



## NEWS RELEASE

### **XSTRATA'S SUBSIDIARY FALCONBRIDGE LTD ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF ACQUISITION OF NOVICOURT**

Toronto, 17 October 2006

Xstrata's subsidiary Falconbridge Limited ("Falconbridge") today announces that it has completed its acquisition by way of amalgamation of all remaining common shares of Novicourt Inc. ("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 shareholders of Novicourt have approved the amalgamation at a special meeting of shareholders held earlier today.

A request has been made to the Toronto Stock Exchange to delist the common shares of Novicourt. The common shares of Novicourt will be delisted as at the close of trading on October 20, 2006. It is expected that Novicourt will cease to be a reporting issuer shortly thereafter.

*Ends*

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