



PAN AMERICAN SILVER and ORKO SILVER BEGIN COMPREHENSIVE DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AT “LA PRECIOSA”

Vancouver, British Columbia – June 22, 2009 – Pan American Silver Corp. (“Pan American”) (PAAS: NASDAQ; PAA: TSX) and **Orko Silver Corp.** (“Orko”) (OK: TSX.V) are pleased to announce that this week they commenced a comprehensive exploration and delineation drilling program at the La Preciosa silver project in Mexico.

The Companies expect to complete approximately 30,000 meters of drilling on the property between now and the end of December of this year. The initial delineation drilling is specifically designed to upgrade Martha Vein inferred resources to measured and indicated status, while the exploration drilling will focus on several untested prominent vein structures within the joint venture property, that had been previously discovered by Orko.

Pan American, operator of the La Preciosa joint venture, plans to spend a total of US \$5.7 million in 2009, to complete the drill programs, as well as to initiate other project development related activities, including advanced metallurgical testing.

Drilling activities will be carried out by Major Drilling S.A. de CV of Hermosillo. The first rig is now drilling and a second rig is scheduled to commence drilling in the next 10 days. Assay testing will be performed by SGS Mineral Services in Durango, Mexico.

Gary Cope, President and CEO of Orko said, “We are extremely pleased to resume drilling at La Preciosa. Pan American and Orko have jointly developed a program to further delineate the Martha vein while testing for down dip and along strike extensions. But, perhaps more exciting is that we also will begin drill testing several other vein targets that we know exist on the property and we look forward to regularly disclosing drill results, over the balance of the year.”

Geoff Burns, President and CEO of Pan American added, “We have assembled a project development team and put together an aggressive drilling program for La Preciosa for 2009. We are set up, we are in the field working and I am extremely optimistic about the potential for a meaningful expansion of the resource base.”

On April 14th, 2009 Pan American and Orko jointly announced an agreement to create a joint venture to develop the La Preciosa silver project in Mexico. The La Preciosa and adjacent mineral concessions of Santa Monica and San Juan cover 32,422 hectares of contiguous mining claims. Orko had previously defined an indicated resource estimated at 10,637,000 tonnes grading 185 grams of silver per tonne and 0.27 grams of gold per tonne for a total of approximately 63,000,000 ounces of silver and 94,000 ounces of gold. In addition, the property hosts an inferred resource estimated to comprise 12,087,000 tonnes, grading 185 grams of silver per tonne and 0.25 grams of gold per tonne, for a total of approximately 71,700,000 ounces of silver and 97,000 ounces of gold.

The Joint Venture partners have agreed to delay the completion of a Preliminary Economic Assessment until the 2009 drilling and metallurgical test program has been completed. This will allow them to accumulate more extensive resource and metallurgical detailed data that will form the basis of the comprehensive Preliminary Economic Assessment.

George Cavey, P.Geo., Orko's Vice-President, Exploration, is the Qualified Person who takes responsibility for the technical disclosure in this news release.

About Pan American Silver

Pan American Silver's mission is to be the world's largest and lowest cost primary silver mining company, and to achieve this by increasing its low cost silver production and its silver reserves. The Company has eight operating silver mines in Mexico, Peru, Argentina and Bolivia.

About Orko Silver

Orko Silver Corp. is developing one of the world's largest primary silver deposits, La Preciosa, located near the city of Durango, in the State of Durango, Mexico.

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