



NEWS RELEASE

XSTRATA COPPER ANNOUNCES NEW GENERAL MANAGER OF MINERA ALUMBRERA

Buenos Aires, 2 July 2008

Xstrata Copper announces the appointment of Roberto Darouiche as General Manager of Minera Alumbreira following the decision of Jorge Montaldi to leave the role for personal reasons, effective from 4 July 2008. Mr Montaldi will continue to work with Minera Alumbreira in an advisory capacity.

Xstrata Copper Chief Executive Charlie Sartain commented:

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation for Jorge Montaldi's substantial contribution to Minera Alumbreira over many years and especially during the past 21 months as Minera Alumbreira's General Manager and an important member of Xstrata Copper's senior management team.

"I would also like to congratulate Roberto Darouiche on his appointment as General Manager Minera Alumbreira. Roberto brings with him extensive senior management experience both at Minera Alumbreira and in Australia where he has held management roles at the Mount Isa and Ernest Henry mining operations.

"I am confident Roberto will continue to provide strong leadership to the Alumbreira division."

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Notes for editors

ROBERTO DAROICHE – BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Born in La Rioja, Argentina, Roberto Darouiche joined Minera Alumbreira in April 1997 as Senior Safety Advisor. His extensive experience in the mining industry includes several senior positions at Minera Alumbreira and at Xstrata Copper's Ernest Henry and Mount Isa Mines operations in Queensland, Australia. Prior to his new appointment as General Manager in July 2008, Roberto held the post of Manager Administration and Logistics at Minera Alumbreira.

Before joining Minera Alumbreira, Roberto held various posts as an Engineer in the construction sector both in Argentina and abroad. He holds a degree in Civil Engineering from the National University of Tucumán and a Masters in Business Administration from the Catholic University of Valparaíso (Chile) and the Tucumán Foundation.

JORGE MONTALDI – BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Jorge Montaldi joined Minera Alumbreira in July 1997 and has held a number of different roles in the operation, including Operations & Maintenance, Environment, Safety & Training and Provincial Affairs. At the end of 2005,

Jorge was appointed Manager Administration & Logistics before being appointed to the post of General Manager Minera Alumbreira in October 2006.

Prior to joining Minera Alumbreira, Jorge held other engineering positions in the petroleum and automotive industries. Jorge holds a Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering from the National University of Tucumán, Argentina, and completed a postgraduate course in Human Resources at Belgrano University in Buenos Aires.

ABOUT MINERA ALUMBRERA

Bajo de la Alumbreira is a copper-gold mine located in northwest Argentina's Catamarca province. Minera Alumbreira has the right to mine the Bajo de la Alumbreira deposit under a joint venture with Yacimientos Mineros de Aguas de Dionisio (YMAD), which holds the title to the deposit. YMAD is a statutory corporation composed of the Catamarca Provincial Government and the National Tucumán University and is entitled to 20% of Minera Alumbreira's net proceeds.

Xstrata Copper manages and has a 50% controlling interest in Minera Alumbreira while Canadian companies Goldcorp and Yamana Gold own the remaining 37.5% and 12.5% respectively.

ABOUT XSTRATA COPPER

Headquartered in Brisbane, Xstrata Copper is one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc. Its operations and projects span eight countries: Australia, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Canada, the USA, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. Its operations are administered by five separate divisions, based close to the mining operations, namely the North Queensland, Minera Alumbreira, North Chile, Southern Peru and Canada divisions. It also has a recycling business (Xstrata Recycling) with plants in the United States and offices in Canada and Asia.

Xstrata Copper is the fourth largest global copper producer with annual attributable production capacity of over one million tonnes.

ABOUT XSTRATA PLC

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 additional exposures to platinum group metals, gold, cobalt, lead and silver, recycling facilities 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 56,000 people, including contractors.