

# Latin American Minerals Announces Commencement of Pilot Plant Operation; Cancels the Opening Ceremony to Protect Vistors from Demonstrating Artisinal Miners

02.02.2012 | [Marketwired](#)

## Also Drilling Commences on the Paso Yobai New Trend

TORONTO, ONTARIO -- (Marketwire) -- 02/02/12 -- Latin American Minerals Inc. (TSX VENTURE: LAT)(OTCQX: LATNF) (the 'Company') reports that it has begun operations at its Pilot Plant facility, located at the Paso Yobai Gold Project in Paraguay. Following two weeks of trial operation in January, the Company suspended its scheduled plant inauguration ceremony to avoid potentially violent confrontations with demonstrating illegal miners. The Company has withdrawn its technical and exploration teams from the project for a cautionary stand-down period. This stand-down will briefly interrupt drilling, which began on the Company's New Trend Concessions on January 5, 2012.

As previously announced, the Company has constructed a 100 tpd gravitational concentrator plant at the fully permitted Minera Guaira Mining concession, a portion of the Company's Paso Yobai exploration project. In mid-January, plant engineers began processing mined mineral through the plant. Mineral stockpiling began in November, 2011 from excavations over a 200m extent of the Discovery Zone gold deposit. The Company planned an inauguration ceremony to celebrate this historic event, the commencement of Paraguay's first official gold mine, to be named Mina Independencia.

Gold was discovered in the Paso Yobai regions more than a decade ago. Several local businesses established mineral claims and exploration activity. As a result of the discovery and delineation of the first gold trend, some local surface owners and mill owners began conducting unauthorised, artisanal mining on eleven surface lots located within the limits of the Minera Guaira mining permit. The Company lacked authority to prevent this work, which is limited to a small fraction of the concession. Approximately 11 surface owners, plus local workers and other entrepreneurs derive their livelihoods from these surface workings.

Recent Paraguayan government studies have documented mercury contamination in some streams draining the illegal operations. Several of the diggings and mills responsible for this damage have been closed by the Paraguayan environmental authority and the regional judiciary. The local illegal miners/surface owners protested the Paraguayan government's action by organizing demonstrations around Paso Yobai and outside of Latin American's test plant site, to coincide with the planned attendance of mining officials and politicians at the Company-hosted event.

In a statement by a local spokesman, the artisanal miners expressed concern that the law awarding the mining concession to the Company could lead to the expropriation of their surface lots located within the concession. Though the group has sought public attention to make a variety of claims, their objectives do not appear to be related to any past or current activities of the Company.

Although no injuries were threatened or sustained on either side, following sharp words and rocks thrown at company vehicles, and also at those of reporters and bystanders, the Company decided to defuse the situation by cancelling the Company's opening ceremony. Significantly, hundreds of national politicians, VIPs and industry figures were expected to attend the event.

Since the Company's exploration and plant activity involve the daily movement of staff on the local roads, these activities have also been temporarily suspended until the Company's public relations office in the town of Paso Yobai can indicate that the mood has returned to normal and amicable conditions.

Miles Rideout, the President and CEO of Latin American Minerals stated: 'I visited the plant the day of the demonstration and one of the Company's directors was on site during the entire event to host visiting investors. We were able to observe the demonstrators, the operations of the Company's personnel, and the excellent support and conciliatory action provided by the local police and authorities. We'll continue dialogue with the artisanal leaders to help resolve their apprehensions regarding land rights. We'll be happy to soon get about 150 towns-people back to their regular jobs at our project.'

Latin American Minerals considers the use of mercury in gold extraction to be a dangerous and damaging

practice. The state-of-the-art Paso Yobai test plant is designed to validate the economic characteristics of the large epithermal gold system that is being delineated at the project. The plant was designed and built by Sepro Systems of Langley, British Columbia. It employs high-speed Falcon gravitational concentrators to extract gold using only water, following scrubbing and milling operations. No chemicals are used anywhere in the extraction process. The Company operates on a Best Practices policy with due consideration to its employees and all applicable laws.

The Company continues to advance the Paso Yobai Gold Project with the following additional recent milestones. Following the December, 2011 announcement of trench results on the 100% owned Tacuru Target, the Company received a drill permit from the Paraguayan Secretary of the Environment on Dec 22, 2011 and drilling of this target began on January 5, 2012. At this date, 6 diamond drill holes representing two 3-hole 'fences' have been completed. Samples from this drilling have been prepared and shipped for laboratory analysis, though no assay results have yet been received.

