NEWS RELEASE

Major Drilling Reports Second Quarter Results for Fiscal 2018

MONCTON, New Brunswick (November 30, 2017) – Major Drilling Group International Inc. (TSX: MDI) today reported results for its second quarter of fiscal year 2018, ended October 31, 2017.

Highlights

In millions of Canadian dollars (except loss per share)	Q2-18	Q2-17	YTD-18	YTD-17
Revenue	$88.0	$79.9	$171.9	$149.0
Gross profit	21.2	16.1	37.9	31.2
As percentage of revenue	24.1%	20.1%	22.1%	21.0%
EBITDA(1)	9.1	4.4	14.4	8.2
As percentage of revenue	10.3%	5.5%	8.4%	5.5%
Net loss	(2.7)	(9.8)	(9.6)	(19.5)
Loss per share	(0.03)	(0.12)	(0.12)	(0.24)

(1) Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (see "non-GAAP financial measure")

- Quarterly revenue was $88.0 million, up 10.1% from the $79.9 million recorded for the same quarter last year.
- Gross margin percentage for the quarter was 24.1%, compared to 20.1% for the corresponding period last year.
- EBITDA more than doubled at $9.1 million compared to $4.4 million for the same quarter last year.
- Net loss was $2.7 million or $0.03 per share for the quarter, compared to a net loss of $9.8 million or $0.12 per share for the prior year quarter.

"Exploration activity levels continue to increase in all regions. While revenue is up 10% as compared to the same quarter last year, the volume of activity increased by more than 10%, given the negative impact of foreign exchange translation on revenue as the US dollar weakened compared to the previous year," said Denis Larocque, President and CEO of Major Drilling Group International Inc. "We are pleased to see a return of demand for our services in South America and Asia, regions that were most affected by the cyclical downturn. Although drilling prices have not yet recovered, margins improved during the quarter, mainly driven by improved productivity."

"Both gold and base metal prices are holding at healthy levels, which are positive signs going into calendar 2018. As mining companies are looking to replenish their depleting reserves, we are starting to receive more inquiries for projects, which points to an increase in exploration budgets for calendar 2018. Most senior and intermediate mining companies are still working through their mining plans for 2018, however, we have already secured two new multi-year contracts with key customers for grade control and underground services, solidifying our diversification strategy."

"As we are seeing demand for our services increase, combined with an already tight labor pool, we continue to make investments in technology and equipment, providing tools to our crews in order to improve safety and productivity. This falls in line with the enhancement of our recruiting and training systems as we attract a new generation of employees."

"The Company's net cash position (net of debt) continues to be strong at $13.3 million. The decrease this quarter is due to the final payment of the Taurus contingent consideration of $5.1 million. As well, capital expenditures for the quarter were $5.9 million, as we added five rigs that fit both our specialized and diversification strategies. Two of the additional rigs are suited for surface drill and blast/grade control work and two others are mobile underground rigs, adding to our mobile computerized fleet of rigs," added Mr. Larocque.

"We believe that most commodities will face an imbalance between supply and demand as mining reserves continue to decrease due to the lack of exploration. Typically, gold and copper projects represent over 70% of the Company's activity. Due to the lack of exploration, mineral reserves of the top gold mining companies have decreased by almost 15% over the last two years. As well, many industry experts expect the copper market will face a deficit position in the next few years, due to the continued production and high grading of mines, combined with the lack of exploration work conducted to replace reserves. Therefore, it is expected that at some point in the near future, the need to develop resources in areas that are increasingly difficult to access will significantly increase, at which time we expect to see a resurgence in demand for specialized drilling," said Mr. Larocque.

"It is important to note that we are now in our third quarter, traditionally the weakest quarter of our fiscal year, as mining and exploration companies shut down, often for extended periods over the holiday season. At this time, most senior and intermediate companies are still working through their budget process and have yet to decide on post-holiday start-up dates. As usual, due to the time it takes to mobilize once new contracts are awarded, a slow pace of start-ups is expected in January and February. Additionally, the Company schedules substantial overhaul and maintenance work on its equipment during this slower period. These factors result in reduced revenue, increased costs, and reduced margins in the third quarter," said Mr. Larocque.

Second quarter ended October 31, 2017

Total revenue for the quarter was $88.0 million, up 10.1% from revenue of $79.9 million recorded in the same quarter last year. The unfavorable foreign exchange translation impact for the quarter, when comparing to the effective rates for the same period last year, is estimated at $3 million on revenue, with a negligible impact on net earnings.

