



NEWS RELEASE

**XSTRATA'S SUBSIDIARY FALCONBRIDGE LTD ANNOUNCES
SUBSEQUENT ACQUISITION OF NOVICOURT SHARES**

Toronto, 20 September 2006

Xstrata's subsidiary Falconbridge Limited ("Falconbridge") and Falconbridge's subsidiary Novicourt Inc. ("Novicourt") today announce that they will proceed with a subsequent acquisition transaction by way of amalgamation pursuant to which Falconbridge will acquire the remaining common shares of Novicourt which were not tendered to Falconbridge's offer dated June 26, 2006 to purchase all of the outstanding common shares of Novicourt that Falconbridge did not already own. The board of directors of Novicourt approved the amalgamation on 18 September 2006.

Falconbridge holds directly or indirectly a number of common shares sufficient to enable all required corporate and securities laws approvals to be obtained at the special meeting of shareholders of Novicourt to be held on 17 October 2006 for the purpose of approving the amalgamation. The management information circular of Novicourt in connection with the special meeting was mailed to registered owners and sent to intermediaries for mailing to beneficial owners earlier today.

Once the subsequent acquisition transaction is completed, Falconbridge expects that the Novicourt common shares will be delisted from the Toronto Stock Exchange and that Novicourt will cease to be a reporting issuer.

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