Marathon Gold Announces Positive PEA for the Valentine Lake Gold Camp, Newfoundland

17.05.2018 | GlobeNewswire

TORONTO, May 17, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Marathon Gold Corp. (“Marathon” or the “Company”) (TSX:MOZ) is pleased to announce the excellent results of an independent Preliminary Economic Assessment study ("PEA") on its 100% owned Valentine Lake Gold Camp, central Newfoundland. The PEA provides a base case assessment of developing the Valentine Lake Gold Camp mineral resource by open pit mining, and gold recovery by a combination of a milling circuit and heap leaching, incorporating gravity and flotation circuits with leaching of the concentrate and tails.

Valentine Lake Gold Camp Annual Gold Production

NPV Sensitivity, Pre-Tax

Table 1 - PEA Summary

	US$	CDN$
Pre-Tax NPV (5%)	$597 Million	$758 Million
Pre-Tax IRR	34%	34%
After-Tax NPV (5%)	$367 Million	$466 Million
After- Tax IRR	25%	25%
Pre-Tax Payback Period	2.3 years	
After-Tax Payback Period	2.8 years	
Average Annual Production (over the first 10 years)	188,500 ounces per year	
Preproduction Capital	$380 Million	$483 Million
LOM Average Cash Cost	$557 per ounce	$707 per ounce
LOM Average AISC – All in Sustaining Costs	$595 per ounce	$756 per ounce
Mine Life	11 years	
Throughput (tpd) – Mill and Heap Leach	7,500 tpd / 9,000 tpd	
Mill Grade & Recovery	2.2 g/t Au / 95%	
Heap Leach Grade & Recovery	0.5 g/t Au / 53%	
Initial Production	2022	
Gold Price	$1,250	$1,588
FX Rate (CDN$/US$)	0.787	

Phillip Walford, President and CEO of Marathon commented, “The study is an exciting milestone in the development of the Valentine Lake Gold Camp in mining friendly Newfoundland. The results demonstrate that a very robust, low cost operation is possible. The study has also identified several opportunities to enhance the mine plan and economics of the project as well as to extend mine life. There is exploration potential for additional open pit resources at the Sprite Deposit including the bog extension area, the Marathon Deposit to the southwest, the Victory Deposit and other mineralized zones such as the Frank Zone and the Rainbow Zone. There is also a large underground resource at the Marathon Deposit that is not at present drilled off in sufficient detail to develop into a mine plan. Additional drilling in 2018 is planned to further define this underground resource in time for the next economic study. The cost of finding a new ounce of gold on the property remains at $10 per new ounce so our exploration program continues to be

highly cost-effective.”

Figure 1 - Valentine Lake Gold Camp Annual Gold Production

A photo accompanying this announcement is available at
http://resource.globenewswire.com/Resource/Download/373f314b-c0a0-4cb0-a58e-876670b87449

Description of the Valentine Lake Project and PEA

The PEA was developed by a team of independent consultants consisting of Lycopodium Minerals Canada Ltd. (“Lycopodium”), John T Boyd Company (“Boyd”), Apex Geoscience Ltd. and Stantec Consulting Ltd. (“Stantec”).

The Valentine Lake Project (“The Project”) is composed of four deposits: Marathon, Leprechaun, Victory and Sprite. The mineral resource estimate was updated on May 1st, 2018 and the results are shown in Table 9. Following initial pit optimization, the Sprite deposit was excluded from mine development until additional exploration drilling has increased the resource. For the Marathon, Leprechaun and Victory deposits, standard surface mining techniques will be utilized to develop three open pit mining areas.

The ultimate pit designs developed for the Valentine Lake Project are based on the results of Whittle pit optimization work. The three mining areas will be developed using a total of 15 distinct mining phases designed to approximate the optimal extraction sequence. Pit design parameters, such as wall slope angles and bench dimensions, were provided by Stantec. A mine production schedule for the entire complex was prepared by Boyd using Maptek’s Chronos scheduling software.

