



SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.

Media Release

SMI AWARDS SECURITY GUARD CONTRACT TO WORLD LEADING SERVICE PROVIDER

Tampakan, South Cotabato, January 25, 2008 – Sagittarius Mines, Incorporated (SMI) today announced the selection of Catena Security, Inc. as its new security guard service provider.

Catena Security, Inc., part of Group Four Securicor, one of the world's leading security firms, will take up the contract from the beginning of March. SMI began the extensive tender process for the new contract last year as part of a regular review.

All guards currently providing security services to SMI will be offered new positions with Catena with enhanced benefits and conditions. More than 100 guards, most from the local community, will benefit from this employment opportunity. In addition, up to eight new security guard posts will be created at SMI's tenement in Kiblawan as part of the change-over.

SMI Resident Manager Gerardo Laviste said the company was delighted to award the key contract to a security firm with such a world-class reputation.

He said: "The safety and security of our staff, contractors and visitors is our number one priority. Bringing on board such a high calibre firm as Catena reflects our commitment to promoting peace and security in the region.

"We are also pleased our security guards will also benefit from the change enjoying enhanced benefits with Catena."

-Ends –

Contact Person:
Roy D. Antonio
Senior Coordinator, Corporate Affairs
Sagittarius Mines, Inc.
Mobile: (63 920) 950-9231

Notes to editors:

Tampakan Project

The Tampakan project is located on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, approximately 65 kilometers north of General Santos City. The current project is situated on the boundary of three Provinces – South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and

Davao Del Sur. The Tampakan copper gold deposit is located in the province of South Cotabato, municipality of Tampakan.

The Tampakan deposit represents one of the largest undeveloped copper-gold deposits in South East Asia. The latest mineral resource estimate confirmed 2.2 billion tonnes containing 12.8 million tonnes of copper and 15.2 million ounces of gold at a 0.3% copper cut-off grade.

On 30 March 2007, Xstrata Copper acquired 62.5% of the controlling interest in the Tampakan Project and assumed management control through its Philippines based affiliate Sagittarius Mines, Inc.

Xstrata Copper

Xstrata Copper is headquartered in Brisbane, Australia, with regional offices in Santiago and Antofagasta, Chile; Lima and Arequipa, Peru; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Toronto, Canada, and is one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc.

Xstrata Copper's mining operations and projects span seven countries and include mines, mineral processing plants and port facilities in North Queensland, Australia; mining and processing operations and port facilities in Chile, Peru and Argentina in South America; and mining and processing plants in Canada. It also has a recycling business (Xstrata Recycling) with facilities in Canada, the United States and Asia.

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