

APEX SILVER MINES LTD
Form S-3/A
May 09, 2005

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 9, 2005.

Registration No. 333-122037

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**AMENDMENT NO. 1
TO
FORM S-3**

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

APEX SILVER MINES LIMITED

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Cayman Islands, British West Indies

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

N/A

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**Walker House
Mary Street
George Town, Grand Cayman
Cayman Islands, British West Indies
(345) 949-0050**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

**Mark A. Lettes
Chief Financial Officer
Apex Silver Mines Corporation
1700 Lincoln Street, Suite 3050
Denver, Colorado 80203
Telephone: (303) 839-5060**

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

With copies to:

**Deborah J. Friedman
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP
1550 Seventeenth Street, Suite 500
Denver, Colorado 80202
Telephone: (303) 892-9400**

**Patrick J. Dooley
Stephen E. Older
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP
590 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Telephone: (212) 872-1000**

Edgar Filing: APEX SILVER MINES LTD - Form S-3/A

APPROXIMATE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF PROPOSED SALE TO THE PUBLIC: From time to time after this registration statement becomes effective.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box.

THE REGISTRANT HEREBY AMENDS THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATE OR DATES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL THE REGISTRANT SHALL FILE A FURTHER AMENDMENT WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL THEREAFTER BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(a) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 OR UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE COMMISSION, ACTING PURSUANT TO SAID SECTION 8(a), MAY DETERMINE.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. The selling security holders may not sell these securities or accept any offer to buy these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission becomes effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, dated May 9, 2005

PROSPECTUS

APEX SILVER MINES LIMITED

\$139,987,000

**4.0% CONVERTIBLE SENIOR SUBORDINATED NOTES DUE 2024 AND
THE ORDINARY SHARES ISSUABLE UPON CONVERSION OF THE NOTES**

This prospectus relates to resales of our 4.0% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2024 issued in private offerings in October and December 2004 and 4,891,229 ordinary shares, \$.01 par value, issuable upon conversion of the notes, plus an indeterminate number of additional ordinary shares that may be issued from time to time upon conversion of the notes as a result of certain adjustments, in circumstances described in this prospectus.

The notes and the shares may be sold from time to time by and for the account of the selling securityholders named in this prospectus or in supplements to this prospectus. See "Selling Securityholders" on page 21 for additional information on the selling securityholders. The selling securityholders may sell all or a portion of the notes or the shares from time to time in market transactions, in negotiated transactions or otherwise, and at prices and terms which will be determined by the then prevailing market price for the notes or shares at negotiated prices directly or through a broker or brokers, who may act as agent or as principal or by a combination of such methods of sale. See "Plan of Distribution" on page 25 for additional information on the methods of sale.

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the notes or the ordinary shares offered by the selling securityholders. The selling securityholders will receive all proceeds from the sale of the notes or the ordinary shares being registered in this registration statement.

The notes bear interest at the rate of 4.0% per year on the principal amount from October 15, 2004, or from the most recent date to which interest has been paid or provided for. Interest is payable semiannually in arrears on March 15 and September 15 of each year, beginning March 15, 2005, unless the notes are earlier converted.

Holder may convert all or a portion of their notes into 34.9406 ordinary shares of Apex Silver Mines Limited prior to stated maturity under the following circumstances: (1) at any time in any fiscal quarter commencing prior to September 15, 2019 if the closing sale price of our ordinary shares for at least 20 trading days in a period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the preceding fiscal quarter is greater than 120% of the conversion price per ordinary share on such last day; (2) at any time after September 15, 2019 and prior to maturity, if the closing sale price of our ordinary shares issuable upon conversion reaches a specified threshold on any day following September 15, 2019; (3) during the five business day period after any five consecutive trading day period in which the trading price per \$1,000 principal amount of the notes for each day of that period was less than 98% of the product of the closing sale price of our ordinary shares and the number of shares issuable upon conversion of \$1,000 principal amount of the notes; (4) if the notes have been called for redemption; or (5) upon the occurrence of specified corporate transactions described in this prospectus.

The initial conversion rate is 34.9406 ordinary shares of Apex Silver Mines Limited per \$1,000 principal amount of the notes. The conversion rate will be subject to adjustment in some events but will not be adjusted for accrued and unpaid interest.

We may redeem for cash all or a portion of the notes at our option any time on or after September 15, 2014 at a price equal to the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date. We may also redeem the notes in whole or in part at any time prior to September 15, 2014, at a price equal to the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest and a "make whole" payment if the price of our ordinary shares reaches certain levels, as discussed in the section "Description of Notes Redemption of Notes at Our Option Provisional Redemption."

Edgar Filing: APEX SILVER MINES LTD - Form S-3/A

Holders may require us to repurchase for cash all or a portion of their notes on September 15, 2014 and September 15, 2019 at a repurchase price equal to the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any. We may at our option choose to pay the repurchase price for any such notes in cash or in our ordinary shares (valued as described herein) or any combination thereof. In addition, if we experience specified types of fundamental changes, holders may require us to purchase for cash the notes for 100% of the principal amount of notes to be purchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any.

The notes are unsecured obligations (except as described below) and rank (i) subordinate in right of payment to future unsubordinated indebtedness for the construction and development of the San Cristobal project which will be secured by the San Cristobal property and other project assets or other assets, (ii) subordinate in right of payment to any guarantee of the indebtedness described in (i) by Apex Silver Mines Limited or its affiliates for the period the guarantee is in effect, and (iii) equal in right of payment to all other existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of Apex Silver Mines Limited. However, the notes are effectively subordinated to all existing and future secured debt of Apex Silver Mines Limited, to the extent of the security on such other indebtedness and to all existing and future obligations of the subsidiaries of Apex Silver Mines Limited.

We have pledged a portfolio of U.S. government securities as security for the first three years of interest payments on the notes.

The notes issued in the private placement are eligible for trading in the PORTAL (SM) market of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. The notes sold using this prospectus, however, will no longer be eligible for trading in the PORTAL market. We do not intend to list the notes on any other national securities exchange or automated quotation system. The ordinary shares of Apex Silver Mines Limited currently trade on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol "SIL." On May 2, 2005, the last reported sale price of the ordinary shares on the American Stock Exchange was \$12.86 per share.

Investing in the securities offered in this prospectus involves risks. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 7 of this prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2005.