The Valentine Lake Project consists of two gold recovery operations: a Milling/Flotation/Carbon in Leach plant (“Mill”) and a Heap Leach plant. The Mill will process 2.5 Mtpa of high grade ore. The plant will consist of crushing, milling, gravity recovery, flotation of gravity tails, flotation concentrate regrind, cyanidation leaching of both flotation concentrate and flotation tailings via a CIL circuit, carbon elution and gold recovery circuit. CIL tails will be treated for cyanide destruction and disposed of as tails in the tailings storage facility.

The Heap Leach pad will process 3.0 Mtpa of low grade ore from open pit operations and will consist of crushing, heap leaching and carbon-in-column gold adsorption. The loaded carbon from the Heap Leach facility will be sent to the Mill facility for gold recovery.

Table 2 - Production Schedule

Year	-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mill feed									
Tonnes (000's)	0	1,875	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Gold Grade (g/t)	0	3.62	2.7	2.57	1.67	1.93	2.08	2.72	2.35
Recovery	0	% 94.5	% 94.8	% 94.5	% 94.9	% 94.8	% 94.4	% 93.9	% 94.5
Recovered Au (oz.)	0	206,500	206,400	195,700	127,600	147,000	158,000	205,800	179,1
Heap Leach Feed									
Tonnes (000's)	0	2,250	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Gold Grade (g/t)	0	0.56	0.49	0.51	0.46	0.46	0.51	0.57	0.49
Recovery	0	% 55.3	% 52.7	% 54.2	% 50.0	% 51.5	% 56.9	% 58.4	% 52.2
Recovered Au (oz.)	0	22,600	24,800	26,700	22,200	22,900	28,200	32,300	24,90
Total Processed									
Tonnes (000's)	0	4,125	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
Gold Grade (g/t)	0	1.95	1.49	1.45	1.01	1.13	1.22	1.55	1.34
Recovered Au (oz.)	0	229,100	231,200	222,400	149,800	169,900	186,200	238,100	204,0

Total Material Tonnes									
Waste (000's)	3,780	39,163	40,016	43,500	42,700	41,250	41,230	35,208	27,50
To Stockpile (000's)	221	2,043	1,000	714	386	222	717	1,308	993
From Stockpile (000's)	0	68	0	0	0	100	216	248	0
Total Material (000's)	4,001	45,331	46,516	49,714	48,586	46,972	47,447	42,016	33,99
Stripping Ratio	17.10	6.42	6.16	7.00	7.25	7.34	6.87	5.37	4.24

Cashflow Analysis

The results of the discounted cash flow analysis are presented in Tables 3 and 4. NPV, IRR and payback values for the Project are estimated on a pre-tax and after-tax basis. The base case scenario assumes a long-term gold price of US$1,250 per ounce and a discount rate of 5%. The gold price sensitivity on a pre-tax and after-tax basis demonstrates the significant potential increase in the NPV and IRR of the Project should the gold price continue to trade in a range of US$1,300 to US$1,400 per ounce.

Table 3 – Pre-tax Cashflow and NPV Gold Price Sensitivity

Life of Mine		Years	10.2
AISC – All in Sustaining Costs		$/oz.	$755 / $596
Exchange Rate US$ to CDN$		$0.79	
Pre-tax Pay-back & Cashflow		Pay-back	Cashflow
		Years	CDN$ / US$
Gold Price	US$1,250	2.3	[illegible]
Gold Price	US$1,300	2.2	[illegible]
Gold Price	US$1,350	2.0	[illegible]
Gold Price	US$1,400	1.9	[illegible]
Pre-tax IRR & NPV @	5%	IRR	NPV @ 5%
			CDN$ / US$
Gold Price	US$1,250	34%	[illegible]
Gold Price	US$1,300	38%	[illegible]
Gold Price	US$1,350	41%	[illegible]
Gold Price	US$1,400	44%	[illegible]