Revenue for the quarter from Canada - U.S. drilling operations increased by 4% to $52.7 million, compared to the same period last year. The increase came mainly from the Canadian operations as the Company saw increased activity from both seniors and juniors over the same period last year.

South and Central American revenue increased by 20% to $19.4 million for the quarter, compared to the same quarter last year. The increase was driven primarily by Argentina, Brazil and Colombia.

Asian and African operations reported revenue of $15.9 million, up 21% from the same period last year. Increased activity in Mongolia was partially offset by a decrease in Indonesia as a result of ongoing political issues in the country.

The overall gross margin percentage for the quarter was 24.1%, up from 20.1% for the same period last year. The increase in margin resulted from improved production as pricing has not yet recovered.

General and administrative costs were up 4% from the same quarter last year at $11.3 million. Staffing levels and salaries have increased as activity ramped up from low levels. As well, the Company is investing in recruitment and information technology as it continues to prepare for the upturn in the industry.

The income tax provision for the quarter was a recovery of $0.1 million compared to an expense of $0.8 million for the prior year period. The tax expense for the quarter was impacted by non-tax affected losses and non-deductible expenses.

Net loss was $2.7 million or $0.03 per share ($0.03 per share diluted) for the quarter, compared to a net loss of $9.8 million or $0.12 per share ($0.12 per share diluted) for the prior year quarter.

Non-GAAP Financial Measure

In this news release, the Company uses the non-GAAP financial measure, EBITDA. The Company believes this non-GAAP financial measure provides useful information to both management and investors in measuring the financial performance of the Company. This measure does not have a standardized meaning prescribed by GAAP and therefore may not be comparable to similarly titled measures presented by other publicly traded companies, and should not be construed as an alternative to other financial measures determined in accordance with GAAP.

Forward-Looking Statements

Some of the statements contained in this news release may be forward-looking statements, such as, but not limited to, those relating to: worldwide demand for gold and base metals and overall commodity prices; the level of activity in the mining industry and the demand for the Company's services; the Canadian and international economic environments; the Company's ability to attract and retain customers and to manage its assets and operating costs; sources of funding for its clients (particularly for junior mining companies); competitive pressures; currency movements (which can affect the Company's revenue in Canadian dollars); the geographic distribution of the Company's operations; the impact of operational changes; changes in jurisdictions in which the Company operates (including changes in regulation); failure by counterparties to fulfill contractual obligations; and other factors as may be set forth as well as objectives or goals including words to the effect that the Company or management expects a stated condition to exist or occur. Since forward-looking statements address future events and conditions, by their very nature, they involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Actual results in each case could differ materially from those currently anticipated in such statements by reason of factors such as, but not limited to, the factors set out in the discussion on pages 13 to 16 of the 2017 Annual Report entitled "General Risks and Uncertainties", and such other documents as available on SEDAR at www.sedar.com. All such factors should be considered carefully when making decisions with respect to the Company. The Company does not undertake to update any forward-looking statements, including those statements that are incorporated by reference herein, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time by or on its behalf, except in accordance with applicable securities laws.

About Major Drilling

Major Drilling Group International Inc. is one of the world's largest drilling services companies primarily serving the mining industry. Established in 1980, Major Drilling has over 1,000 years of combined experience within its management team alone. The Company maintains field operations and offices in Canada, the United States, Mexico, South America, Asia, Africa and Europe. Major Drilling provides all types of drilling services including surface and underground coring, directional, reverse circulation, sonic, geotechnical, environmental, water-well, coal-bed methane, shallow gas, underground percussive/longhole drilling, surface drill and blast, and a variety of mine services.

Webcast/Conference Call Information

Major Drilling will provide a simultaneous webcast and conference call to discuss its quarterly results on Friday, December 1, 2017 at 9:00 AM (EST). To access the webcast, which includes a slide presentation, please go to the investors/webcast section of Major Drilling's website at www.majordrilling.com and click on the link. Please note that this is listen-only mode.

To participate in the conference call, please dial 416-340-2216 and ask for Major Drilling's Second Quarter Results Conference Call. To ensure your participation, please call in approximately five minutes prior to the scheduled start of the call.

For those unable to participate, a taped rebroadcast will be available approximately one hour after the completion of the call until midnight, Friday, December 15, 2017. To access the rebroadcast, dial 905-694-9451 and enter the passcode 4223794#. The webcast will also be archived for one year and can be accessed on the Major Drilling website at www.majordrilling.com.

For further information:
David Balser, Chief Financial Officer
Tel: (506) 857-8636
Fax: (506) 857-9211
ir@majordrilling.com