completed and assays were pending for holes BBRC46-49.

Full details are shown in Appendix 1. Assay results for holes BBRC44-45 are preliminary in nature and are subject to final confirmation by the laboratory.

On 18 July 2011 the company announced that drilling at the Ban Klong prospect in the north-western corner of the Ban Bak area had intercepted:

- 6m at 26.2g/t gold from 22m in drill hole BBRC31;
 - including 2m at 76.4g/t gold from 24m;
- 12m at 3.48g/t gold from 10m in drill hole BBRC24; and
- 8m at 4.45g/t gold from 0m in drill hole BBRC22

Ban Klong drill intercepts cited may not represent the true widths of mineralised bodies. Additional drill hole data is required to properly determine the geometry and dimensions of any potentially economic mineralisation.

The 59 hole program is currently focusing on determining the geometry of the mineralisation intercepted by RC drilling undertaken at Ban Klong in April/May 2011. On establishing the orientation of several known mineralised bodies, the program will seek to define the approximate extent of the gold mineralisation. Additionally, gold targets peripheral to Ban Klong that were defined by surface geochemistry during 2011 will be tested.

Argonaut has contracted a track-mounted RC drilling rig for the program with an option to retain the rig for further drilling in the event of strong initial results. Drill samples will be analysed for gold within seven days of receipt by Australian Laboratory Services in Laos. This rapid turn-around time will allow the program to be progressively fine-tuned according to results.

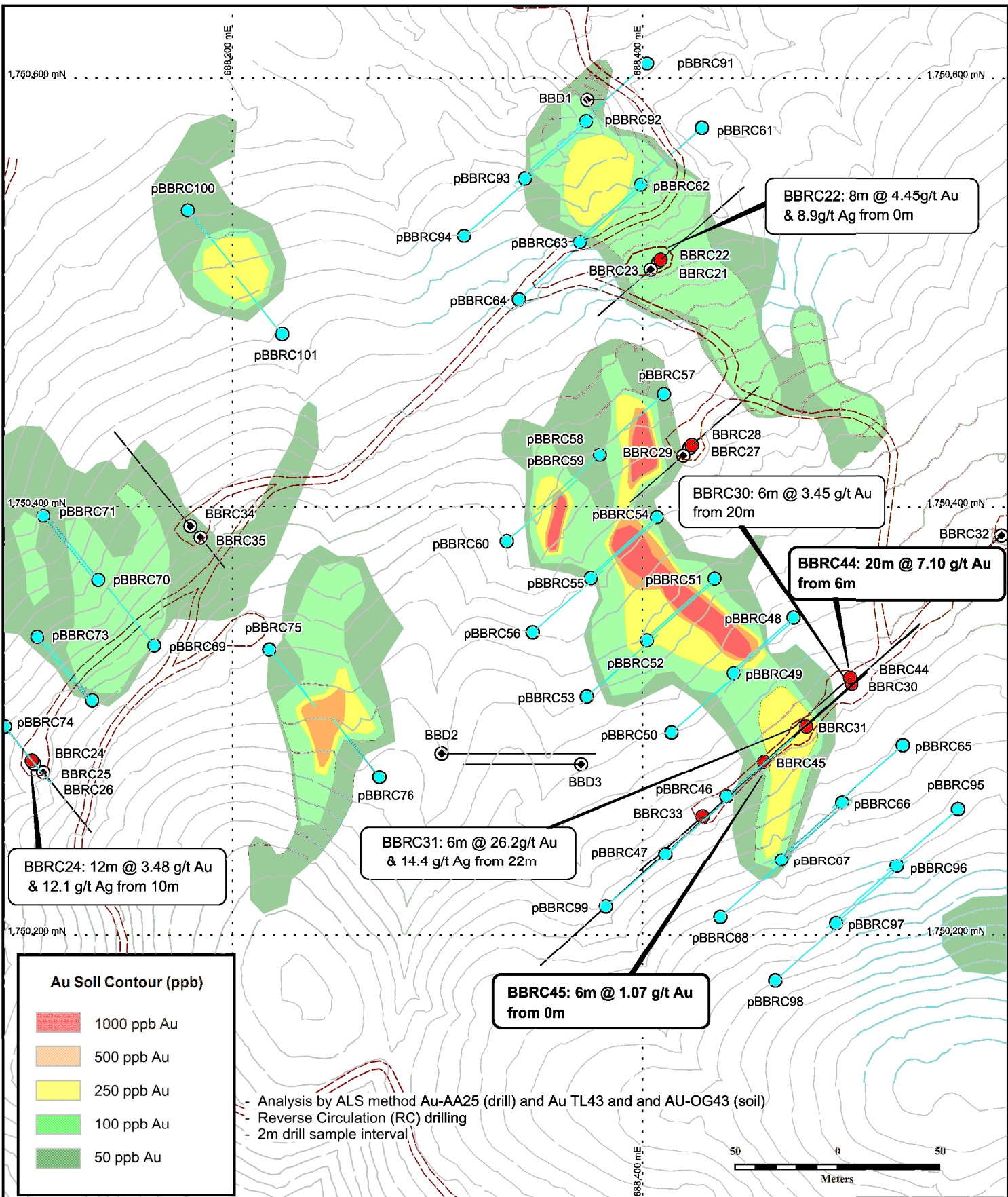
Argonaut is also continuing to develop drill targets at Phu Tuang, Ban Don and Ban Bak South-west. During the current field season, Argonaut field personnel will collect over 2,800 soil samples, construct 16 kilometres of access track and clear unexploded ordinance from all access tracks and drill pads.

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Sections of information contained in this report that relate to Exploration Results and Mineral Resources were compiled or supervised by Mr Lindsay Owler BSc, MAusIMM who is a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and is a full time employee of Argonaut Resources NL. Mr Owler has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineral deposits under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 edition of the "Australasian Code for Reporting of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves". Mr Owler consents to the inclusion in this report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.



- LEGEND**
- Track
 - 5m Contour
 - BBRC24: Previously Announces Results
 - BBRC45: Current Program Results
 - Drill hole & DH Trace
 - Drill Hole & DH Trace > 1 g/t Au
 - Drilling In Progress



**Xekong Project
Ban Bak Area
Ban Klong Drilling Highlights**

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Projection: WGS 84, Zone 48N	Scale: 1 : 2 500

BAN KLONG DRILL INTERSECTIONS

Hole	East	North	RL	Dip	Azimuth	TotalDepth (m)	From (m)	To (m)	Int. (m)	Au (g/t)	Ag (g/t)	Comment
BBRC44	688,501	1,750,320	346	-60	230	73	6	26	20	7.1		<i>prelim. results</i>
<i>incl.</i>							6	14	8	15.81		<i>prelim. results</i>
<i>and</i>							18	26	8	1.76		<i>prelim. results</i>
BBRC45	688,459	1,750,281	346	-60	50	79	0	8	8	0.9		<i>prelim. results</i>
<i>incl.</i>							0	6	6	1.07		<i>prelim. results</i>
BBRC46	688,441	1,750,281	350	-60	50	85						<i>awaiting results</i>
BBRC47	688,411	1,750,238	355	-60	50	91						<i>awaiting results</i>
BBRC48	688,382	1,750,213	357	-60	50	85						<i>awaiting results</i>
BBRC49	688,527	1,750,293	362	-60	230	73						<i>awaiting results</i>

Notes

- 1 2m sample interval
- 2 Analysis by ALS - Methods Au-AA25
- 3 Coordinate System: WGS84, Zone 48N
- 4 NSI = No Significant Intercepts