Table 4 – After-tax Cashflow and NPV Gold Price Sensitivity

After-tax Pay-back & Cashflow		Pay-back	Cashflow
		Years	CDN$ / US$
Gold Price	US$1,250	2.8	[illegible]
Gold Price	US$1,300	2.7	[illegible]
Gold Price	US$1,350	2.6	[illegible]
Gold Price	US$1,400	2.4	[illegible]
Post-tax IRR & NPV @	5%	IRR	NPV @ 5%
			CDN$ / US$
Gold Price	US$1,250	25%	[illegible]
Gold Price	US$1,300	27%	[illegible]
Gold Price	US$1,350	30%	[illegible]
Gold Price	US$1,400	32%	[illegible]

After-tax cash flows reflect the impact of the Newfoundland Mining Tax, calculated based on 15% of net income from mine operations and a combined Federal and Provincial income tax rate of 30%.

Operating Cost

The PEA estimates that the Project will produce approximately 1,896,000 ounces of gold during the life of the Project, or an average of 188,500 ounces per year for years 1 to 10.

Mine operating costs were calculated from first principles using vendor-supplied estimates and Boyd’s experience with similar mining operations. Fuel costs were calculated based on vendor-provided fuel consumption and a vendor quote for diesel of US$0.846/l. Over the life of the Project, overall mining operating costs, excluding rehandle, are estimated to be US$1.613/tonne mined.

The process plant operating costs were developed by Lycopodium based on a design processing rate of 2.5 Mtpa of ore for the milling circuit and 3.0 Mtpa of ore for the heap leach circuit. Both circuits will normally operate 24 hours/day, and 365 days/year with 75% (6,570 hours/year) crushing plant availability and 91.3% plant utilization (nominal 8,000 hours/year operation). The process operating costs for the Project have been developed in detail according to typical industry standards applicable to gold ore processing plants.

The operating cost estimates are expressed in US$ in Q1 2018 terms and have an overall accuracy of +/-25%.

Contingency

No contingency was specified for the operating cost estimate as most costs were derived from first principles, based on metallurgical test work, reagent and consumable pricing, and industry standards. Details of the estimated operating costs and other charges are presented in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5 – Operating Cost

Cost Centre	Total Operating Cost US$/year	Unit Operating Cost US$/tonne Ore
Plant: Milling [1]		
Operating Consumables [4]	$8,965,000	$3.59
Plant Maintenance	$1,093,000	$0.44
Power [5]	$2,190,000	$0.88
Laboratory	$912,000	$0.36
Labour (O & M)	$3,642,000	$1.46
Subtotal - Milling	$16,802,000	$6.72
Plant: Heap Leach [2]		
Operating Consumables	$3,269,000	$1.09
Plant Maintenance	$729,000	$0.24
Power	$1,822,000	$0.61
Laboratory	$912,000	$0.30
Labour (O & M)	$2,965,000	$0.99
Subtotal - Heap Leach	$9,697,000	$3.23
Common [3]		
Labour (G & A)	$1,093,000	$0.44
G&A - Expenses	$1,093,000	$0.44
Plant Maintenance	$729,000	$0.29
Permanent Camp Catering	$2,916,000	$1.17
Permanent Camp Power	$729,000	$0.29
Subtotal Common Plant	$6,560,000	$2.62
Subtotal - Plant Operating Cost	$33,059,000	$13.22
Mining [3]		
Total	$30,892,000	$12.36
Subtotal - Mine Operating Cost	$30,892,000	$12.36
Water Treatment Plant [3]		

Plant Maintenance	$1,082,000
Labour (O & M)	$2,424,000
Power	$6,620,000
Others including Consumables	$772,000
Subtotal - Water Treatment Plant	$11,230,000
Grand Total Operating Cost (3)	$109,261,000

Notes:

