

“NEWS RELEASE”

For Immediate Release
TSX: CTQ, AMEX: ETQ

October 18, 2006

UPDATE OF ECUADOR GOLD PROPERTIES SPIN-OFF TO SHAREHOLDERS

Vancouver, BC., October 18, 2006 – Corriente announces that it has engaged an independent consultant to complete a review of its Ecuador gold concession package totaling 6,600 hectares containing encouraging gold targets that are not part of the current copper development program within the Corriente Copper Belt. Following completion of this review and accompanying 43-101 Technical Report, we can move forward with the company’s plan to distribute these concession rights to existing shareholders. We have received independent advice that the transaction will proceed at no cost to shareholders as of the chosen Record Date. The Record Date will be announced later this quarter following receipt of the 43-101 Report.

The gold concessions include the Tundayme prospect, which is immediately adjacent to Corriente’s Mirador copper deposit land holdings and is approximately 15 km from Aurelian Resources Inc.’s newly discovered Fruta del Norte gold zone. The Tundayme prospect has approximately 8 km of north-south trending structures that extend along strike to the Mirador project. This 8 km trend is oriented in the same direction as the Fruta del Norte mineralized trend and parts have had preliminary prospecting and soil sampling done by Corriente. Further work is required to follow-up anomalous gold soil and rock samples from that initial work. Also included is a second set of concessions approximately 50 km southwest of Mirador called the Piedra Liza prospect. Within the Piedra Liza prospect, four clusters of anomalous gold soil samples occur over a six km trend that is on-strike and north of the Nambija area, which has produced over three million ounces of gold by local estimates. Follow-up ground work has identified altered rock samples with maximum gold values at 1 - 4 g/t. The Qualified Person for this disclosure is John Drobe, P.Geo, Chief Geologist.

Corriente is a copper development company and remains focused on moving its Mirador copper-gold project into production, along with development of the large Panatza/San Carlos copper complex in the north of the Corriente Copper Belt. The Tundayme and Piedra Liza gold prospects are not considered core to Corriente’s copper growth plans and will be transferred to a new corporation that will be financed separately from Corriente Resources Inc.

ABOUT CORRIENTE

Corriente is moving towards construction of a starter operation at its Mirador copper-gold operation. Mirador is one of the few new, sizeable copper projects available for near-term production. Corriente controls a 100% interest in over 60,000 hectares located within the Corriente Copper Belt, Ecuador. The Belt currently contains three copper and copper-gold porphyry deposits: Mirador, Panantza and San Carlos, as well as the Mirador Norte prospect currently under development. Additional exploration activities are ongoing, as six additional copper and copper-gold exploration targets have been identified in the Corriente Copper Belt to date.

“Ken Shannon”
Kenneth R. Shannon
Chief Executive Officer

**For further information please contact Mr. Dan Carriere, Senior Vice-President
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Certain statements contained in this News Release constitute forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements involve a number of known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the company’s plans to materially differ from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date the statements were made, and readers are advised to consider such forward-looking statements in light of the risks set forth in the company’s continuous disclosure filings as found at www.sedar.com.