Silver Standard Resources Inc.

Vista Extends Silver-Gold Mineralization At Maverick Springs Project In Nevada

Vancouver, B.C. - Vista Gold Corp. (TSX and AMEX: VGZ), as operator of the Maverick Springs gold-silver project in Nevada, has completed a 7,020-foot drill program which has significantly extended known mineralization on the property. Maverick Springs is located approximately 50 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada, on the southeast extension of the Carlin Trend.

The drill program consisted of seven reverse circulation holes, 500 feet to 2200 feet from known mineralization, all of which encountered flat-lying mineralization, predominantly oxidized to depths of up to 900 feet. In outlining continuous mineralization in a 2,200-foot by 1,200-foot area immediately adjacent to known gold-silver resources, this newly outlined mineralization has the potential to significantly increase previously reported resources with additional in-fill drilling.

Selected Drill Hole Results-Maverick Springs, December 2002

Drill Hole	From (feet)	To (feet)	Thickness (feet)	Gold (oz./ton)	Silver (oz./ton)
MR129	695	940	245	0.008	1.52
MR130	650	850	200	0.008	3.85
includes	670	710	40	0.008	14.13
MR131	565	940	375	0.012	0.57
MR132	600	925	325	0.011	0.52
MR133	300	400	100	0.008	0.16
MR133	515	825	310	0.008	1.02
MR134	590	790	200	0.009	0.78
MR135	690	800	110	0.026	3.07
includes	760	775	15	0.105	0.78

The thicknesses are considered true widths. Gold assays were full assay-ton fire assays; silver assays were atomic absorption measurements from an aqua-regia leach solution. All assays were completed by American Assay Labs in Reno, Nevada, with industry-standard QA/QC procedures.

Current indicated and inferred resources, at a cut-off of 0.50 ounces of silver per ton, stand at 27.4 million tons of 1.18 ounces of silver per ton, and 56.8 million tons of 1.21 ounces of silver per ton, respectively.

The area of known mineralization now occupies an area 6,000 feet north-south by 2500 feet east-west, indicating a very large mineralized system. Higher grades in gold have been intersected in the northern-most hole, MR135; and higher silver grades were also encountered in MR130, the western-most drill hole. Maverick Springs is considered a silver-rich, Carlin-type system with mineralization from 100 to 400 feet in thickness.

The exploration program was designed and supervised by Warren Bates, B.Sc. and P.Geo. Mr. Bates is a graduate of the University of Manitoba with a B.Sc (Honours) majoring in Geology (1985) and a member of the Association of Professional Geologists of Ontario (A.P.G.O.).

As previously announced, subject to completion of a formal agreement expected in January 2003, Vista will grant Silver Standard an option to acquire Vista's interest in the silver resources hosted in the project. Vista will be operator.

A 6,000-meter program of diamond drilling is now under way at Silver Standard's 50%-held Manantial Espejo silver-gold project in Argentina and a 13,500-meter program of reverse circulation and diamond drilling is being completed at the company's wholly-owned Bowdens silver project in Australia. Silver Standard is also pursuing acquisitions of other significant silver projects.

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