Edgar Filing: APEX SILVER MINES LTD - Form S-3/A

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus and those documents incorporated by reference herein. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to purchase, the securities offered by this prospectus in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom or from whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation of an offer in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of the applicable document. Neither the delivery of this prospectus nor any distribution of securities pursuant to this prospectus shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the information set forth or incorporated into this prospectus by reference or in our affairs since the date of this prospectus.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

ENFORCEABILITY OF CIVIL LIABILITIES UNDER UNITED STATES LAWS

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

SUMMARY

RISK FACTORS

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

USE OF PROCEEDS

SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

DESCRIPTION OF NOTES

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORDINARY SHARES

CERTAIN TAX CONSIDERATIONS

LEGAL MATTERS

EXPERTS

As used in this prospectus, the terms "Apex Silver," "we," "our," "ours" and "us" may, depending on the context, refer to Apex Silver Mines Limited or to one or more of Apex Silver Mines Limited's consolidated subsidiaries or to all of them taken as a whole. When we refer to "ordinary shares" throughout this prospectus, we include all rights attaching to our ordinary shares under any stockholder rights plan then in effect.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Apex Silver Mines Limited (the "Company") files annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any of these documents at the SEC's public reference room at 450 Fifth Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The

Edgar Filing: APEX SILVER MINES LTD - Form S-3/A

information incorporated by reference is considered part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede the information in this prospectus.

The following documents, which were previously filed with the SEC pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, are hereby incorporated by reference:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004, as amended;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K, filed on January 13, 2005 (two reports); and

the description of the ordinary shares and other classes or series of shares contained under the caption "Description of Ordinary Shares" in our registration statement on Form S-1, as amended, filed with the SEC on August 29, 1997 (File No. 333-34685), and incorporated by reference into our registration statement on Form 8-A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 filed with the SEC on November 18, 1997.

All reports and other documents filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 subsequent to the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of this offering shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus and shall be a part hereof from the date of filing of such reports and documents.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus shall be deemed modified, superseded or replaced for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus, or in any subsequently filed document that also is deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus, modifies, supersedes or replaces such statement. Any statement so modified, superseded or replaced shall not be deemed, except as so modified, superseded or replaced, to constitute a part of this prospectus. Subject to the foregoing, all information appearing in this prospectus is qualified in its entirety by the information appearing in the documents incorporated by reference.

Statements contained in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document are not necessarily complete, and in each instance we refer you to the copy of the contract or document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement or the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference.

You may receive a copy of any of these filings, at no cost, by writing or calling Apex Silver Mines Corporation, 1700 Lincoln Street, Suite 3050, Denver, Colorado 80203, Attention: Vice President, Investor Relations and Corporate Development, telephone (303) 839-5060.

ENFORCEABILITY OF CIVIL LIABILITIES UNDER UNITED STATES LAWS

Apex Silver is a Cayman Islands exempted company and some of our directors reside in jurisdictions outside of the United States. At any one time, all or a substantial portion of our assets and directors are or may be located in jurisdictions outside of the United States. Therefore, it could be difficult for investors to effect within the United States service of process on us or any of our directors who reside outside the United States. Further, it could be difficult to recover against us or such directors judgments of courts in the United States, including judgments based upon civil liability under U.S. federal securities laws and similar state laws. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we have irrevocably agreed that we may be served with process with respect to actions based on offers of the securities offered by this prospectus in the United States by serving Apex Silver Mines Corporation, 1700 Lincoln Street, Suite 3050, Denver, Colorado 80203, our U.S. agent appointed for that purpose.

Walkers, our Cayman Islands counsel, has advised us that there may be circumstances where the courts of the Cayman Islands would not enforce:

judgments of U.S. courts obtained in actions against us or our directors that are not resident within the United States that are based upon the civil liability provisions of U.S. federal securities laws and similar state laws; or

original actions brought in the Cayman Islands against us or such persons based solely upon U.S. federal securities laws.

There is no treaty in effect between the United States and the Cayman Islands providing for such enforcement. There are grounds upon which Cayman Islands courts may not enforce judgments of U.S. courts. In addition, some remedies that are available under the laws of U.S. jurisdictions, including certain remedies under U.S. federal securities laws, may not be allowed in Cayman Islands courts as being contrary to public policy.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus may contain forward-looking statements. These statements include comments regarding San Cristobal development and construction plans, costs, grade, production and recovery rates, permitting, infrastructure arrangements, Bolivian political and economic conditions, financing needs, the availability of financing on acceptable terms, the timing of construction at San Cristobal, and the markets for silver, zinc and lead. The use of any of the words "anticipate," "continue," "estimate," "expect," "may," "will," "project," "should," "believe" and similar expressions are intended to identify uncertainties. We believe the expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable. However, we cannot assure you that these expectations will prove to be correct. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of the risk factors set forth below and other factors set forth in this prospectus:

worldwide economic and political events affecting the supply of and demand for silver, zinc and lead;

political and economic instability in Bolivia and other developing countries in which we conduct business;

volatility in market prices for silver, zinc and lead;

financial market conditions, and the availability of financing on terms acceptable to Apex Silver;

uncertainties associated with developing a new mine, including potential cost overruns and the unreliability of estimates in early stages of mine development;

variations in ore grade and other characteristics affecting mining, crushing, milling and smelting operations and mineral recoveries;

geological, technical, permitting, mining and processing problems;

the availability and timing of acceptable arrangements for power, transportation, water and smelting;

the availability, terms, conditions and timing of required government permit and approvals;

uncertainties regarding future changes in applicable law or implementation of existing law, including Bolivian laws related to tax, mining, environmental matters and exploration;

the availability, terms and timing of arrangement for smelting and variations in smelting operations and capacity;

the availability of experienced employees; and

the factors discussed under "Risk Factors."

Many of these factors are beyond our ability to control or predict. You should not unduly rely on these forward-looking statements. These statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus. Except as required by law, we are not obligated to publicly release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect future events or developments. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us and persons acting on our behalf are qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained in this section and elsewhere in this prospectus.

SUMMARY

This summary contains basic information about us and the resale by securityholders of the notes and the ordinary shares issuable upon conversion of the notes. Because it is a summary, it does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing. You should read this entire prospectus carefully, including the section entitled "Risk Factors" and our financial statements and the related notes contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, before making an investment decision.

Our Company

Apex Silver Mines Limited, incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands in 1996, is engaged in the exploration and development of silver properties in South America and Mexico. Our exploration efforts have produced our first development property, our 100% owned San Cristobal project located in southern Bolivia. San Cristobal's proven and probable reserves, based on \$5.37 per ounce silver, \$0.40 per pound zinc and \$0.28 per pound lead, total approximately 219 million tonnes of ore grading 64.69 grams per tonne of silver, 1.60% zinc and 0.59% lead, containing approximately 456 million ounces of silver, 7.7 billion pounds of zinc and 2.8 billion pounds of lead. The prices used represent the three-year average price for each of the metals as per guidelines established by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Based on recently completed evaluations for our updated life-of-mine development plan, we expect San Cristobal to have annual average payable production of approximately 17 million ounces of silver, 165,000 tonnes of zinc and 64,000 tonnes of lead over a mine life of approximately 16 years. We have commenced construction at San Cristobal, and, assuming that metals markets remain favorable and that we are able to complete the additional financing required for the project, we expect to commence start-up and production in 2007.

