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**Bird River Mines Shareholders Approve Ore Fault Agreement
with Marathon PGM Corporation**

Winnipeg, Manitoba, December 31, 2007 – Shareholders of Bird River Mines Inc. (BRMI-CNQ) approved an option and joint venture agreement with Marathon PGM Corporation (MAR-TSX) (“Marathon”) on its Ore Fault Property by a Special Resolution at the Annual General and Special Shareholders Meeting held on December 28, 2007. The 446-hectare Ore Fault Property, which includes the Lotus claims, is located in the Bird River Sill area of southeastern Manitoba, adjacent to Gossan Resources’ (GSS-TSX.V) Bird River Sill Property, which is also under option to Marathon.

Under the terms of the joint venture agreement, Marathon will have the option to earn a 70% interest in the Ore Fault Property by making cash payments of \$250,000 to Bird River and carrying out, as operator, \$600,000 in exploration expenditures on the Property by August 1, 2008.

Once Marathon’s interest in the Property reaches 70%, Marathon may require Bird River Mines to sell to Marathon, Bird River Mines’ remaining 30% interest in the Property; and Bird River Mines may require Marathon to purchase the remaining 30% interest in the Property for a purchase price of \$1,450,000, payable in cash or common shares of Marathon, at Marathon’s option, subject to regulatory approval. Bird River Mines shall retain a 1.0% net smelter return royalty (the “NSR”) in all minerals and metals extracted from the property.

Marathon also made a firm commitment to conduct \$400,000 in exploration expenditures and to pay a cumulative aggregate of \$200,000 in cash by May 1, 2008. The first cash payment of \$20,000 has been paid and \$80,000 is now to be paid upon obtaining shareholder approval.

The Ore Fault Property

The Ore Fault’s North Anomaly occurs from surface to a minimum depth of 250 m, has a minimum strike length of 150 m and was drilled in two prior exploration programs totalling 44 holes. The Ore Fault Property does not have an NI 43-101 compliant resource at present. Platinum group metals are present, but evaluation of the PGM mineralization by previous operators was incomplete. The Ore Fault North Anomaly coincides with strong magnetic and electromagnetic geophysical anomalies. A second similar geophysical response, the South Anomaly, outlined approximately 1 km to the south, is considered to be a priority target as Marathon can find no record of it having been previously drilled.

The southeastern end of the Ore Fault Property is located less than 100 metres from Mustang Minerals’ Anderson Cup discovery, which recently returned initial drill results of 0.81% copper over 17.5 metres and 0.55% copper over 30.7 metres. There is no record of any exploration activity on the eastern end of the Ore Fault Property.

(To see a map of the Bird River Property, go to <http://www.marathonpgm.com/newsmaps/2007-36.jpg>)

Table 1: Significant Drill Hole Results from the Ore Fault Property^{(1), (2) and (3)}

Hole	From (m)	To (m)	Thickness (m)	Cu (%)	Ni (%)	Zn (%)	Ag (g/t)
DDH4	18.9	40.0	18.5	0.89	0.46	1.06	23.3
DDH16	2.5	13.6	11.1	0.54	2.0	2.1	151.0
DDH21	143.3	179.6	36.3	0.29	0.63	n/d ⁽³⁾	n/d ⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾ Assay results from: NI43-101 Technical Report on the Ore Fault Property, Prepared for Bird River Mines Inc., by Horst W. Petak, Ph.D., P.Eng., P.Geo. (available on sedar.com)

⁽²⁾ This work was completed prior to NI 43-101 being implemented. Marathon has not yet verified the historical values, and is not treating any of the values as part of a current mineral reserve/resource estimate and should not be unduly relied upon.

⁽³⁾ The “n/d” indicates not detected.

All exploration work is being performed under the guidance and supervision of Phillip C. Walford, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Marathon, a professional geologist and Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101. Mr. Walford has approved the contents of this press release.

About Marathon PGM Corporation

Marathon has a 100-per-cent interest in the Marathon PGM -- Cu project, located about 10 kilometers north of Marathon, Ont. The project is currently undergoing a definitive feasibility study and a 35,000 m drill campaign. As announced previously, Marathon has completed a revised preliminary economic assessment in compliance with the provisions of National Instrument 43-101, showing a measured resource of 39.2 million tonnes containing 1.6 million ounces of PGM and gold and 285 million pounds of copper, and an indicated resource of 28.9 million tonnes containing 1.1 million ounces of PGM and gold and 178 million pounds of copper. An additional low-grade resource was also identified in the report completed by P&E Mining Consultants Inc. and filed on SEDAR on April 5, 2007.

As part of its growth strategy, in April 2007, Marathon entered into an option agreement with Gossan Resources on the Bird River Sill PGM and copper-nickel property, located in southeastern Manitoba. Prospecting and data compilation of the Bird River property is focused over several key areas, including the Coppermine, Page East, Page West and Galaxy Zones. Marathon can earn-in up to a total 70% interest by completing a bankable feasibility study and arranging project financing. In October 2007, Marathon entered into an agreement with Bird River Mines Inc. on the Ore Fault Property, located on the eastern margin of Marathon-Gossan's Bird River property.

About Bird River Mines Inc.

In the summer of 2007, Bird River Mines was granted 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. The Company held its Annual General and Special Shareholders Meeting on December 28, 2007 and full details of the Meeting are outlined in the Company's MD&A for the interim period ending October 31, 2007 which is available on SEDAR. Bird River Mines has 9.4 million common shares outstanding and trades on the CNQ Exchange under the symbol BRMI.

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