

EMGOLD MINING CORPORATION

1400-570 Granville Street
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6C 3P1
www.emgold.com

February 17, 2004

Ticker Symbol: EMR-TSX Venture Exchange
SEC 12g3-2(b) 82-3003

EMGOLD CLOSES CERAMEXT™ LICENSING AGREEMENT

Emgold Mining Corporation (EMR:TSX Venture Exchange) has closed its acquisition of the Ceramext™ process to convert mine tailings at the Idaho-Maryland Mine into value added, high quality ceramic products. The acquisition was made through Emgold's wholly-owned U.S. subsidiary, Golden Bear Ceramics Company. The Agreement also gives Emgold the exclusive license for the Ceramext™ technology for conversion of mine tailings and other waste materials into high value ceramic products worldwide.

Under the terms of the Agreement, Emgold has paid US\$100,000 and issued 200,000 common shares to Ceramext, LLC, a private company controlled by a director of Emgold. No common shares were issued as bonuses, finder's fees or commissions in connection with this transaction. The common shares were issued pursuant to the Agreement, having a four-month hold period expiring June 12, 2004.

The Ceramext™ process has been demonstrated, on a laboratory basis, on a wide variety of materials including coal, lignite, and biomass fly ash, bottom ash, slag, clays, volcanic ash and mine tailings. Specifically, Ceramext has tested tailings from the Idaho-Maryland Mine and has successfully produced very high quality ceramic blanks suitable for forming into a wide variety of ceramic products using standard and proprietary finishing technologies. Independent marketing surveys conducted in California indicate that floor tiles are worth approximately US\$1.25 to \$1.50 per square foot on a wholesale basis, which translates into approximately US\$400 to \$500 per ton of feedstock to the process.

Golden Bear Ceramics is currently designing and building a pilot and demonstration plant in Grass Valley to commercialize the technology by converting mine tailings from the Idaho-Maryland Mine into various ceramic products. The use of the Ceramext™ technology at the Idaho Maryland Mine is projected to have a positive impact on overall project economics. The extent of this impact will be determined as part of the Idaho-Maryland final feasibility study currently being conducted.

For more information about Emgold Mining Corporation and the Idaho-Maryland Mine please visit the Company's website www.emgold.com or www.sedar.com and for more information about Ceramext™, please visit www.ceramext.com.

William J. Witte, P. Eng.
President and Chief Executive Officer

For further information please contact:
Coal Harbor Communications
Tel: (604) 662-4505 Fax: 604-662-4547
Toll Free: 1-877-345-3399

No regulatory authority has approved or disapproved the information contained in this news release.

This release includes certain statements that may be deemed "forward-looking statements". All statements in this release, other than statements of historical facts, that address future production, reserve potential, exploration drilling, exploitation activities and events or developments that the Company expects are forward-looking statements. Although the Company believes the expectations expressed in such forward looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, such statements are not guarantees of future performance and actual results or developments may differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking statements include market prices, exploitation and exploration successes, and continued availability of capital and financing, and general economic, market or business conditions. Investors are cautioned that any such statements are not guarantees of future performance and that actual results or developments may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. For more information on the Company, Investors should review the Company's filings that are available at www.sedar.com or the Companies website at www.emgold.com.