We also have a large diversified portfolio of privately owned and controlled silver exploration properties. We have rights to or control over 100 silver and other mineral exploration holdings, divided into approximately 50 property groups, located in or near the traditional silver producing regions of Bolivia, Mexico and Peru. None of our properties is in production, and, consequently, we have no operating income or cash flow.

We are managed by a team of seasoned mining professionals with significant experience in the construction, development and operation of large scale, open pit and underground, precious and base metals mining operations, as well as in the identification and exploration of mineral properties.

Our principal executive office is located at 1700 Lincoln Street, Suite 3050, Denver, Colorado 80203, and our telephone number is (303) 839-5060. Our internet address is www.apexsilver.com. Information on our website is not incorporated into this prospectus and is not a part of this prospectus.

Our Strategy

Apex Silver is one of a limited number of silver companies with significant exposure to other metals. Our strategy is to capitalize on the San Cristobal project and our sizeable portfolio of silver exploration properties in order to achieve long-term profits and growth and to enhance shareholder value.

The principal elements of our business strategy are to:

secure financing for and proceed to develop the San Cristobal project as a large scale open pit mining operation;

continue to explore and develop those properties which we believe are most likely to contain significant amounts of silver and/or other metals and divesting those properties that are not of continuing interest; and

identify and acquire additional mining and mineral properties that we believe contain significant amounts of silver and/or other metals or have exploration potential.

Certain Tax Considerations

We believe that we likely were a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC") with respect to 2004, and likely will be a PFIC in 2005 as well as potentially with respect to future years. If we are a PFIC, U.S. Holders of notes and ordinary shares will be subject to certain adverse U.S. federal income tax rules. Under the PFIC rules, a U.S. Holder who disposes or is deemed to dispose of notes or ordinary shares at a gain, or who receives or is deemed to receive certain distributions with respect to ordinary shares, generally will be required to treat such gain or distributions as ordinary income and pay an interest charge on the tax imposed with respect thereto. In addition, certain elections that may sometimes be used to reduce the adverse impact of the PFIC rules ("QEF elections" and "mark-to-market" elections) will not be available with respect to the notes. The PFIC rules are extremely complex, and prospective investors are urged to consult their own tax advisers regarding the potential consequences to them of Apex Silver being classified as a PFIC. See "Certain Tax Considerations."

The Offering

This prospectus relates to resales of up to \$139,987,000 in aggregate original principal amount of the notes and 4,891,229 ordinary shares issuable upon conversion of the notes, plus an indeterminate number of additional ordinary shares that may be issued from time to time upon conversion of the notes as a result of certain adjustments, in circumstances described in this prospectus.

We issued and sold \$100,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of the notes on October 15, 2004, in a private offering to certain initial purchasers led by Citigroup Global Markets Inc. In addition, pursuant to an option exercised by the initial purchasers, we issued and sold an additional \$39,987,000 in aggregate principal amount of the notes to the initial purchasers on December 14, 2004. We have been advised by the initial purchasers that the notes were resold in transactions which were exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act to persons reasonably believed by the initial purchasers to be "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A under the Securities Act) in reliance on Rule 144A and outside the United States in reliance on Regulation S.

The following is a brief summary of the terms of the notes. For a more complete description of the notes, see the section entitled "Description of Notes" in this prospectus.

Notes Offered	\$139,987,000 aggregate principal amount of 4.0% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2024.
Maturity	September 15, 2024.
Cash Interest	The notes bear interest at the rate of 4.0% per year on the principal amount from October 15, 2004, or from the most recent date to which interest has been paid or provided for. Interest is payable semiannually in arrears on March 15 and September 15 of each year, beginning March 15, 2005. The interest rate will be calculated using a 360-day year composed of twelve 30-day months.

Conversion Rights

Holders may convert all or a portion of their notes prior to the stated maturity, in multiples of \$1,000 principal amount, into ordinary shares only if at least one of the conditions described below is satisfied. For each \$1,000 principal amount of notes surrendered for conversion, if the conditions for conversion are satisfied, a holder will receive 34.9406 ordinary shares. When we refer to "ordinary shares" throughout this prospectus, we include all rights attaching to our ordinary shares under any stockholder rights plan then in effect.

The conversion rate may be adjusted in some circumstances, but will not be adjusted for accrued and unpaid interest. Upon conversion, a holder will not receive any cash payment of interest (unless such conversion occurs between a regular record date and the interest payment date to which it relates). Instead, accrued and unpaid interest will be deemed to be paid in full by the ordinary shares received by the holder on conversion.

Holders may surrender notes for conversion into our ordinary shares at any time in any fiscal quarter commencing prior to September 15, 2019 if the closing sale price of our ordinary shares for at least 20 trading days in a period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the preceding fiscal quarter is more than 120% of the conversion price per ordinary share on such last day.

Holders may also surrender notes for conversion at any time after September 15, 2019 and prior to maturity, if the closing sale price of our ordinary shares is greater than or equal to 120% of the applicable conversion price on any day after September 15, 2019. If either of the foregoing conditions is satisfied, then the notes will be convertible at any time, at the option of the holder, through maturity. The conversion price per share as of any day will equal the principal amount of a note, divided by 34.9406, subject to any adjustments to the conversion rate through that day.

Holders may also surrender notes for conversion during the five business day period after any five consecutive trading day period in which the trading price per \$1,000 principal amount of notes for each day of that period was less than 98% of the product of the closing sale price for our ordinary shares for each day of that period and the number of ordinary shares issuable upon conversion of \$1,000 principal amount of notes.

Notes in integral multiples of \$1,000 principal amount called for redemption may be surrendered for conversion until the close of business on the second business day prior to the redemption date. In addition, if we make a distribution to our stockholders with a per share value of more than 15% of the closing sale price of our ordinary shares on the date immediately preceding the declaration of such distribution, or if we are a party to some specified consolidations, mergers or binding share exchanges, notes may be surrendered for conversion, as provided in "Description of Notes Conversion Rights." The ability to surrender notes for conversion will expire at the close of business on September 15, 2024.

If a holder elects to convert notes in connection with certain fundamental changes, we will in certain circumstances increase the conversion rate by a number of additional ordinary shares upon conversion or, in lieu thereof, we may in certain circumstances elect to adjust the conversion rate and related conversion obligation so that the notes are convertible into shares of the acquiring or surviving company, in each case as described under "Description of Notes Conversion Rights Conversion Upon Occurrence of Certain Fundamental Changes."

Security

We have purchased and pledged to the trustee under the indenture, as security for the exclusive benefit of the holders of the notes, approximately \$15.4 million of U.S. government securities, which will be sufficient upon receipt of scheduled principal and interest payments thereon, to provide for the payment in full of the first three years of scheduled interest payments (up to and including the interest payment due on September 15, 2007) due on the notes. The notes will not otherwise be secured. See "Description of Notes Security."