1. $/t is based on milling ore throughput of 2.5 Mtpa.
2. $/t is based on heap leach ore throughput of 3.0 Mtpa.
3. $/t is based on total throughput of 5.5 Mtpa.
4. Includes consumables for common elution, carbon regeneration & gold room areas.
5. Includes power for elution and carbon regeneration of carbon from heap leach and mill, gold room, and mine surface loads
6. Figures are rounded, and totals may not add correctly

Table 6 – Mine Operating Cost

Mine Operating Cost	Total cost US$	Cost/tonne mined US$
Drill & Blast	$216,684,000	$0.58
Load & Haul	$250,058,000	$0.67
Support	$114,280,000	$0.30
Mine G&A	$22,954,000	$0.06
Total Mine Operating Cost without rehandle	$603,976,000	$1.61
Rehandle Costs (total & / tonne rehandled)	$3,739,000	$0.47

Capital Cost

The capital cost estimate was based on an engineering, procurement and construction management (“EPCM”) implementation approach and typical construction contract packaging.

Equipment pricing was based on quotations and actual equipment costs from recent similar Lycopodium projects considered representative of the Project.

All costs are expressed in US$ unless otherwise stated and are based on the Q1 2018 pricing. The estimate is deemed to have an accuracy of +/- 35%. The capital cost estimate conforms to AACEI (Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering International) Class 4 estimate standards as prescribed in recommended practice 47R11.

Contingency

Contingencies were applied to the capital cost estimate on a line-by-line basis as an allowance by assessing the level of confidence in the engineering, estimate basis and vendor or contractor information. The contingencies do not cover scope changes, design growth, or the listed qualifications and exclusions. The resultant contingency for the capital estimate is 15% before taxes and duties.

Table 7 – Capital Estimate Summary by Area

Area	US$ Including Contingency/Excluding Duties and Taxes

Construction In-directs	$21,347,000
Treatment Plant Costs - Heap Leach Circuit	$48,270,000
Treatment Plant Costs - Milling Circuit	$85,605,000
Reagents Storage & Plant Services - Heap Leach Circuit	$4,135,000
Reagents Storage & Plant Services - Milling Circuit	$20,440,000
Infrastructure – Tailings, Powerline, Base Camp, Buildings	$78,913,000
Mining Equipment, Facilities & Pre-prod. Stripping	$82,485,000
Construction Management (EPCM)	$22,154,000
Owners Project Costs – Including first fills and pre-prod. labour	$16,525,000
Subtotal Directs	$379,874,000

Sensitivities

As indicated in Table 8 and Figure 2, project cashflow and NPV are particularly sensitive to changes in the price of gold while relatively less sensitive to changes in recovery, operating costs and capital expenditures. The table below shows the effect on the pre-tax economics of the Project increasing or decreasing the price of gold, capital expenditures, operating costs and mill and heap leach recovery estimates by up to +/- 10%.

Table 8 – Sensitivities, Pre-Tax

Gold Price	NPV (US$)	IRR	Payback
-10%	$410,501,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
0%	$596,783,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
10%	$783,065,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
CAPEX	NPV (US$)	IRR	Payback
-10%	$638,199,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
0%	$596,783,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
10%	$555,367,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
OPEX	NPV (US$)	IRR	Payback
-10%	$679,958,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
0%	$596,783,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
10%	$513,608,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mill Recovery	NPV (US$)	IRR	Payback
-2%	$564,385,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
0%	$596,783,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
2%	$629,181,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
Heap Leach Recovery	NPV (US$)	IRR	Payback
-10%	$572,760,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
0%	$596,783,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
10%	$620,805,000	[illegible]	[illegible]

Figure 2 – NPV Sensitivity, Pre-Tax

A photo accompanying this announcement is available at http://resource.globenewswire.com/Resource/Download/30c2d443-3ffe-4214-94b9-900d78aaf85b

