



## NEWS RELEASE

# XSTRATA RECEIVES AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION CLEARANCE FOR LIONORE OFFER

Toronto and Zug, 19 April 2007

Xstrata plc (LSE:XTA.L) (ZSE:XTA.S) ("Xstrata") announces that it has received clearance from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the "ACCC"), confirming that it has no objection to Xstrata's all-cash offer for LionOre.

Australian Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) approval was announced on 29 March 2007. Xstrata's offer for LionOre is now free to proceed with no further regulatory approvals required in Australia.

Xstrata announced its all-cash offer to acquire all of the issued and outstanding shares of LionOre by way of a friendly take-over bid on 26 March 2007. The offer documents were mailed on 5 April 2007.

*Ends*

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### **About Xstrata**

Xstrata is a global diversified mining group, listed on the London and Swiss Stock Exchanges, with its headquarters in Zug, Switzerland. Xstrata's businesses maintain a meaningful position in seven major international commodity markets: copper, coking coal, thermal coal, ferrochrome, nickel, vanadium and zinc, with recycling facilities, additional exposures to gold, cobalt, lead and silver and a suite of global technology products, many of which are industry leaders. The Group's operations and projects span 18 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Germany, New Caledonia, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania, the USA and the UK. Xstrata employs approximately 43,000 people, including contractors.

Xstrata Nickel, headquartered in Toronto, Canada, is one of Xstrata Group's global commodity businesses, comprising five mines and processing facilities in Ontario and Quebec, Canada; a ferronickel mine and processing facility in Bonao, Dominican Republic; and a refinery in Kristiansand,



Norway. Xstrata Nickel has a significant portfolio of growth projects, including Nickel Rim South in Canada, Kabanga in Tanzania, and Koniambo in New Caledonia. Xstrata Nickel is the world's fourth largest nickel producer, with annual managed production of more than 110,000 tonnes of refined nickel.

### **Legal Notice**

The offer referred to above (the "Offer") is being made by Xstrata Canada Acquisition Corp. (the "Offeror"), a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Xstrata.

This announcement is for informational purposes only and does not constitute or form part of any offer or invitation to purchase, otherwise acquire, subscribe for, sell, otherwise dispose of or issue, or any solicitation of any offer to sell, otherwise dispose of, issue, purchase, otherwise acquire or subscribe for, any security. The Offer (as the same may be varied or extended in accordance with applicable law) is being made exclusively by means of, and subject to the terms and conditions set out in, the offer and offering circular document delivered to LionOre and filed with Canadian provincial securities regulators and mailed to LionOre shareholders by Xstrata and the Offeror. LionOre shareholders should read these materials carefully because they contain important information, including the terms and conditions of the Offer.

The release, publication or distribution of this announcement in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law and therefore persons in such jurisdictions into which this announcement is released, published or distributed should inform themselves about and observe such restrictions.

### **Forward-Looking Statements**

This document contains statements which are, or may be deemed to be, "forward looking statements" which are prospective in nature. Forward-looking statements are not based on historical facts, but rather on current expectations and projections about future events, and are therefore subject to risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially from the future results expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Often, but not always, forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking words such as "plans", "expects" or "does not expect", "is expected", "is subject to", "budget", "scheduled", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "anticipates" or "does not anticipate", or "believes", or variations of such words and phrases or statements that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "should", "would", "might" or "will" be taken, occur or be achieved. Such statements are qualified in their entirety by the inherent risks and uncertainties surrounding future expectations.

Such forward looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of Xstrata to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward looking statements. Important factors that could cause actual results, performance or achievements of Xstrata to differ materially from the expectations of Xstrata include, among other things, general business and economic conditions globally, commodity price volatility, industry trends, competition, changes in government and other regulation, including in relation to the environment, health and safety and taxation, labor relations and work stoppages, changes in political and economic stability, the failure to meet certain conditions of the Offer and/or the failure to obtain the required approvals



or clearances from regulatory and other agencies and bodies on a timely basis or at all, the inability to successfully integrate LionOre's operations and programs with those of Xstrata, incurring and/or experiencing unanticipated costs and/or delays or difficulties relating to integration of LionOre, disruptions in business operations due to reorganization activities and interest rate and currency fluctuations. Such forward-looking statements should therefore be construed in light of such factors. Other than in accordance with its legal or regulatory obligations (including under the UK Listing Rules and the Disclosure and Transparency Rules of the Financial Services Authority), Xstrata is not under any obligation and Xstrata expressly disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.