Ranking

The notes will be unsecured obligations (except as described under "Security") and rank (i) subordinate in right of payment to future unsubordinated indebtedness for the construction and development of the San Cristobal project which will be secured by the San Cristobal property and other project assets or other assets, (ii) subordinate in right of payment to any guarantee of the indebtedness described in (i) by Apex Silver Mines Limited or its affiliates for the period the guarantee is in effect, and (iii) equal in right of payment to all other existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of Apex Silver. However, the notes are effectively subordinated to all existing and future secured debt of Apex Silver to the extent of the security on such other indebtedness and to all existing and future obligations of the subsidiaries of Apex Silver.

Sinking Fund

None.

Provisional Redemption	We may redeem for cash the notes in whole or in part at any time prior to September 15, 2014 at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date if: (1) the closing sale price of our ordinary shares has exceeded 140% of the then applicable conversion price for at least 20 trading days in any consecutive 30-day trading period ending on the trading day prior to the mailing of the notice of redemption; and (2) the shelf registration statement covering resales of the notes and the ordinary shares is effective and expected to remain effective and available for use for the 30 days following the redemption date, unless registration is no longer required. If we redeem notes under these circumstances, we will make an additional payment on the redeemed notes equal to \$396.67 per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, less the amount of any interest actually paid or accrued and unpaid on the note. We may make these additional payments, at our option, in cash or our ordinary shares or a combination thereof. We must make these payments on all notes called for redemption prior to September 15, 2014, including notes converted after the date we mailed the notices. See "Description of Notes Redemption of Notes at Our Option Provisional Redemption."
Redemption of Notes at Our Option	We may redeem for cash all or a portion of the notes at our option any time on or after September 15, 2014 at a price equal to the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date. See "Description of Notes Redemption of Notes at Our Option Redemption."
Repurchase at the Option of the Holder	Holder may require us to repurchase the notes on September 15, 2014 and September 15, 2019 at a repurchase price equal to 100% of their principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any. We may at our option choose to pay the repurchase price for any such notes in cash or in our ordinary shares (valued as described herein) or any combination thereof. See "Description of Notes Repurchase at Option of the Holder."
Fundamental Change	If a fundamental change (as described under "Description of Notes Redemption at Option of the Holder Upon a Fundamental Change") occurs prior to maturity, holders may require us to purchase for cash all or a portion of their notes at a redemption price equal to 100% of their principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any.

DTC Eligibility	The notes were issued in fully registered book entry form and are represented by one or more permanent global notes without coupons. Global notes were deposited with a custodian for and registered in the name of a nominee of The Depository Trust Company in New York, New York. Beneficial interests in global notes are shown on, and transfers thereof will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC and its direct and indirect participants (including the Euroclear System ("Euroclear") or Clearstream Banking, S.A. ("Clearstream")), and your interest in any global note may not be exchanged for certificated notes, except in limited circumstances described herein. See "Description of Notes Book-Entry System."
Registration Rights	We will use commercially reasonable efforts to cause this registration statement to become effective within 210 days after the date of original issuance of the notes and keep such shelf registration statement effective until the earliest of (i) the sale pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act or a shelf registration statement of all the notes and the ordinary shares issuable upon conversion of the notes and (ii) the expiration of the holding period applicable to such securities held by our non affiliates under Rule 144(k) under the Securities Act, or any successor provision, subject to certain permitted exceptions. See "Description of Notes Registration Rights."
Trading	The notes issued in the private placements are eligible for trading in the PORTAL(SM) market of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. The notes sold using this prospectus, however, will no longer be eligible for trading in the PORTAL market. We do not intend to list the notes on any other national securities exchange or automated quoting system
Ordinary Shares	Our ordinary shares are listed on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol "SIL." We intend to apply for listing on the American Stock Exchange of the ordinary shares issuable upon conversion of the notes.
Use of Proceeds	We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the notes or the ordinary shares offered by this prospectus. The selling securityholders will receive all proceeds from the sale of the notes as the sale of the ordinary shares offered by this prospectus.

RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the risk factors set forth below as well as the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus before deciding to purchase any notes. The risks described below are not the only risks that we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations. Any of these risks may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. In that case, you may lose all or part of your investment in the securities.

Risks Related to the Business

We have identified a material weakness in our internal controls over financial reporting.

Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 requires management to make an assessment of the design and operating effectiveness of our internal controls and our auditors to audit the design and operating effectiveness of our internal controls as well as forming an opinion on management's assessment. As of December 31, 2004, we had a material weakness in our internal controls because we lacked a sufficient complement of personnel with a level of accounting expertise that is commensurate with our financial reporting requirements. This material weakness resulted in certain adjustments to our financial statements.

In January 2005, it was determined that the accounting for capitalized interest relating to our San Cristóbal development project asset was incorrect. Generally accepted accounting principles require the capitalization of a portion of the interest incurred on debt borrowed for the construction of certain qualifying assets (such as our San Cristóbal project). We restated our consolidated financial statements for the first, second and third quarters of 2004 to capitalize additional interest and to reduce interest expense.

We had a material adjustment to reclassify cash and cash equivalents to short and long term investments prior to filing our second quarter 2004 financial statements and an adjustment to stock compensation expense and related disclosures associated with our adoption of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards 123, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation*, prior to filing our third quarter 2004 financial statements.

We had an audit adjustment to the 2004 financial statements to increase costs capitalized related to our San Cristóbal development project asset and to reduce administration expense.

We have retained the public accounting firm currently assisting in our Section 404 compliance effort to assist us in preparing our financial statements and to provide technical expertise in the proper application of generally accepted accounting principles to various transactions and other financial statement matters. We have hired additional personnel and continue to evaluate the need for additional personnel for our accounting department, including personnel with technical expertise in the application of generally accepted accounting principles. However, we have not yet been able to test and assess the operating effectiveness of our internal controls, including these mitigating steps, surrounding the financial reporting process, and testing may reveal similar or additional weaknesses in the design and effectiveness related to the financial reporting process. Since this material weakness was not effectively remediated, management has concluded that Apex Silver's controls are ineffective. Further, our independent registered public accounting firm has issued an adverse opinion on our internal controls as of December 31, 2004. Because opinions on internal controls have not been issued in the past, it is uncertain what impact an adverse opinion would have on our company or our stock price.

We have no history of production.

We have no history of producing silver or other metals. The development of our San Cristóbal Project will require the construction or rehabilitation and operation of mines, processing plants and

Edgar Filing: APEX SILVER MINES LTD - Form S-3/A

related infrastructure. As a result, we are subject to all of the risks associated with establishing new mining operations and business enterprises. There can be no assurance that we will successfully establish mining operations or profitably produce silver or other metals at any of our properties.

