



**NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION TO UNITED STATES NEWSWIRE SERVICES
OR FOR DISSEMINATION IN THE UNITED STATES**

**CORRIENTE RESOURCES INC. ANNOUNCES EXERCISE OF UNDERWRITERS
OPTIONS**

Vancouver, BC – December 16, 2005 – Corriente Resources Inc. (TSX:CTQ) announced today that the syndicate of underwriters led by Desjardins Securities Inc. and including Canaccord Capital Corporation, CIBC World Markets Inc., Sprott Securities Inc. and Wellington West Capital Markets Inc. have exercised their option to purchase an additional 2,540,000 Common Shares at \$3.95 per Common Share which will increase the offering, previously announced on December 12, 2005, by an additional \$10,033,000. Total gross proceeds raised in this offering will be \$30,039,750. The offering is expected to close on or about December 29, 2005.

The net proceeds of the offering will be used to fund the further advancement of the Company's Mirador Copper Project in Ecuador, as well as for general working capital purposes.

Corriente Resources Inc. is a Canadian-based copper and copper-gold development and exploration company with interests in mining properties in Ecuador. Corriente controls a 100% interest in over 50,000 hectares located within the Corriente Copper Belt. The belt currently contains three copper and copper-gold porphyry deposits - Mirador, Panantza and San Carlos.

For further information, please contact:

Dan Carriere, Senior Vice-President
Telephone: (604) 687-0449