

PRESS RELEASE**World Gold Council appoints Pierre Lassonde as Chairman**

London, 22 March 2005: The World Gold Council (WGC) has today announced that Pierre Lassonde, President of Newmont Mining Corporation, is to succeed Chris Thompson as Chairman of the WGC.

Commenting on his appointment, Pierre Lassonde said: "On behalf of all the members of the World Gold Council, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Chris Thompson for his leadership over the last three years. I feel very fortunate to be taking the helm at the WGC at a time when it has demonstrated its ability to create new demand for gold in the jewellery sector and in the investment arena. I am looking forward to working with the WGC to continue to promote gold as a timeless investment."

Chris Thompson was elected chairman of the World Gold Council in April 2002, serving an extra year in addition to the statutory two-year tenure. During his time as Chairman, Chris Thompson has led the restructuring of the senior management team of the WGC, helping to revitalise the organisation by bringing renewed focus on its mission as *the* marketing organisation for the gold industry. In addition, he has played a pivotal role in bringing to market gold-backed, exchange-traded funds in Melbourne, London, Johannesburg and New York. Realising his personal vision, he has helped to find an important new way for retail and institutional investors to invest in gold.

James E Burton, Chief Executive of the World Gold Council, said: "Chris Thompson has made an indelible impact on the World Gold Council, and has played a key role in helping to reinvigorate the organisation. We thank him for his outstanding contribution. Going forward, we are very much looking forward to working with Pierre Lassonde, who brings a wealth of experience to the role."

Pierre Lassonde was elected President of Newmont Mining Corporation in February 2002 and was elected to the Board in March 2002.

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For further information, contact Anita Saunders, Head of Public Relations, World Gold Council on +44 207 826 4716 or +44 7841 299 549, or e-mail anita.saunders@gold.org.

Notes to Editors:

World Gold Council

The World Gold Council (WGC), a commercially-driven marketing organisation, is funded by the world's leading gold mining companies. A global advocate for gold, the WGC aims to promote the demand for gold in all its forms through marketing activities in major international markets. For further information visit www.gold.org.

Pierre Lassonde

Pierre Lassonde was elected Chairman of the World Gold Council in March 2005. He was elected President of Newmont Mining Corporation in February 2002 and was elected to the Board in March 2002. He joined the company following Newmont's acquisition of Franco-Nevada Mining Corporation Limited, where he had served as President and Co-Chief Executive Officer since 1982.

Pierre Lassonde is one of Canada's leading gold analysts and is the author of the "Gold Book, The Complete Investment Guide to Precious Metals." He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Montreal and a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from Ecole Polytechnique. He graduated with a Master's of Business Administration degree from the University of Utah in 1973 and was designated a Professional Engineer by the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario in 1976. Pierre Lassonde is a director of Enghouse Systems Limited.