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NEWS RELEASE

Ore Fault Drilling Hits 4.5m of 1.32% Ni, 0.14% Cu, and 1.31g/t PGM and Gold, NI 43101 Compliant Resource Expected in Q4

Winnipeg, Manitoba, July 16, 2008: **Bird River Mines Inc.** (BRMI-CNQ) is pleased to report that its joint venture partner Marathon PGM Corporation (“Marathon”) (TSX:MAR) has released the latest results from the resource development drilling program at the Ore Fault North Zone (“OFNZ”) within the Bird River Project, southeast Manitoba. Drilling at the OFNZ intersected multiple zones of Nickel-Copper-Platinum Group Metals (“Ni-Cu-PGM”) mineralization and Zinc-Silver-Copper (“Zn-Ag-Cu” mineralization).

Highlights:

- 35.0 m intersection of Ni-Cu-PGM mineralization grading 0.41% Ni, 0.10 % Cu and 0.57g/t PGM and Au including a 4.50m intersection grading 1.32% Ni, 0.14% Cu and 1.31g/t PGM and Au
- the NI43-101 compliant OFNZ resource estimate will be completed in Q3/Q4

“We have confirmed at least 2 continuous zones of mineralization along 150m of strike length to a depth of approximately 250m that is open to the north and down dip. We are already planning the next phase of drilling to continue to expand the zones,” said David Good, VP of Exploration.

Ore Fault North Zone – Drilling Results

Hole	From (m)	To (m)	True Width (m)	Pd (g/t)	Pt (g/t)	Au (g/t)	Total PGM and Au (g/t)	Ag (g/t)	Zn (%)	Cu (%)	Ni (%)
MF-08-18	103.55	127	23.45	0.33	0.09	0.02	0.44	2.35	0.02	0.15	0.33
MF-08-18	129	132	3.00	0.10	0.02	0.12	0.24	2.43	1.56	0.09	0.21
MF-08-19	177	212	35.00	0.44	0.12	0.01	0.57	2.91	0.06	0.10	0.41
including	177	181.5	4.50	1.17	0.13	0.01	1.31	1.06	0.00	0.14	1.32
MF-08-19	246	251	5.00	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.05	10.86	0.12	0.28	0.01
MF-08-19	276	278	2.00	0.29	0.07	0.01	0.38	6.00	0.06	0.23	0.29
MF-08-19	279	297	18.00	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.07	9.72	0.64	0.24	0.03
including	279	281	2.00	0.25	0.04	0.07	0.36	13.40	2.52	0.43	0.15
and	293	297	4.00	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.04	18.10	0.77	0.48	0.02
MF-08-19	308	309	1.00	0.01	0.01	0.18	0.20	19.50	0.47	0.62	0.01
MF-08-19	312	313	1.00	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.07	16.00	0.14	0.46	0.01
MF-08-20	111	116	5.00	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.04	3.58	0.74	0.06	0.01
MF-08-21	50.2	53	2.80	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.11	5.46	0.44	0.15	0.07
MF-08-21	59	62	3.00	0.26	0.04	0.02	0.32	5.37	0.92	0.12	0.18

Ore Fault Mineralization and Resource Development Drilling

The final holes of the campaign intersected multiple horizons of Ni-Cu-PGM and Zn-Ag-Cu mineralization hosted within sulphide lenses that typically dip 50 to 70 degrees to the west. Mineralization generally correlates well between holes, along strike and across section. Individual holes that provided significant information regarding mineralization are MF-08-18, -19 and -20 and -21.

Hole MF-08-19 displayed good down-dip continuity of Ni-Cu-PGM and Zn-Ag-Cu mineralization from hole MF-08-07, which intersected 19.7m grading 4.6% Zn. Mineralization in MF-08-19 is approximately 70m downdip from MF-08-07, which demonstrates the extensive thicknesses and widths of mineralization found to date at the OFNZ.

In summary, the 2008 drilling campaign provided good correlation of mineralization across sections and corroborates that mineralization remains open down dip and to the north.

Marathon's geological interpretation from the OFNZ drilling reveals that there are two mineralized systems. Ni-Cu-PGM sulphide mineralization is hosted within north-west trending and moderately dipping (~50 to 70 degrees west) ultramafic units of the Bird River Sill and north trending VMS-type Zn-Ag-Cu mineralization hosted within near vertical quartz veins and associated chlorite-garnet schist.

Marathon is awaiting results of a Crone geophysical down-hole survey, which was completed on 8 holes at the OFNZ. The down-hole survey is a widely used exploration tool to assist in detection of off-hole mineralization. A geophysical anomaly to the south of the Ore Fault Zone will be tested in the next drilling program planned for next winter.

Semi-massive to massive sulphide lenses at the OFNZ exhibit higher metal values. Marathon used a tight drill density in order to properly define these metal rich lenses and provide higher degrees of confidence of the OFNZ resource estimate, which is expected complete in Q4.

Marathon has an option to earn 100% of the 446 hectare Ore Fault Property from Bird River Mines Inc (see BRMI release of December 31, 2007). The Ore Fault Property is part of a larger area called the Bird River Project that consists of 7,301 ha that Marathon has an option to earn up to 70% of this project from Gossan Resources (see MAR release of April 17th, 2007). The Bird River Project covers a strike length of 22km and has numerous known showings of Ni-Cu-PGM mineralization. Marathon's drilling has only tested the eastern most 3km of the Bird River Project.

Samples consist of NQ-size drill core that are split by diamond saw on site, prepared at ALS Chemex Vancouver, and assayed by fire assay with an ICP-OES finish (for Pt, Pd and Au) and acid dissolution and ICP-OES finish for base metals. Marathon's quality assurance-quality control (QA-QC) program consists of insertion of standards of known PGM content and duplicates every 30 samples. After sampling, the remaining half core is retained on site for future verification and reference purposes.

David Good, P.Geol., VP Exploration, is Marathon's Qualified Person in compliance with National Instrument 43-101 with respect to this release. Dr. Good has reviewed the contents for accuracy and has approved this press release on behalf of Marathon.

Marathon has an option to earn 100% of the 446 hectare Ore Fault Property from Bird River Mines Inc. (see BRMI release of December 31, 2007). To date Marathon has exercised its option to acquire a 70% interest in the Property. Marathon has indicated its intention to fulfil its right/commitments to acquire the remaining 30% interest in the property for the consideration of \$1,450,000 by August 1, 2008. BRMI shall retain a 1.0% net smelter return royalty (the "NSR") in all minerals and metals extracted from the property.

About Marathon PGM Corporation

Marathon is an emerging Canadian PGM and base metal near-term producer with significant projected PGM, gold and base metal production. Marathon has properties at the development and exploration stages in northwestern Ontario, southeastern Manitoba and western Newfoundland and Labrador. Marathon's management plans to build on this focus through the advancement of its properties, focusing on resource development and by examining other strategic PGM and base metal opportunities within Canada.

About Bird River Mines Inc.

In addition to the Ore Fault Property, Bird River Mines also holds two exploration permits known as the Lakeshore Property, totalling 10,338 hectares, located on the eastern and western shores of Lake Winnipegosis about 360 kilometres northwest of Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Lakeshore Property is prospective for zinc mineralization. Bird River Mines has 9.4 million common shares outstanding and trades on the CNQ Exchange under the symbol BRMI.

Bird River Mines Inc. trades on the CNQ Stock Exchange under the symbol BRMI.

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No stock exchange or securities commission has reviewed the adequacy or accuracy of this news release.