



NEWS RELEASE

XSTRATA TECHNOLOGY'S ISA PROCESS® SELECTED FOR THE PIEDRAS VERDES PROJECT IN MEXICO

Brisbane, 15 September 2005.

Xstrata Technology is pleased to announce that Frontera Copper Corporation has recently selected Xstrata's ISA PROCESS® electrowinning technology for its Piedras Verdes run of mine heap leach / SXEW copper project in the state of Sonora, Mexico. Piedras Verdes is owned and operated by Cobre del Mayo, S.A. de C.V., a wholly owned subsidiary of Frontera Copper. The production capacity of the electrowinning plant will be 70 million pounds per year of LME Grade A quality copper cathode. The plant is currently in the design and procurement phase of development.

The ISA PROCESS® supply includes the ISA Cathode BR®, and technology transfer services, integrated with the Cathode Washing and Stripping Machine to complete the ISA PROCESS® package of core tankhouse design & equipment. The BR cathode was chosen as the lowest resistance cathode on the market designed for low energy consumption and high efficiency throughout a long operating life. The stripping machine will be manufactured by MESCO Inc. of Japan, which has had a long association with the ISA PROCESS since its development in the late 1970s.

ISA PROCESS Manager John Doolan said, "We are very pleased to be working with Frontera Copper on this project. We have worked together to deliver technical design oversight, equipment and commissioning assistance for the tankhouse. We look forward to Piedras Verdes producing the highest quality cathode, as with all ISA PROCESS® plants. The project is scheduled for completion in mid 2006. This rapid development time table is a challenge that the ISA PROCESS® team is ready to meet."

The Piedras Verdes Project becomes the latest user of the proven ISA PROCESS® copper electrowinning system – when operational, it will mean ISA PROCESS® installations total more than 60 worldwide, including world leading electrowinning and electrorefining facilities in over 21 countries. ISA PROCESS® remains the benchmark in the market after 25 years of innovation and development.

For further information please contact:

John Doolan
CFO Xstrata Technology and
Manager ISA PROCESS® Technology
E-mail: jdoolan@xstrata.com.au
Phone: +61 7 47818 388
Fax: +61 7 47818 201

Wayne Armstrong
Manager – Sales and Marketing, ISA PROCESS®
E-mail: warmstrong@xstrata.com.au
Phone: +61 7 47818 290
Fax: +61 7 47818 201

Web. www.xstratatech.com

About ISA PROCESS®

ISA PROCESS® is a proven cathode plate technology, employing "permanent" stainless steel cathode plates together with specialised copper stripping machinery to provide a cost effective system for recovery of high quality cathode copper.

The ISA Cathode BR® to be used in the Piedras Verdes project is the lowest internal resistance cathode plate available on the market.

The use of permanent cathode technology was invented by Mount ISA Mines at Copper Refineries Pty Ltd (CRL) in Townsville, Australia, and has been in operation since 1978. This was a fundamental process change within the copper electrorefining industry and the use of permanent cathode plates became an enabling technology for many small/medium sized electrowinning projects.

ISA PROCESS® is marketed, together with other technologies developed by Mount Isa Mines, by Xstrata Technology.

About Xstrata Technology

Xstrata Technology is a wholly owned subsidiary of Xstrata plc, a major global diversified mining group, listed on the London and Swiss stock exchanges and headquartered in Switzerland. For further information about Xstrata plc please see www.xstrata.com.

The Xstrata Technology division develops, markets and supports technologies for the global mining, mineral processing and metals extraction industries. These technologies, originally developed for use in its own operations, are marketed for use by third parties. The division also provides metallurgical services to both industry customers and within the Xstrata group.