Opportunities for Project Enhancement

The PEA identified several areas where additional work will advance the Project and reduce risk. The major focus of the work planned this year is summarized below:

- Drilling is planned to expand and upgrade the Valentine Lake Gold Camp resources. The deposits are open at depth and along strike. Geological and geophysical studies indicate the structure hosting gold mineralization may continue both east and west of the current resources as well as down plunge. Addition of further resources through drilling has the potential to increase the life of mine and resulting economics.
- The underground resource has not been utilized in the PEA. Infill drilling could contribute an additional 800,000 ounces or more to be extracted using underground mining methods.
- Additional hydrogeological and geotechnical work will enable better open pit and underground designs.
- Further metallurgical testing for the mill and the heap leach may result in improved recoveries. Options such as high-pressure grinding rolls (“HPGR”) ahead of the heap leach and a coarser grind in the mill could also have the potential to reduce operating costs with little impact on process recovery.

Table 9 - Mineral Resource Estimate

Material/Category	Open Pit			Underground			Total	
	Tonnes (kt)	Grade (g/t)	Gold (oz)	Tonnes (kt)	Grade (g/t)	Gold (oz)	Tonnes (kt)	Gold (oz)
Leprechaun Deposit								
Measured - Mill	2,270,000	4.543	331,600	234,000	5.276	39,700	2,504,000	371,300
Measured – Heap Leach	2,656,000	0.550	47,000	-	-	-	2,656,000	47,000
Indicated - Mill	1,297,000	3.633	151,500	224,000	4.649	33,500	1,521,000	185,000
Indicated – Heap Leach	1,664,000	0.549	29,400	-	-	-	1,664,000	29,400
Total Measured & Indicated	7,887,000	2.206	559,500	458,000	4.969	73,200	8,345,000	632,700
Inferred - Mill	1,875,000	3.114	187,700	705,000	4.544	103,000	2,580,000	290,700
Inferred - Heap Leach	3,841,000	0.521	64,300	-	-	-	3,841,000	64,300
Total Inferred	5,716,000	1.372	252,000	705,000	4.544	103,000	6,421,000	355,000
Sprite Deposit								
Measured - Mill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measured – Heap Leach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indicated - Mill	160,000	3.422	17,600	74,000	4.534	10,800	234,000	28,400
Indicated – Heap Leach	170,000	0.572	3,100	-	-	-	170,000	3,100
Total Measured & Indicated	330,000	1.954	20,700	74,000	4.534	10,800	404,000	31,500
Inferred - Mill	268,000	2.718	23,400	74,000	4.534	10,800	342,000	34,200
Inferred – Heap Leach	586,000	0.539	10,200	-	-	-	586,000	10,200
Total Inferred	854,000	1.223	33,600	74,000	4.534	10,800	928,000	44,400
Marathon Deposit								
Measured - Mill	4,770,000	2.942	451,100	534,000	4.769	81,900	5,304,000	533,000
Measured – Heap Leach	3,428,000	0.479	52,800	-	-	-	3,428,000	52,800
Indicated - Mill	7,510,000	2.305	556,600	1,573,000	3.823	193,300	9,083,000	749,900
Indicated – Heap Leach	5,847,000	0.479	90,000	-	-	-	5,847,000	90,000
Total Measured & Indicated	21,555,000	1.660	1,150,500	2,107,000	4.063	275,200	23,662,000	1,425,700
Inferred - Mill	2,047,000	1.934	127,300	4,366,000	3.359	471,400	6,413,000	598,700
Inferred – Heap Leach	1,838,000	0.479	28,300	-	-	-	1,838,000	28,300
Total Inferred	3,885,000	1.246	155,600	4,366,000	3.359	471,400	8,251,000	627,000

