

URSA Major Minerals Incorporated

Press Release

UMJ – TSX Venture Exchange



July 12, 2004

URSA Major Minerals Incorporated initiates an assessment of open-pit mining potential at the Shakespeare deposit, Sudbury area, Ontario

URSA Major Minerals Incorporated (the "Company") is pleased to announce that an independent assessment of mining potential has been initiated at the company's Shakespeare nickel, copper, platinum group metal deposit, located 70 kilometers west of Sudbury, Ontario. Micon International Limited (Micon) of Toronto will provide the technical report on the study which will include an assessment of mining, processing and smelting, infrastructure, environmental considerations, and permitting requirements. The study will evaluate possible mine development scenarios for the property and provide specific recommendations for project advancement including schedules for potential development. It is anticipated that the study will be completed by the end of October, 2004.

SGS Lakefield Research Limited (SGS-Lakefield) is carrying out further metallurgical testwork on Shakespeare mineralization that will be incorporated into the study. Previous investigations by SGS-Lakefield on Shakespeare mineralization indicated that a closed circuit operation is likely to yield good recoveries at acceptable concentrate grades. The current testwork will evaluate concentrate grade and recoveries that would result from a variety of processing options, including processing Shakespeare mineralization at Falconbridge Limited's Strathcona mill, located in Onaping, Ontario.

N.A.R. Environmental Consultants Inc. (NAR) of Sudbury has been retained to initiate environmental baseline studies for the Shakespeare project. In addition, NAR will be the lead contributor to environmental and permitting aspects of the assessment of mining potential.

Drilling to February 2004 has resulted in an in-pit Indicated Resource of 12.0 million tonnes grading 0.35% nickel, 0.36% copper, 0.02% cobalt, 0.19 g/t gold, 0.34 g/t platinum and 0.38 g/t palladium at an average cut-off value of CDN\$43.65/tonne total in-situ metal. Using 24-month average commodity prices, the mineralization has a gross in-situ value of CDN\$79.59/tonne.

Exploration at the Shakespeare project is currently proceeding on the basis of a joint venture between URSA Major and Falconbridge Limited (Falconbridge) with URSA Major as the project operator. Subject to certain back-in rights held by Falconbridge, URSA Major has a 75% interest in the Shakespeare property.

CONTACT: Dr. Richard Sutcliffe, President & CEO
416-864-0615 phone
416-864-0620 fax
<mailto:info@ursamajorminerals.com>
<http://www.ursamajorminerals.com/>

Mr. Vance Loeber, Investor Relations
604-805-3530 cell

Address: 8 King Street East, Suite #1300, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5C 1B5

Symbol & Exchange: UMJ – TSX Venture Exchange (TSXV) [Quote](#)

This release was prepared by management of the Company who takes full responsibility for its contents. The TSX Venture Exchange has not reviewed and does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this news release.

Some statements contained in this release are forward-looking and, therefore, involve uncertainties or risks that could cause actual results to differ materially. Such forward-looking statements include comments regarding mining and milling operations, mineral resource statements and exploration program performance. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include metal price volatility, economic and political events affecting metal supply and demand, fluctuations in mineralization grade, geological, technical, mining or processing problems, exploration programs and future results of exploration programs at the Shakespeare Project, future profitability and production. The Company disclaims any obligation to update forward-looking statements.

This press release is not for distribution to any U.S. news wire service or for dissemination in the United States.