We have a history of losses and we expect losses to continue for at least the next three years.

As an exploration and development company that has no production history, we have incurred losses since our inception, and we expect to continue to incur additional losses for at least the next three years. As of December 31, 2004, we had an accumulated deficit of \$97.7 million. There can be no assurance that we will achieve or sustain profitability in the future.

The calculation of our reserves and other mineralization is subject to significant estimates.

Unless otherwise indicated, reserves and other mineralization figures presented in our filings with the SEC, press releases and other public statements that may be made from time to time are based on estimates of contained silver and other metals made by independent geologists or our own personnel. These estimates are imprecise and depend on geological interpretation and statistical inferences drawn from drilling and sampling which may prove to be unreliable. There can be no assurance that:

these estimates will be accurate;

reserves and other mineralization figures will be accurate; or

reserves or mineralization could be mined and processed profitably.

Since we have not commenced production on any of our properties, reserves and other mineralization estimates may require adjustments or downward revisions based on actual production experience. Extended declines in market prices for silver, zinc and lead may render portions of our reserves uneconomic and result in reduced reported reserves. Any material reductions in estimates of our reserves and other mineralization, or of our ability to extract these reserves or mineralization, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

We have not established the presence of any proven or probable reserves at any of our mineral properties other than the San Cristóbal project. There can be no assurance that subsequent testing or future feasibility studies will establish additional reserves at our properties. The failure to establish additional reserves could restrict our ability to successfully implement our strategies for long term growth beyond the San Cristóbal project.

The San Cristobal project is subject to risks including delays in commencement and completion, and we may be unable to achieve anticipated production volume or manage cost increases.

Completion of the development of the San Cristóbal Project is subject to various factors, including the availability, terms, conditions and timing of acceptable arrangements for financing, transportation, construction and smelting; required government approvals, and the performance of our engineering and construction contractors, mining contractor, suppliers and consultants. The lack of availability on acceptable terms or the delay in any one or more of the items listed above could also delay or prevent the development of San Cristóbal as currently planned. Further, completion of the development of the San Cristóbal Project may be compromised in the event of a prolonged decline in price levels for silver and zinc. There can be no assurance:

when or whether the San Cristóbal Project will be completed;

whether the resulting operations will achieve the anticipated production volume; or

that the construction costs and ongoing operating costs associated with the development of the San Cristóbal Project will not be higher than anticipated.

Edgar Filing: APEX SILVER MINES LTD - Form S-3/A

We have never developed or operated a mine or managed a significant mine development project. We cannot assure you that the development of San Cristóbal will be completed at the cost and on the schedule predicted, or that silver, zinc and lead grades and recoveries, production rates or anticipated capital or operating costs will be achieved.

If the actual cost to complete the development of the San Cristóbal Project is significantly higher than currently expected, there can be no assurance that we will have enough funds to cover these costs or that we would be able to obtain alternative sources of financing to cover these costs. Unexpected cost increases, reduced silver and zinc prices or the failure to obtain necessary project financing on acceptable terms to commence or complete the development of the San Cristóbal Project on a timely basis, or to achieve anticipated production capacity, could have a material adverse effect on our future results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

The successful development of the San Cristóbal Project is also subject to the other risk factors described herein.

We depend on a single mining project.

We anticipate that the majority, if not all, of any revenues for the next few years and beyond will be derived from the sale of metals mined at the San Cristóbal project. Therefore, if we are unable to complete and successfully mine the San Cristóbal project, our ability to generate revenue and profits would be materially adversely affected.

Our success will depend on our ability to manage our growth.

As we increase our development activity at San Cristóbal, we are experiencing significant growth in our operations, which we expect to continue and accelerate over the next several years now that construction has commenced and we anticipate the commencement of production in 2007. This growth has created and will continue to create new positions and responsibilities for management personnel and will substantially increase demands on our operating and financial systems. There can be no assurance that we will successfully meet these demands and manage our anticipated growth.

Our profitability will be affected by changes in the prices of metals.

Our profitability and long-term viability depend, in large part, on the market price of silver, zinc, lead and other metals. The market prices for these metals are volatile and are affected by numerous factors beyond our control, including:

global or regional consumption patterns;

supply of, and demand for, silver, zinc, lead and other metals;

speculative activities;

expectations for inflation; and

political and economic conditions.

The aggregate effect of these factors on metals prices is impossible for us to predict. Decreases in metals prices have delayed, and could in the future adversely affect, our ability to finance the development of the San Cristóbal Project and the exploration and development of our other properties, which would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. There can be no assurance that metals prices will not decline.

Edgar Filing: APEX SILVER MINES LTD - Form S-3/A

The following table sets forth for the periods indicated (1) the Comex nearby active silver futures contract's high and low price of silver in U.S. dollars per troy ounce and (2) the London Metals Exchange's high and low settlement prices of zinc and lead in U.S. dollars per pound.

Year	Silver		Zinc		Lead	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
2000	5.57	4.62	0.58	0.46	0.26	0.18
2001	4.83	4.03	0.48	0.33	0.24	0.20
2002	5.13	4.22	0.42	0.33	0.24	0.18
2003	5.99	4.35	0.46	0.34	0.34	0.19
2004	8.29	5.49	0.56	0.42	0.45	0.29
2005*	7.57	6.41	0.66	0.54	0.45	0.39

*

Through April 29, 2005

The closing prices of silver, zinc and lead on April 29, 2005 were \$6.90 per troy ounce, \$0.59 per pound and \$0.43 per pound, respectively.

We may not be successful in hedging against price, currency and interest rate fluctuations and may incur mark to market losses and lose money through our hedging programs.

We have engaged in limited metals trading activities to hedge against commodity and base metals price risks, using puts and calls. We are in the process of securing additional project debt financing for the San Cristóbal Project and in connection with that financing we will be required to utilize various price hedging techniques to hedge a limited amount of the metals we produce at San Cristóbal. The level of hedging we are required to maintain in the future will be determined based on negotiations with our lenders.

We may also engage in activities to hedge the risk of exposure to currency and interest rate fluctuations related to the development of the San Cristóbal Project in Bolivia or to exploration or development in other countries in which we incur substantial expenditures. Further, terms of our financing arrangements may require us to hedge against these risks.

There can be no assurance that we will be able to successfully hedge against price, currency and interest rate fluctuations. In addition, our ability to hedge against zinc and lead price risk in a timely manner may be adversely affected by the smaller volume of transactions in both the zinc and lead markets. Further, there can be no assurance that the use of hedging techniques will always be to our benefit. Hedging instruments that protect against market price volatility may prevent us from realizing the benefit from subsequent increases in market prices with respect to covered production, which would limit our revenues and profits. Hedging contracts also are subject to the risk that the other party may be unable or unwilling to perform its obligations under these contracts. Any significant nonperformance could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

The exploration of mineral properties is highly speculative in nature, involves substantial expenditures and is frequently non-productive.

