

NEWS

IRELAND INC. ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT GOLD AND SILVER EXTRACTED FROM BULK SAMPLE SAND MATERIAL AT COLUMBUS PROJECT

Gold and Silver Values Confirmed by Caustic Fusion, Fire Assay, Cyanide Leach, Thiosulphate Leach and Electron Microscope Analysis

HENDERSON, Nevada – APRIL 14, 2011 – [Ireland Inc. \(OTCBB: IRLD\)](http://www.irelandinc.com), an exploration and development company focused on the discovery and extraction of gold and silver from mineral deposits in the Southwestern United States, today announced encouraging results from the first of a series of a bulk tests on sand material taken from within the Zone S North area, located in the northwest sector of its Columbus Project in Esmeralda County, Nevada.

Gravity Concentration Tests

A bulk sand sample was taken from Zone S North and the first testing of this sample has now been completed. The head grade of a randomly selected representative split (100-lb) of head ore, as determined by caustic fusion assay, was 0.082 opt gold (Au) and 1.772 opt silver (Ag). The sand was then gravity concentrated to a ratio of 57:1 to produce a high grade concentrate. The concentrate yielded similar grades when assayed by caustic fusion (4.412 opt Au; 77.485 opt Ag) and fire assay (4.404 opt Au; 77.344 opt Ag). This represented a recovery from the head ore of approximately 94% of the gold and 77% of the silver into the gravity concentrate.

Extractability (percent recovery of the gold and silver from the concentrate) was then demonstrated by both cyanide leach (90.9% Au; 87.4% Ag) and thiosulphate leach (92.5% Au; 89.6% Ag). This represents a net recovery from head ore of approximately 86% of the gold and 68% of the silver. In addition, the concentrate was subjected to analysis by Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) wherein the gold was observed to consist of free particles of <40 microns (μ) in diameter. The results from this first test are summarized in the following table:

Sample No 3747C	Con Ratio	Assay Method	Gold (opt)	Silver (opt)	Gold Recovery	Silver Recovery
Head Ore (HO)		Caustic Fusion	0.082	1.772		
Gravity Concentrate (G.Con)	57:1	Caustic Fusion	4.412	77.485	94.4%	76.7%
		Fire Assay	4.404	77.344	94.2%	76.6%
Concentrate Leach (Leach)		Cyanide	4.011	67.742	90.9%	87.4%
		Thiosulphate	4.080	69.393	92.5%	89.6%
Calculated Net Recovery from Head Ore						
HO - G.Con - Leach		Cyanide	0.070	1.187	85.8%	67.0%
HO - G.Con - Leach		Thiosulphate	0.072	1.217	87.3%	68.7%
Electron Microscope Gold Particles		SEM/EDS	<40 μ			

“We are very encouraged by these results, even though this only represents the first bulk sand sample to be tested by gravity concentrating and then leaching,” stated Douglas D.G. Birnie, Chief Executive Officer of Ireland Inc. “The head grade of the sand material used in this test is significantly higher than the 0.04 opt gold equivalent (AuE¹) average head grade for the sands in Zone S North and Zone S South.

“We are planning to conduct more bulk scale tests to confirm the extraction rates from this material and will report results in a timely manner as the test data is received,” continued Birnie. “Previous work has identified that the Zone S North and Zone S South contains over 110 million inferred tons of sand material, with an approximate drill-hole average grade of 0.04 opt AuE to a depth of 100 feet beneath the surface of the Columbus Basin. This represents only a portion of the tonnage of these sand zones identified to date. We will continue to focus on these sands by conducting additional drilling and bulk sampling, followed by pilot tests at our Columbus plant.”

As earlier reported, a 100-foot composite drill-hole sample (5 lbs) of these sands was previously thiosulphate leached. The head grade of that composite material was 0.038 opt Au and 0.202 opt Ag. The recovery into solution after a six-hour thiosulphate leach was 90.7% of the gold and 95.4% of the silver.

Columbus Project History

The current technical program at the Columbus Project commenced in 2006. Several phases of both surface and drill sampling have been conducted in the area and have led to the identification of an approximate 5,000-acre area of interest in the northwest section of the Columbus Salt Marsh Basin containing both clay and sand deposits. Prior to these most recent sand material tests, metallurgical testing was primarily focused on extracting gold and silver from the clay material. As previously reported, problems with organic material interfered with the extraction of precious metals from the clays, and this has led Ireland to focus on extraction of precious metals from the sands. Previous drilling has identified gold and silver mineralization to a depth of 400 feet within the sand zones.

About Ireland Inc.

Based in Henderson, Nevada, [Ireland Inc.](http://www.irelandminerals.com) is a minerals exploration and development company that is focused on the discovery and extraction of precious metals from mineral deposits in the Southwestern United States. Please visit www.irelandminerals.com for more information.

In 2007, Ireland acquired rights to two mining properties, both of which are prospective for gold, silver and other minerals. In early 2008, Ireland completed the acquisition of the Columbus Project located in Esmeralda County, NV, near Tonopah, where it also has an option to acquire additional adjacent mineral claims. Ireland also owns rights to acquire up to 100% of the Red Mountain Project in San Bernardino County, California.

Forward-Looking Statements

This document may include statements that constitute “forward-looking” statements, usually containing the words “believe,” “estimate,” “project,” “expect,” or similar expressions. Forward-looking statements inherently involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited

¹ AuE calculated using: \$900/oz Au and \$12/oz Ag

to, Ireland's limited operating history, future trends in mineral prices, the availability of capital, geological or mechanical difficulties affecting Ireland's planned geological work programs, and uncertainties surrounding estimates of mineralized material. Extraction rates and mineralization grades from test results on individual samples may not be representative of extraction rates or grades that can be obtained from other samples or from commercial scale extraction efforts. Additional exploration work will be required to fully define the extent of the Columbus Project's mineralized areas and before proved or probable mineral reserves can be established. There is no assurance that the results of Ireland's exploration of pre-feasibility programs will result in a decision to enter into commercial production. Ireland undertakes no obligation to update the forward looking statements in this document.

Investors are advised to carefully review the reports and documents that we file from time to time with the SEC, particularly our Annual and Quarterly Reports.

Cautionary Note Regarding Estimates of Inferred, Indicated and Measured Resources

This press release uses the terms "inferred", "indicated", and "measured resources". The United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") does not normally permit issuers to disclose resource estimates in their filings with the SEC. SEC guidelines normally permit only the disclosure of "reserve" estimates, which are those parts of a mineral deposit that could be economically and legally extracted or produced at the time the estimate is made. Inferred resource estimates generally may not be used as the basis for pre-feasibility or feasibility studies. There are no assurances that any inferred, indicated or measured resource estimates provided in this press release can be economically or legally extracted or produced or that any of these resource estimates will ever be converted to reserves. There are also no assurances that any inferred resource estimates will be converted into indicated or measured resources.

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