Victory Deposit									
Measured - Mill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measured – Heap Leach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Indicated - Mill	570,000	2.235	41,000	5,000	3.714	600	575,000	2.248	41,600
Indicated - Heap Leach	377,000	0.489	5,900	-	-	-	377,000	0.489	5,900
Total Measured & Indicated	947,000	1.540	46,900	5,000	3.714	600	952,000	1.550	47,500
Inferred - Mill	782,000	1.796	45,200	221,000	3.152	22,400	1,003,000	2.096	67,600
Inferred – Heap Leach	671,000	0.500	10,800	-	-	-	671,000	0.501	10,800
Total Inferred	1,453,000	1.198	56,000	221,000	3.152	22,400	1,674,000	1.456	78,400
All Deposits									
Measured - Mill	7,040,000	3.458	782,700	768,000	4.924	121,600	7,808,000	3.602	904,300
Measured – Heap Leach	6,084,000	0.510	99,800	-	-	-	6,084,000	0.510	99,800
Indicated - Mill	9,537,000	2.500	766,700	1,876,000	3.950	238,200	11,413,000	2.739	1,004,900
Indicated – Heap Leach	8,058,000	0.496	128,400	-	-	-	8,058,000	0.496	128,400
Total Measured & Indicated	30,719,000	1.800	1,777,600	2,644,000	4.233	359,800	33,363,000	1.993	2,137,400
Inferred - Mill	4,972,000	2.400	383,600	5,366,000	3.522	607,600	10,338,000	2.982	991,200
Inferred – Heap Leach	6,936,000	0.509	113,500	-	-	-	6,936,000	0.509	113,500
Total Inferred	11,908,000	1.299	497,100	5,366,000	3.522	607,600	17,274,000	1.989	1,104,700

Notes:

1. The effective date for this mineral resource estimate for Leprechaun, Sprite, and Victory is November 27, 2017 and is reported on a 100% ownership basis. The effective date for the mineral resource estimate for Marathon is March 5, 2018. The resources have been restated using the updated PEA economics. All material tonnes and gold values are undiluted.
2. Mineral Resources are calculated at a gold price of US$1,250 per troy ounce.
3. The open pit mineral resources presented above uses a PEA level open pit design. The underground mineral resources are that material outside of the in-pit mineral resources above the stated underground cut-off grade.
4. Mineral resources which are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. The estimate of mineral resources may be materially affected by environmental, permitting, legal, title, socio-political, marketing, or other relevant issues.
5. The mineral resources presented here were estimated using a block model with a block size of 6 m by 6 m by 6 m sub-blocked to a minimum block size of 2 m by 2 m by 2 m using ID^3 methods for grade estimation. Mineral resources for the Leprechaun and Sprite deposits are reported using an open pit gold cut-off of 0.267 g/t Au and an underground gold cut-off of 1.840 g/t Au. Material between a 0.267 Au g/t value and 1.055 Au g/t is assumed to be processed on a heap leach. Material above a 1.055 Au g/t is assumed to be processed in a mill. Higher gold grades were given a limited area of influence and was applied during grade estimation by mineralized domain. Mineral resources for the Marathon deposit are reported using an open pit gold cut-off of 0.312 g/t Au and an underground gold cut-off of 1.619 g/t Au. Material between a 0.312 Au g/t value and 0.707 Au g/t is assumed to be processed on a heap leach. Material above a 0.707 Au g/t is assumed to be processed in a mill. Higher gold grades were given a limited area of influence and was applied during grade estimation by mineralized domain. Mineral resources for the Victory deposit are reported using an open pit gold cut-off of 0.328 g/t Au and an underground gold cut-off of 1.803 g/t Au. Material between a 0.328 Au g/t value and 0.707 Au g/t is assumed to be processed on a heap leach. Material above a 0.707 Au g/t is assumed to be processed in a mill. Higher gold grades were given a limited area of influence and was applied during grade estimation by mineralized domain.
6. The mineral resources presented here were estimated using the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM), CIM Standards on Mineral Resources and Reserves, Definitions and Guidelines prepared by the CIM Standing Committee on Reserve Definitions and adopted by CIM Council May 10, 2014.
7. Figures are rounded, and totals may not add correctly.