Our future growth and profitability will depend, in part, on our ability to identify and acquire additional mineral rights, and on the costs and results of our continued exploration and development programs. Competition for attractive mineral exploration properties is intense. Our strategy is to expand our reserves through a broad program of exploration. Mineral exploration is highly speculative in nature and is frequently non-productive. Substantial expenditures are required to:

establish ore reserves through drilling and metallurgical and other testing techniques;

determine metal content and metallurgical recovery processes to extract metal from the ore; and

construct, renovate or expand mining and processing facilities.

Edgar Filing: APEX SILVER MINES LTD - Form S-3/A

If we discover ore, it usually takes several years from the initial phases of exploration until production is possible. During this time, the economic feasibility of production may change. As a result of these uncertainties, there can be no assurance that we will successfully acquire additional mineral rights, or that our exploration programs will result in new proven and probable reserves in sufficient quantities to justify commercial operations in any of our properties, other than the San Cristobal project.

We consider from time to time the acquisition of operating or formerly operating mines. Our decisions to acquire these properties are based on a variety of factors including historical operating results, estimates of and assumptions about future reserves, cash and other operating costs, metals prices and projected economic returns, and evaluations of existing or potential liabilities associated with the property and its operation. Other than historical operating results, all of these may differ significantly from our estimates and assumptions. In addition, there is intense competition for attractive properties. Accordingly, there is no assurance that our acquisition efforts will result in profitable mining operations.

Our profitability depends, in part, on actual economic returns and actual costs of developing mines, which may differ significantly from our estimates and involve unexpected problems and delays.

None of our mineral properties, including the San Cristobal project, has an operating history upon which we can base estimates of future cash operating costs. Our decision to develop the San Cristobal project is based on feasibility studies. Decisions about the development of other projects in the future may also be based on feasibility studies. Feasibility studies derive estimates of reserves and operating costs and project economic returns. Estimates of economic returns are based, in part, on assumptions about future metals prices. Our profitability will be affected by changes in the price of metals. Feasibility studies derive estimates of average cash operating costs based upon, among other things:

anticipated tonnage, grades and metallurgical characteristics of ore to be mined and processed;

anticipated recovery rates of silver and other metals from the ore;

cash operating costs of comparable facilities and equipment; and

anticipated climatic conditions.

Actual cash operating costs, production and economic returns may differ significantly from those anticipated by our studies and estimates.

There are a number of uncertainties inherent in the development and construction of any new mine, including the San Cristobal project. These uncertainties include:

the timing and cost, which can be considerable, of the construction of mining and processing facilities;

the availability and cost of skilled labor, power, water and transportation;

the availability and cost of appropriate smelting and refining arrangements;

the need to obtain necessary environmental and other governmental permits, and the timing of those permits; and

the availability of funds to finance construction and development activities.

The costs, timing and complexities of mine construction and development are increased by the remote location of many mining properties, like the San Cristobal project. It is common in new mining operations to experience unexpected problems and delays during development, construction and mine start-up. In addition, delays in the commencement of mineral production often occur. Accordingly, there is no assurance that our future development activities will result in profitable mining operations.

Title to our mineral properties may be challenged.

Our policy is to seek to confirm the validity of our rights to title to, or contract rights with respect to, each mineral property in which we have a material interest. However, we cannot guarantee that title to our properties will not be challenged. Title insurance generally is not available, and our ability to ensure that we have obtained secure claim to individual mineral properties or mining concessions may be severely constrained. We have not conducted surveys of all of the claims in which we hold direct or indirect interests and, therefore, the precise area and location of these claims may be in doubt. Accordingly, our mineral properties may be subject to prior unregistered agreements, transfers or claims, and title may be affected by, among other things, undetected defects. In addition, we may be unable to operate our properties as permitted or to enforce our rights with respect to our properties.

We may lose rights to properties if we fail to meet payment requirements or development or production schedules.

We derive the rights to some of our mineral properties, including some of our principal properties at the San Cristóbal project, from leaseholds or purchase option agreements which require the payment of rent or other installment fees. In addition, we must make annual mining patent payments to the Bolivian government totaling approximately \$360,000 to maintain our concessions at San Cristóbal. If we fail to make these payments when they are due, our rights to the property may lapse. There can be no assurance that we will always make payments by the requisite payment dates. Some contracts with respect to our mineral properties require development or production schedules. There can be no assurance that we will be able to meet any or all of the development or production schedules. In addition, our ability to transfer or sell our rights to some of our mineral properties requires governmental approvals or third party consents, which may not be granted.

We cannot insure against all of the risks associated with mining.

The business of mining is subject to a number of risks and hazards, including:

adverse environmental effects;

industrial accidents;

labor disputes;

technical difficulties due to unusual or unexpected geologic formations;

failures of pit walls; and

flooding and periodic interruptions due to inclement or hazardous weather conditions.

These risks can result in, among other things:

damage to, and destruction of, mineral properties or production facilities;

personal injury;

environmental damage;

delays in mining;

monetary losses; and

legal liability.

Although we maintain, and intend to continue to maintain, insurance with respect to our operations and mineral properties within ranges of coverage consistent with industry practice, there can be no assurance that insurance will be available at economically feasible premiums. Insurance against environmental risks is not generally available. These environmental risks include potential liability for

pollution or other disturbances resulting from mining exploration and production. In addition, not all risks associated with developing and producing silver, zinc, lead and other metals are included in coverage and some covered risks may result in liabilities which exceed policy limits. Further, we may elect to not seek coverage for all risks. The occurrence of an event that is not fully covered, or covered at all, by insurance, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Our San Cristobal project and our exploration activities are in countries with developing economies and are subject to the risks of political and economic instability associated with these countries.

We currently conduct exploration activities in countries with developing economies including Bolivia, Mexico and Peru in Latin America. These countries and other emerging markets in which we may conduct operations have from time to time experienced economic or political instability. We may be materially adversely affected by risks associated with conducting operations in countries with developing economies, including:

political instability and violence;

war and civil disturbance;

expropriation or nationalization;

changing fiscal regimes;

fluctuations in currency exchange rates;

high rates of inflation;

underdeveloped industrial and economic infrastructure; and

unenforceability of contractual rights.

