

05 May 2006
ASX Release

RIO TINTO TAKES EQUITY IN AUSQUEST

The Board of AusQuest Limited (ASX: AQD) is pleased to announce that Hamersley Holdings Pty Ltd, a 100% subsidiary of Rio Tinto Limited (Rio Tinto) has today, taken an equity position in the company through a \$1.0 million payment to AusQuest for the issue of 5.0 million shares in the company and 5.0 million options exercisable at 40 cents within 24 months.

This is as a result of the agreements recently signed between the two parties to further the evaluation of the Nameless Iron Ore Exploration Project located 5 kilometres north west of Tom Price in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

The Board is pleased to have Rio Tinto as a substantial shareholder (approximately 6.7%) in the company.



Graeme Drew
Managing Director