

## SilverCrest Reports Positive Column Leach Test Results For El Zapote Project, El Salvador

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For Immediate Release

**VANCOUVER, B.C. December 14, 2006** – SilverCrest Mines Inc. (the “Company”) is pleased to report on the column-percolation test work that has been completed with respect to the Company’s 100% owned El Zapote Project in El Salvador. The metallurgical testing is a continuation of feasibility related work designed to optimize process parameters and to permit comparison of a heap leach operation and a conventional mill facility. The heap leach alternative is being considered as a way to reduce capital and operating costs and shorten the time required to achieve initial production.

As a follow-up to the positive silver recovery results from bottle roll tests completed earlier in 2006, column-percolation test work on the oxide materials from El Zapote’s Cerro Colorado III deposit was completed. This work was undertaken by Sol & Adobe Ingenieros Asociados, S.A. de C.V. in association with the University of Sonora, Hermosillo, Mexico and consisted of two column tests using minus 3/4 inch and a re-crush to minus 1/4 inch material which was then subjected to a 112 day test period. Final test results from this work are presented below and show a potential heap leach recovery of 50 to 55% for silver and over 90% for gold:

Sol y Adobe Test No.	Description	Ag % Recovery	Au % Recovery	Days of Leach	Consumption Of NaCN kg/MT	Addition Hydrated Lime kg/MT
EZC105	Crushed to -1/4”	55	>90	112	6.7	2.75
EZC205	Crushed to -1/4”	50	>90	112	4.5	2.75

Cyanide consumption levels will be reviewed by SGS Mineral Services of Lakefield, Ontario during planned test work on cyanide recovery and optimization of the process.

The current reported NI 43-101 compliant resources for the project, which includes resources for the Tajado deposit, are presented below.

Resource Category	Tonnes (metric)	Tons (short)	Ag (gpt)	Ag (oz/t)	Au (gpt)	Zn (%)	Contained Ag Ounces	Contained Zn Pounds
Indicated*	1,925,251	2,122,226	177.7	5.2	0.19	1.17	11,036,000	49,660,000
Inferred **	1,086,420	1,197,573	101.6	3.0	0.18	1.22	3,593,000	29,220,000

\*Indicated includes Measured resources which represent a majority of this category. Cut off grade equals 34.0 gpt Ag. Numbers are rounded.

\*\* The Tajado resource is all in the Inferred resource category.

In the event the Company decides to proceed with an initial heap leach operation, there is approximately 500,000 tons of oxide material (Measured and Indicated Resource to NI 43-101 standards) grading 203 gpt Ag (5.9 opt) and 0.26 gpt Au (0.007 opt) available at the Cerro Colorado III deposit for a potential open pit, heap leach operation with an extremely low strip ratio in the initial years of operation. An additional oxide resource of approximately 500,000 tons grading 118 gpt Ag (3.4 opt) and 0.28 gpt (0.008 opt) is present at the nearby Tajado deposit.

Preliminary metallurgical test work indicates that additional silver may be recovered from the sulphide portion of the deposits, which could entail a second phase of heap leach production. Alternatively, a decision at that time to recover the zinc resources through conventional milling could be made depending upon a number of factors, most

significant of which would be the price of zinc. Substantial cash flow would be expected to be available from the initial heap leach operation that could be utilized to fund the second phase of operations.

In addition to ongoing metallurgical work at El Zapote, the permitting process for an exploitation license continues. Further environmental work is underway and exploration reconnaissance of the concession area is in progress. Analyses of the samples from a geotechnical hole (CC304-03G), drilled at Cerro Colorado III in 2005 have been completed with the assay results in the interval from 0.0 to 15.8 metres grading 1.32 gpt Au (0.038 opt Au) and 72.3 gpt Ag (2.10 opt Ag) including an interval of 1.0 metre of 11.57 gpt Au (0.337 opt Au) and 111.2 gpt Ag (3.24 opt Ag). These grades show a significant gold zone located near the surface at Cerro Colorado III. All analysis was completed at CAS Laboratories (certified lab) in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

J. Scott Drever, President stated; "The column test results are very encouraging for a potential, initial phase silver heap leach operation at El Zapote. Given these positive results, we will revise our current technical economic study based on this alternative process design with the view to significantly reducing capital cost requirements and accelerating the possibility of an early production decision. This revised study is slated for completion by mid - 2007."

The Qualified Person for this news release is N. Eric Fier, CPG, P.Eng. and Chief Operating Officer for SilverCrest Mines Inc.

**SilverCrest Mines Inc.** is a "pure silver" exploration and development company with a portfolio of high grade silver deposits and exploration properties located in El Salvador and Mexico. This property portfolio, which includes reported indicated and inferred silver resources and substantial exploration potential, provides an important base from which SilverCrest can develop its corporate objective of becoming a significant silver asset based company. The Company's immediate initiative is to acquire and develop substantial silver resources and ultimately to operate high grade silver mines throughout North, Central and South America.

*This news release contains forward-looking statements, which address future events and conditions, which are subject to various risks and uncertainties. The Company's actual results, programs and financial position could differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements as a result of numerous factors, some of which may be beyond the Company's control. These factors include: the availability of funds; the timing and content of work programs; results of exploration activities and development of mineral properties, the interpretation of drilling results and other geological data, the uncertainties of resource and reserve estimations, receipt and security of mineral property titles; project cost overruns or unanticipated costs and expenses, fluctuations in metal prices; currency fluctuations; and general market and industry conditions.*

*Forward-looking statements are based on the expectations and opinions of the Company's management on the date the statements are made. The assumptions used in the preparation of such statements, although considered reasonable at the time of preparation, may prove to be imprecise and, as such, undue reliance should not be placed on forward-looking statements.*

***On Behalf of the Board of Directors of  
SilverCrest Mines Inc.***

***"J. Scott Drever"***

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***J. Scott Drever, President***

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