Bolivia has experienced slow economic growth and political instability in the last three years. In late 2003, there were violent demonstrations in La Paz and elsewhere in Bolivia, protesting, among other things, the proposed export of natural gas to the U.S. through Chile. These demonstrations resulted in the resignation of President Sanchez de Lozada in October 2003, and his constitutional replacement by President Mesa. Demonstrations have continued in 2004 and early 2005, focused on, among other things, the opposition of certain political parties to a proposed statute regulating oil and gas development in Bolivia. As proposed, the new law would provide incentives for foreign investment and increase taxes and royalties on oil and gas production. Following a period of demonstrations, President Mesa resigned in early March 2005. The Bolivian Congress rejected his resignation, and President Mesa has agreed to continue to serve as President based on agreements regarding passage of a new oil and gas statute and progress on certain other initiatives. The remaining opposing political party continues its active opposition. There have been no formal proposals to impose royalties or increase taxes on the mining industry. Although these conditions and events have not caused any adverse impact on our San Cristóbal project, political and economic uncertainties and instability continue and may not be resolved successfully. The political and economic climate may become more unstable, and political and economic uncertainties may in the future have an adverse impact on the development or operations of San Cristóbal.

Changes in mining or investment policies or shifts in the prevailing political climate in any of the countries in which we conduct exploration and development activities could adversely affect our business. Our operations may be affected in varying degrees by government regulations with respect to, among other things:

production restrictions;

price controls;

export and import controls;

income and other taxes;

maintenance of claims;

environmental legislation;

foreign ownership restrictions;

foreign exchange and currency controls;

labor;

welfare benefit policies;

land use;

land claims of local residents;

water use; and

mine safety.

We cannot accurately predict the effect of these factors. In addition, legislation in the United States regulating foreign trade, investment and taxation could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Our activities are subject to foreign environmental laws and regulations which may materially adversely affect our future operations.

We conduct mineral exploration and development activities primarily in Central America and South America, and are most active in Bolivia, where the San Cristóbal Project is located, and Mexico. With the development of San Cristóbal, we also expect to conduct mining operations in Bolivia. These countries have laws and regulations which control the exploration and mining of mineral properties and their effects on the environment, including air and water quality, mine reclamation, waste handling and disposal, the protection of different species of flora and fauna and the preservation of lands. These laws and regulations will require us to acquire permits and other authorizations for certain activities. In many countries, including Bolivia, there is relatively new comprehensive environmental legislation, and the permitting and authorization processes may be less established and less predictable than they are in the United States. There can be no assurance that we will be able to acquire necessary permits or authorizations on a timely basis, if at all. Delays in acquiring any permit or authorization could increase the development cost of San Cristóbal or other projects and could delay the commencement of production.

Environmental legislation in many countries is evolving in a manner which will likely require stricter standards and enforcement, increased fines and penalties for non-compliance, more stringent environmental assessments of proposed projects and a heightened degree of responsibility for companies and their officers, directors and employees. In Bolivia, where there is relatively new environmental legislation, enforcement activities and strategies may be under development, and thus may be less predictable than in the United States. We cannot predict what environmental legislation or regulations will be enacted or adopted in the future or how future laws and regulations will be administered or interpreted. Compliance with more stringent laws and regulations, as well as potentially more vigorous enforcement policies or regulatory agencies or stricter interpretation of existing laws, may (1) necessitate significant capital outlays, (2) cause us to delay, terminate or otherwise change our intended activities with respect to one or more projects and (3) materially adversely affect our future operations.

Many of our exploration and development properties are located in historic mining districts where prior owners may have caused environmental damage which may not be known to us or to the regulators. In most cases, we have not sought complete environmental analyses of our mineral properties and have not conducted comprehensive reviews of the environmental laws and regulations in every jurisdiction in which we own or control mineral properties. To the extent we are subject to environmental requirements or liabilities, the cost of compliance with these requirements and satisfaction of these liabilities would reduce our net cash flow and could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. If we are unable to fund fully the cost of remediation of any environmental condition, we may be required to suspend operations or enter into interim compliance measures pending completion of the required remediation.

We compete against larger and more experienced companies.

The mining industry is intensely competitive. Many of the largest mining companies are primarily producers of base metals, and may become interested in the types of silver deposits on which we are focused because these deposits typically are polymetallic, containing significant quantities of base metals including zinc, lead and copper. Many of these companies have greater financial resources, operational experience and technical capabilities than we have. We may encounter increasing competition from other mining companies in our efforts to acquire mineral properties and hire experienced mining professionals. Increased competition in our business could adversely affect our ability to attract necessary capital funding or acquire suitable producing properties or prospects for mineral exploration in the future.

Our ability to obtain dividends or other distributions from our subsidiaries may be subject to restrictions imposed by law, foreign currency exchange regulations and our financing arrangements.

We conduct, and will continue to conduct, all of our operations through subsidiaries. Our ability to obtain dividends or other distributions from our subsidiaries may be subject to restrictions on dividends or repatriation of earnings under applicable local law, monetary transfer restrictions and foreign currency exchange regulations in the jurisdictions in which the subsidiaries operate. Further, our anticipated financing for the San Cristóbal Project is expected to include requirements that we satisfy certain debt service reserve or operating reserve requirements or meet debt payment obligations prior to payment to us of any dividends by our subsidiaries. Our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends or make other distributions to us is also subject to their having sufficient funds to do so. If our subsidiaries are unable to pay dividends or make other distributions, our growth may be inhibited unless we are able to obtain additional debt or equity financing on acceptable terms. In the event of a subsidiary's liquidation, we may lose all or a portion of our investment in that subsidiary.

We may not be able to raise the funds necessary to explore and develop our mineral properties.

Although we raised approximately \$536.7 million through equity sales and proceeds from the sale of notes in 2004, we will need additional external financing to develop and construct the San Cristóbal Project and to fund the exploration and development of our other mineral properties. Sources of external financing may include bank borrowings and future debt and equity offerings. There can be no assurance that financing will be available on acceptable terms, or at all. The failure to obtain financing would have a material adverse effect on our growth strategy and our results of operations and financial condition. The mineral properties that we are likely to develop are expected to require significant capital expenditures. There can be no assurance that we will be able to secure the financing necessary to retain our rights to, or to begin or sustain production at, our mineral properties.

We depend on the services of key executives.

We are dependent on the services of key executives including our executive chairman and chief executive officer and a small number of highly skilled and experienced executives and personnel

Edgar Filing: APEX SILVER MINES LTD - Form S-3/A

focused on the development of the San Cristóbal project. Due to the relatively small size of Apex Silver, the loss of these persons or our inability to attract and retain additional highly skilled employees required for the development of the San Cristóbal Project may delay or otherwise adversely affect the development of the San Cristóbal Project, which could have a material adverse effect on our business or future operations.

The substantial control of Apex Silver by our directors, officers and 5% shareholders may have a significant effect in delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of Apex Silver or other events which could be of benefit to our other shareholders.

As of April 30, 2005, the directors of Apex Silver and officers of Apex Silver Mines Corporation, together with members of their families and entities that may be deemed to be affiliates of or related to these persons or entities, and 5% shareholders beneficially owned approximately 28.4 million, or 60%, of our outstanding shares, assuming the conversion of currently exercisable options and warrants. This level of ownership by these persons may have a significant effect in delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of Apex Silver or other events which could be of benefit to our other shareholders.

