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ASX/MEDIA RELEASE

Newcrest appoints Ausenco preferred contractor for Ridgeway Deeps

Global mining and mineral process engineering and project management services provider Ausenco Limited (ASX: AAX) today announced that it had been awarded preferred contractor status to deliver the underground ore handling infrastructure and surface facilities for the Ridgeway Deeps Gold-Copper project owned and operated by Newcrest Mining Limited near Orange in New South Wales. The A\$545 million project will be delivered on an engineering, procurement and construction management (EPCM) reimbursable basis, with fee

The contract will entail both surface and underground facilities, comprising the upgrade of the existing Ridgeway concentrator to handle the harder underground ore, and procurement and construction management activities associated with the Ridgeway Deeps underground ore handling infrastructure. Working with Newcrest and specialist consultants, the project is expected to represent another significant step for Newcrest's Cadia Valley Operations, underpinning production for the longer term.

Managing Director Zimi Meka commented that Ausenco had developed an excellent relationship with Newcrest during earlier studies on the Ridgeway Deeps project and the Cadia East developments, and was extremely pleased to have been awarded preferred contractor status.

Mr Meka said "I believe that contributing factors for our selection for this work are our demonstrated ability to successfully manage the evolution of a project from concepts through to full execution, our approach to working closely with our clients and specialist consultants and our skills in the design and management of projects of this nature. In addition, some of our key people have been involved with the study and development of the Ridgeway and Cadia projects with Newcrest for more than a decade, hence have a detailed understanding of their background and requirements."

Commissioning of the Ridgeway Deeps project is anticipated to be carried out in a staged manner, beginning in March 2009, with EPCM services completed in late 2009.

Ausenco has extensive experience in gold-copper projects internationally, with previous examples being the award-winning Sepon Gold-Copper project, and the current Phu Kham Copper-Gold project, both in Laos. In addition, the company was recently awarded preferred contractor status for the Didipio Copper-Gold project in the Philippines. Other current projects include the Lumwana copper project in Zambia and the Lady Annie project in Queensland.

ENDS

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About Ausenco Limited

Diversified minerals processing engineering and project management services provider Ausenco Limited was established in 1991 and has completed projects with an installed capital value in excess of \$1 billion in 33 countries. Ausenco is currently working on projects with an installed capital value of US\$2.5 billion.

Ausenco is internationally recognised for its expertise in the provision of engineering and project management services to the global mining and mineral processing industries. Its clients include the world's foremost mining organisations including BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, Oxiana, Barrick Gold, Newmont Mining, Sino Gold, and Kingsgate Consolidated.

About Newcrest

Newcrest Mining Limited is a leader in the exploration, development and operation of gold and gold/copper mines, formed in 1990 from the merger of Newmont Australia Limited and BHP Gold Limited. The company's strategy is to develop large, long life operations, or small high margin projects, which are low on the cost curve.

Newcrest's major operations are the Cadia Valley Operations; Cadia Hill & Ridgeway, in New South Wales and the Telfer Mine in Western Australia. Newcrest also operates the Gosowong gold mine in Indonesia and the Cracow gold mine in Queensland.