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Zug, 17 March 2009

NEWS RELEASE

99.42 PER CENT ACCEPTANCE OF XSTRATA'S RIGHTS ISSUE

Xstrata announces that the 2 for 1 Rights Issue of 1,955,341,080 New Shares at £2.10 per New Share closed for acceptances at 11.00 a.m. London time on 17 March 2009.

The Company received valid acceptances in respect of 1,944,012,662 New Shares, representing approximately 99.42% of the total number of New Shares offered to Shareholders pursuant to the fully underwritten Rights Issue.

It is expected that the New Shares in uncertificated form will be credited to CREST accounts on Wednesday 18 March 2009, and that definitive share certificates in respect of New Shares in certificated form will be dispatched to shareholders by Wednesday 25 March 2009.

It is expected that the New Shares will commence trading fully paid on the London Stock Exchange's main market for listed securities and on the SIX Swiss Exchange on 18 March 2009.

In accordance with their underwriting obligations in respect of the Rights Issue, Deutsche Bank and J.P. Morgan Cazenove will be seeking subscribers for the remaining 11,328,418 New Shares.

Ends

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