Apex Silver and certain lower tier subsidiaries may be treated as passive foreign investment companies for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

We believe that we likely were a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC") with respect to 2004, and likely will be a PFIC in 2005 as well as potentially with respect to future years. If we are a PFIC, U.S. Holders of notes and ordinary shares will be subject to certain adverse U.S. federal income tax rules. Under the PFIC rules, a U.S. Holder who disposes or is deemed to dispose of notes or ordinary shares at a gain, or who receives or is deemed to receive certain distributions with respect to ordinary shares, generally will be required to treat such gain or distributions as ordinary income and pay an interest charge on the tax imposed with respect thereto. In addition, certain elections that may sometimes be used to reduce the adverse impact of the PFIC rules ("QEF elections" and "mark-to-market" elections) will not be available with respect to the notes. The PFIC rules are extremely complex, and prospective investors are urged to consult their own tax advisers regarding the potential consequences to them of Apex Silver being classified as a PFIC. See "Certain Tax Considerations."

We have in certain prior filings stated that we believed that (i) Apex Silver may be considered a PFIC but (ii) none of our non-U.S. lower tier subsidiaries was a corporation for U.S. tax purposes that would itself be considered to be a PFIC. We now believe that certain of our non-U.S. lower tier subsidiaries, including the subsidiary that contains the principal assets associated with the San Cristobal project, were corporations for U.S. tax purposes that constituted PFICs in certain prior years. As a result, there is a possibility that some shareholders may suffer adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences that arguably might not have been suffered had they been aware of the PFIC status of these lower tier subsidiaries. Such shareholders may, however, be able to make retroactive elections in some cases that would mitigate any such adverse consequences. Moreover, under applicable proposed regulations, the fact that our lower tier subsidiaries of any consequence may not have had earnings and profits for any taxable year since formation may arguably eliminate any such tax consequences in respect of prior taxable years. For the current and all subsequent taxable years, we believe that the potential for our lower tier subsidiaries to be classified as PFICs with respect to new investors can be substantially eliminated without adverse tax consequences.

In the future, holders of our shares may claim that they have suffered adverse tax consequences for which they could have taken remedial action if they had been aware that such subsidiaries constituted PFICs. It is not possible for us to determine the number of shareholders, if any, that might make such a claim or to determine the merits or impact of such claims on us and whether such claims may be material to us.

Risks Related to the Notes

We may incur substantial debt which could adversely affect our financial condition, liquidity, results of operations and our ability to obtain financing in the future, react to changes in our business and make payments on the notes.

As of September 30, 2004, on a pro forma basis after giving effect to the issuance and sale of the notes and the application of the net proceeds therefrom, as described under "Use of Proceeds", we would have had an aggregate principal amount of approximately \$340 million of outstanding long-term debt.

The indenture for the notes permits us to incur or guarantee additional indebtedness subject to specified limitations. We expect to incur substantial additional indebtedness in connection with the financing of San Cristobal, and may incur other additional substantial debt in the future.

Any substantial debt we incur could have important consequences to holders of the notes including:

impairment of our ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions or general corporate purposes and our ability to satisfy our obligations with respect to the notes;

dedication of a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to the payment of principal and interest on indebtedness, reducing the funds available to us for other purposes; and

limitation of our flexibility to adjust to changing market conditions and ability to withstand competitive pressures, and increased vulnerability to a downturn in general economic conditions or our business which could impair our ability to carry out capital spending that is necessary or important to our business strategy and the development of the San Cristobal project.

The agreements and instruments governing our debt will contain restrictions and limitations that could significantly impact our ability to operate our business and adversely affect the holders of the notes.

Future credit arrangements will likely contain covenants that, among other things, restrict our ability to:

dispose of assets;

incur additional indebtedness, including guarantees;

prepay other indebtedness or amend other debt instruments;

pay dividends or make investments, loans or advances;

create liens on assets;

enter into sale and leaseback transactions;

engage in mergers, acquisitions or consolidations;

change the business conducted by us; and

engage in transactions with affiliate.

In addition, under future credit facilities, we may be required to comply with financial covenants, comprised of leverage and interest coverage ratio requirements, covenants which require us to hedge a portion of our production, and covenants limiting the amount of capital expenditures. Our ability to comply with these covenants in future periods will depend on our ongoing financial and operating performance, which in turn will be subject to economic conditions and to financial, market and competitive factors, many of which are beyond our control, and will be substantially dependent on the

selling prices for our products, raw material and energy costs, our success at implementing cost reduction initiatives and our ability to successfully implement our overall business strategy.

The indenture governing the notes contains restrictive covenants that, among other things, limit our ability to:

create liens; and

merge or consolidate.

The breach of any of these covenants or restrictions could result in a default under the applicable agreement which would permit the applicable lenders or noteholders, as the case may be, to declare all amounts outstanding thereunder to be due and payable, together with accrued and unpaid interest. In any such case, we may be unable to pay the amounts due under any such credit facilities and any such notes. This could have serious consequences to our financial condition and results of operations and could cause us to become bankrupt or insolvent.

Our ability to generate the significant amount of cash needed to pay interest and principal amounts on the notes and service any other debt, and our ability to refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness or obtain additional financing, depend on many factors beyond our control.

Because we will have substantial debt following the issuance of the notes, in order to fund our debt service obligations we will require significant amounts of cash. Unless and until the development of San Cristobal is successfully completed, or we acquire or develop other operating properties, cash to meet these obligations will be sourced from cash on hand, asset sales or the issuance of additional debt or equity securities. Assuming we have operating properties in the future, our ability to generate cash from operations to meet scheduled payments or to refinance our debt will depend on our financial and operating performance which, in turn, is subject to prevailing economic and competitive conditions and to the following financial and business factors, some of which may be beyond our control:

operating difficulties;

increased operating costs;

increased raw material and energy costs;

decreased demand for our products;

market cyclicality;

product prices;

the response of competitors; and

regulatory developments.

If our cash flow and capital resources are insufficient to fund our debt service obligations, we may be forced to reduce or to delay capital expenditures, sell assets, or seek to obtain additional equity capital or restructure our debt. In the future, our cash flow and capital resources may not be sufficient to make payments of interest on, and principal of, our debt, and such alternative measures may not be successful and may not permit us to meet our scheduled debt service obligations. We also cannot assure you that we will be able to refinance any of our indebtedness or obtain additional financing, particularly because of our anticipated high levels of debt and the debt incurrence restrictions imposed by the agreements governing our debt, as well as prevailing market conditions. In the absence of such operating results and resources, we could face substantial liquidity problems and may be required to dispose of material assets or operations to meet our debt service and other obligations. If

so required, we cannot be sure as to the timing of such sales or the proceeds that we could realize therefrom.