

# NEW OROPERU RESOURCES INC.

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### NEW OROPERU ACQUIRES OPTION TO INCREASE ITS INTEREST IN TRES CRUCES GOLD PROJECT

*(Note: All dollar figures are expressed in U.S. dollars)*

New Oroperu Resources Inc. ("Oroperu", the "Company") and Pan American Silver Corp. ("Pan American" NASDAQ - PAAS; TSE - PAA) have entered into an agreement to advance the exploration of the Tres Cruces project, whereunder the Company has been granted the option to acquire 100% share ownership of Aurifera Tres Cruces S.A. ("Aurifera") in return for Oroperu share issuances, work expenditures and additional consideration summarized below.

Oroperu and Pan American are presently co-owners of the Tres Cruces gold project through their 50-50 share ownership of Aurifera, a company which owns 100% of the Tres Cruces gold property in north central Peru.

To acquire the other 50% of Aurifera, Oroperu is required to:

1. Issue 1,500,000 Oroperu treasury shares (500,000 now, 500,000 within 18 months and 500,000 within 30 months);
2. Issue such number of additional shares as are equal to 20% of the issued capital of the Company on exercise of the option (after deducting the initial 1,500,000 shares);
3. Cause \$1,750,000 in cumulative exploration work to be completed (\$250,000 within 18 months, an additional \$500,000 within 30 months and the balance of \$1,000,000 within 42 months).

On completion of the shares issuances and cumulative expenditures above, the Company shall have exercised the option and acquired the 50% interest now held by Pan American in Aurifera, subject to the obligation of the Company to pay Pan American a 2% net smelter return royalty on all production from the mineral claims now forming a part of the Tres Cruces project. Commencing November 22, 2006, minimum advance royalties of \$100,000 shall be paid annually. Under the agreement, the Company has the right to buy back 25% of the foregoing 2% net smelter return royalty by making a payment to Pan American of \$500,000 cash. Pan American shall also be entitled to receive 30% of the value of any consideration in excess of \$1,000,000 received by the Company prior to a production decision being made. In addition, if the Tres Cruces gold project is placed into commercial production, the Company shall make an advance royalty payment to Pan American of \$1,000,000 and Pan American shall be vested with a 30% interest in the interest then held by the Company in Aurifera and the Tres Cruces gold project.

The Tres Cruces mineral resource was discovered by Oroperu in late 1996 and became the basis of a 50-50 joint venture with Pan American. Drilling by Oroperu in 1996 and 1997 and by Battle Mountain Gold Company in 1998 and 1999, which totaled 34,000 meters, outlined a gold resource calculated by Battle Mountain Gold of 1.6 million oz. gold in both oxide and sulphide mineralization. Battle Mountain Gold dropped its option on the property in December 1999 when gold prices went significantly below \$300 per oz. Cumulatively, over \$6 million has been spent on the project to date for drilling and various technical studies, including extensive metallurgy.

A 3.5 million oz. gold discovery about 15 km. north of Tres Cruces by Barrick Gold Corp. was announced on April 23, 2002 and re-emphasized the potential of Tres Cruces. Barrick's Lagunas Norte deposit is hosted in Tertiary Calipuy volcanic rocks, which also host the Tres Cruces mineralization. Barrick also announced it has budgeted \$20 million for the Lagunas Norte project this year.

Oroperu plans to focus on those untested open-pittable targets that remain on the Tres Cruces project and to evaluate the extension of known drill-indicated mineralization. Additionally, some high grade intercepts with visible gold were encountered at depth by both Oroperu and Battle Mountain Gold. The potential of high grade feeder zones will be evaluated. Mineralized breccias with pre-Tertiary clasts indicate that the mineralizing system has an extensive vertical range.

Oroperu is looking forward to advancing the Tres Cruces project and evaluating other property in the area which it owns 100%. On May 13, 2002 the Company announced a \$120,000 private placement (pending) and its intention to seek a more senior financing and listing on the TSX Venture Exchange.

For further information please contact the Company at (604) 264-9770 or fax (604) 264-9771.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*"K. Wayne Livingstone"*

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K. Wayne Livingstone  
President