



FORM 6-K
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

**Report of Foreign Private Issuer
Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the month of MAY, 2002

IMA Exploration Inc.
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

PROCESSED

JUL 19 2002

**THOMSON
FINANCIAL**



0-30464
(SEC File Number)

#709 - 837 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6C 3N6
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82- _____

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

IMA Exploration Inc.
(Registrant)

Date May 16, 2002

By 
(Signature)*

Name: William Lee

Title: Director

*Print the name and title of the signing officer under his signature.



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May 16, 2002

TSX-V SYMBOL: IMR

NEWS RELEASE

IMA Completes \$775,000 Private Placement Financing

IMA Exploration Inc. is pleased to announce that the Company has received the funds required to complete the recently announced \$0.45 non-brokered private placement and is in the process of submitting all the documents for final regulatory approval. The Phoenix Gold Fund, of Malaysia, has subscribed to 444,444 units; the Prudent Bear Fund, of Dallas, Texas, has subscribed to 222,222 units of this financing; and, the balance has been subscribed to by five other places. Total finders' fees payable on this financing include \$24,000 and 66,666 share purchase warrants.

These funds will be used to help finance the Company's exploration programs in South America and for general working capital. As the Company has filed its Annual Information Form, the shares, upon being issued, will be subject to a four-month hold period.

The above private placement has been conditionally accepted by the TSX Venture Exchange.

IMA Exploration Inc. continues to seek new exploration opportunities through its extensive contact base to add to its strategic land position, which has attracted several major mining companies, including our joint venture partner in Argentina, Barrick Gold Corp.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

"William Lee"

Mr. William Lee, Chief Financial Officer

For further information please contact Joseph Grosso, President & CEO, or Sean Hurd, Investor Relations Manager, at 1-800-901-0058 or 604-687-1828, or fax 604-687-1858, or by email info@imaexploration.com, or visit the Company's web site at <http://www.imaexploration.com>.

The Canadian Venture Exchange has not reviewed and does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or the accuracy of this release.

Cautionary Note to US Investors: This news release may contain information about adjacent properties on which we have no right to explore or mine. We advise U.S. investors that the SEC's mining guidelines strictly prohibit information of this type in documents filed with the SEC. U.S. investors are cautioned that mineral deposits on adjacent properties are not indicative of mineral deposits on our properties.

This news release may contain forward-looking statements including but not limited to comments regarding the timing and content of upcoming work programs, geological interpretations, receipt of property titles, potential mineral recovery processes, etc. Forward-looking statements address future events and conditions and therefore involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from those currently anticipated in such statements.

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