Rideout stated 'Concluding fair surface rights agreements on our New Trend targets was one of our key objectives in 2011. Our Paraguayan country manager has done an outstanding job in this regard. We, and the other stakeholders in this venture, are eager to see these first drill results.'

#### **About the Paso Yobai Gold Project:**

The Company is developing the Discovery Trend Pilot Plant operation on the Minera Guaira mining concession, part of the Company's larger Paso Yobai Gold Project. The objective of the new Pilot Plant is to facilitate resource evaluation on the Discovery Trend, which is characterised by coarse gold mineralization extending from surface to greater than 100m depth. The coarse granular gold typical of the Discovery Trend complicates conventional resource estimation by diamond drilling due to the small sample volume extracted in exploration holes.

The Company's strategy to develop the Discovery Trend target is to detect and delineate mineral shoots by trenching and diamond drilling, then to verify the grades of these zones by bulk sampling. The Discovery Trend Pilot Plant will allow the Company to expand these operations to a commercial scale in order to accelerate the development of a resource.

The second New Trend at Paso Yobai is located on concessions that are 100% owned by the Company. The New Trend at Paso Yobai is approximately 14.8 km in length, located 3.5 km northeast of the Discovery Trend. The Company owns 100% of the prospecting concessions that contain this geologic feature. The results of the Company's 2011 work to define drill targets suggest that bulk tonnage potential could exist at several target zones along this extensive structure. The Company plans to focus 2012 exploration on these targets.

#### **About the Company:**

Latin American Minerals Inc. is a well-financed mineral exploration company focused on the acquisition and development of mineral projects in highly prospective countries of South America. In addition to the Paso Yobai Gold Project, the Company's Itapoty Diamond Project and Chirigueldo REE/Niobium Project are also located in Paraguay.

*The statements made in this press release that are not historical facts contain forward-looking information that involves risk and uncertainties. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, which address Latin American Minerals' expectations, should be considered forward-looking statements. Such statements are based on management's exercise of business judgment as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to management. When used in this document, the words 'may', 'will', 'anticipate', 'believe', 'estimate', 'expect', 'intend' and words of similar import, are intended to identify any forward-looking statements. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current view of future events and are subject to certain risks and uncertainties as contained in Latin American Minerals' filings with Canadian securities regulatory authorities. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements. We undertake no obligation, and do not intend, to update, revise or otherwise publicly release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof, or to reflect the occurrence of any unanticipated events, unless required under applicable securities laws. Although we believe that our expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, we can give no assurance that our expectations will materialize.*

*Neither the TSX Venture Exchange nor its Regulation Services Provider (as that term is defined in the policies of the TSX Venture Exchange) accepts responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.*

**Contacts:**

Latin American Minerals Inc.  
Miles Rideout  
President and CEO  
Toronto: (1-416) 363-0841 or (1-416) 902-8558  
Argentina: (54-261) 439-9268  
[www.latinamericanminerals.com](http://www.latinamericanminerals.com)

Andreas Curkovic  
Investor Relations  
416-577-9927

---

Dieser Artikel stammt von [Rohstoff-Welt.de](http://Rohstoff-Welt.de)

Die URL für diesen Artikel lautet:

<https://www.rohstoff-welt.de/news/118844--Latin-American-Minerals-Announces-Commencement-of-Pilot-Plant-Operation-Cancels-the-Opening-Ceremony-to>

Für den Inhalt des Beitrages ist allein der Autor verantwortlich bzw. die aufgeführte Quelle. Bild- oder Filmrechte liegen beim Autor/Quelle bzw. bei der vom ihm benannten Quelle. Bei Übersetzungen können Fehler nicht ausgeschlossen werden. Der vertretene Standpunkt eines Autors spiegelt generell nicht die Meinung des Webseiten-Betreibers wieder. Mittels der Veröffentlichung will dieser lediglich ein pluralistisches Meinungsbild darstellen. Direkte oder indirekte Aussagen in einem Beitrag stellen keinerlei Aufforderung zum Kauf-/Verkauf von Wertpapieren dar. Wir wehren uns gegen jede Form von Hass, Diskriminierung und Verletzung der Menschenwürde. Beachten Sie bitte auch unsere [AGB/Disclaimer](#)!

---

Die Reproduktion, Modifikation oder Verwendung der Inhalte ganz oder teilweise ohne schriftliche Genehmigung ist untersagt!  
Alle Angaben ohne Gewähr! Copyright © by Rohstoff-Welt.de -1999-2026. Es gelten unsere [AGB](#) und [Datenschutzrichtlinien](#).