Report Filing

The technical report prepared in accordance with National Instrument 43-101 will be filed on SEDAR and the Company’s website within two weeks of this news release.

Qualified Persons

This news release has been reviewed and approved by the Qualified Persons noted below. The Qualified Persons have reviewed or verified all information for which they are individually responsible, including sampling, analytical, and test results underlying the information or opinions contained herein.

- Neil Lincoln, P.Eng. - Lycopodium Minerals Canada Ltd.: processing, infrastructure, capital and operating cost estimates, economic evaluation and report compilation.
- Ryda Peung, P.Eng. - Lycopodium Minerals Canada Ltd.: mineral processing, metallurgical testing and recovery methods.
- Robert Farmer, P.Eng. - John T Boyd Company: mineral resource estimates, mining methods, mining capital and mining operating costs.
- Roy Eccles, P.Geo. - Apex Geoscience Ltd.: geology, exploration, drilling, sample preparation and data verification.
- Paul Deering, P.Eng. - Stantec Consulting Ltd. – environmental & social studies, geotechnical, tailings storage facility and heap leach pad design.

Cautionary Statement

The PEA was prepared in accordance with National Instrument 43-101 Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects ("NI 43-101"). Readers are cautioned that the PEA is preliminary in nature. It includes inferred mineral resources that are considered too speculative geologically to have the economic considerations applied to them that would enable them to be categorized as mineral reserves, and there is no certainty that the PEA will be realized. Mineral resources that are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability.

Conference Call Details

Marathon Gold is hosting a live Q&A conference call on May 17, 2018 at 10:00 am Eastern time (11:30 pm Newfoundland time and 7:00 am Pacific time) with the Marathon Gold executive team.

Toll-free number (Canada/US): 1-800-952-5114

Local dial-in number: 416-641-6104

International dial-in numbers: https://www.confsolutions.ca/ILT?oss=7P1R8009525114

Passcode: 4667468#

About Marathon

Marathon is a Toronto based 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 Gold Camp currently hosts four near-surface, mainly pit-shell constrained, deposits with measured and indicated resources totaling 2,137,400 oz. of gold at 1.99 g/t and inferred resources totaling 1,104,700 oz. of gold at 1.99 g/t. The majority of the resources occur in the Marathon and Leprechaun deposits, which also have resources below the pit shell. Both deposits are open to depth and on strike. Gold mineralization has been traced down over 350 metres vertically at Leprechaun and almost a kilometer at Marathon. The four deposits outlined to date occur over a 20-kilometer system of gold bearing veins, with much of the 24,000-hectare property having had little detailed exploration activity to date. Drilling in winter 2018 is

continuing to focus on expanding the Marathon Deposit at surface and to depth as well as exploration drilling along the boggy covered area between the Marathon and Sprite Deposits.

The Valentine Lake Gold Camp is accessible by year-round road and is in close proximity to Newfoundland’s electrical grid. Marathon maintains a 50-person all-season camp at the property. 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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Except for statements of historical fact relating to Marathon Gold Corp., certain information contained herein constitutes "forward-looking statements". Forward-looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or include words such as "expects", "anticipates", "plans", "believes", "considers", "intends", "targets", or negative versions thereof and other similar expressions, or future or conditional verbs such as "may", "will", "should", "would" and "could". We provide forward-looking statements for the purpose of conveying information about our current expectations and plans relating to the future and readers are cautioned that such statements may not be appropriate for other purposes. By its nature, this information is subject to inherent risks and uncertainties that may be general or specific and which give rise to the possibility that expectations, forecasts, predictions, projections or conclusions will not prove to be accurate, that assumptions may not be correct, and that objectives, strategic goals and priorities will not be achieved. These risks and uncertainties include but are not limited to those identified and reported in Marathon Gold Corp.'s public filings, which may be accessed at www.sed