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Aztec Minerals Reports High Gold Recoveries By Cyanide Leach Analysis Of Drill Cores From the California Gold Prospect, Cervantes Property, Sonora, Mexico

430 km Airborne Geophysical Survey Recently Completed Over Entire 3,649 Hectare Cervantes Property

Vancouver, Canada – December 18, 2018 - Aztec Minerals Corp. (AZT: TSX-V, OTCQB: AZZTF) reports high gold recoveries by cyanide leach analysis of five (5) drill holes from the California porphyry gold-copper prospect on the Cervantes property in Sonora, Mexico. The drill holes were selected from a northeast to southwest fence to represent the following main types of mineralization: oxide, mixed oxide-sulphide, copper enriched, and sulphide.

Excellent gold recoveries by cyanide leach analysis include 87% gold and 45% silver recovery over 98.0 meters in hole 18CER007, 84% gold and 54% silver over 106.0 meters in 18CER006, and 84% gold and 49% silver over 93.5 meters in hole 17CER003. Silver recoveries around 50% are considered normal for most oxide gold deposits, as silver has slower leach kinetics compared to gold.

“We are very happy to see such high gold recoveries using the ALS-Chemex cyanide leach analysis, a clear indication that the precious metals in the gold oxide cap of this newly discovered porphyry gold-copper system are amenable to leach processing”, commented Joey Wilkins, President and CEO. “We plan to conduct more detailed metallurgical test-work on both leach and flotation recoveries in order to more fully un-lock the mineral potential of the California zone but these positive leach results are a great start.”

Table 1: Cyanide leach results, holes 17CER003, 18CER006, 18CER010, & 18CER015

Drill Hole	Interval (m)	From (m)	To (m)	Au Rec (%)	Au (gpt)	Ag Rec (%)	Ag (gpt)	Mineralization Type
17CER003	93.5	0.0	93.5	84%	0.72	49%	3.0	Oxide
17CER003	25.5	93.5	119.0	51%	0.24	57%	1.2	Mixed
18CER006	106.0	0.0	106.0	84%	0.36	54%	1.9	Oxide
18CER007	98.0	0.0	98.0	87%	0.70	45%	1.7	Oxide
18CER010	42.0	0.0	42.0	75%	0.72	55%	3.8	Oxide
18CER010	54.0	42.0	96.0	19%	1.05	17%	3.8	Cu Enriched
18CER010	40.0	96.0	136.0	73%	0.12	24%	2.4	Mixed
18CER010	29.0	136.0	165.0	33%	1.10	19%	3.3	Sulphide
18CER015	42.0	0.0	42.0	70%	0.54	68%	3.3	Oxide



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18CER015	29.0	42.0	71.0	22%	0.40	30%	0.9	Cu Enriched
18CER015	16.0	71.0	87.0	52%	0.41	49%	0.4	Sulphide

Note: Au gpt and Ag gpt grades are original weighted average assays from Bureau Veritas

In addition to excellent gold recoveries from oxide material, significant cyanide leach results were obtained from sulphide mineralization, such as 52% gold recovery in hole 18CER015 over 16.0 meters at 71.0-87.0 meters and 73% gold recovery in hole 18CER010 over 40.0 meters at 96.0 to 136.0 meters. However, lower cyanide leach gold recoveries were recorded in material where copper sulphide enrichment is abundant, but this type of mineralization represents only around 20% of the overall California zone.

Additionally, a helicopter-based airborne magnetic, radiometric, and VLF survey was recently completed at Cervantes covering the entire 3,649 hectare claim block with 100 meter spaced lines. The preliminary data show an extensive magnetic high under the California target extending and broadening towards the north. Other targets such as Purisima and Jacobo have either low to very high magnetic responses respectively, suggesting that there is more than one phase of porphyry intrusions on the property. The radiometrics highlight the prominent Northeast-Southwest mineral trend and illuminate individual targets by their high total count (TC) responses.

A large and interesting northwest-southeast oriented magnetic high was detected on the northwest side of the survey and corresponds to a newly identified area of extensive gossan oxide and pyrrhotite-pyrite-chalcopyrite-arsenopyrite mineralization in hornfels and sediments intruded by feldspar-quartz porphyry dykes. The pyrrhotite indicates a reduced copper-gold system and likely contributes to the magnetic high.

Aeromagnetic and radiometric images are forthcoming and will be posted on our website once final processing has been completed. Interpretation of results will follow.

The Cervantes Property is held under an option to purchase agreement with Kootenay Silver Inc. (TSX-V:KTN) whereby Aztec can acquire up to 100% interest in the property in two stages. Additional information can be found on our website.

Joey Wilkins, B.Sc., P.Geo., is the Qualified Person who reviewed and approved the technical disclosures in this news release. Bulk samples were transported from Aztec's secure warehouse to the ALS prep lab in Hermosillo then split for leach tests. The cyanide leach analyses were performed at ALS-Chemex with certified standards inserted into the sample stream and passed protocol. The new cyanide leach sample data was treated the same as prior drill hole geochemistry by calculating weighted average composites for true averaging. All data passed quality control and review under NI43-101 standards.

About Aztec Minerals – Aztec is a mineral exploration company focused on the discovery of large gold-copper deposits in the Americas. Our core asset is the prospective Cervantes porphyry gold-copper property in Sonora, Mexico. Our district-scale historic Tombstone properties hold both bulk tonnage epithermal gold-silver as well as CRD silver-lead-zinc deposits in Cochise County, Arizona. Aztec's shares trade on the TSX-V stock exchange (symbol AZT) and on the OTCQB (symbol AZZTF).



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