

SQM partners with leading transport companies to bring largest and most varied electric fleet to Chilean mining industry

The new fleet contributes to SQM's sustainability plan to achieve carbon neutrality in all its products by 2040.

ANTOFAGASTA, CHILE , April 21, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The largest electric fleet in the Chilean mining industry has been unveiled in Antofagasta by [SQM](#) in partnership with leading transport companies Viggo GrandLeasing, Transportes CVU and Andes Motor, as part of their sustainability plans to reduce their CO2 emissions. Consisting of 34 fully electric vehicles, the fleet includes passenger buses, minibuses, vans, mobile solar checkpoints, and Chile's first high-tonnage electric truck, making it the most varied electric fleet in use across an entire mining operation in Chile.



At the launch event, government and industry representatives took a tour of the various electric vehicle models, learning about their technical characteristics, autonomy, and environment footprint. Afterwards, they took a tour on a 100% electric minibus.

With the launch of the new fleet, SQM is on track to achieve carbon neutrality in all its products by 2040. This follows on from the company's announcement at the end of 2021 that it was joining the UN's Race to Zero programme. SQM had already introduced Chile's first high-tonnage electric truck to be used in large-scale mining onto an 86-kilometer route from the company's Coya Sur plant in María Elena to the port of Tocopilla, saving approximately 3,840 tons of CO2 per year.

The vehicles were presented on the esplanade of the Huanchaca Ruins in Antofagasta, at an event that was attended by various regional and community leaders, as well as executives and representatives from SQM and its partners. The introduction of the electric vehicles in Northern Chile is especially significant as it supports efforts at a national level to decentralise electric

mobility in Chile.

José Miguel Berguño, Vice President of Corporate Services at SQM, said during the ceremony: “As a company we are proud to launch this fleet, contributing to the development of national electromobility and promoting the use of electric vehicles in the north of Chile, covering the regions of Antofagasta and Tarapacá, focusing on operational areas of our sites and on the transfer of all workers of SQM who live throughout the national territory. It is one more step in our robust Sustainability Plan that reaffirms our commitment to the environment, the communities surrounding our operations, and the environment.”



With this milestone, the company continues to take important steps in this area, highlighting its participation in the national public-private agreement for electromobility, and obtaining the Clean Turn Seal, becoming the first mining company to obtain this certification.

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*José Miguel Berguño, Vice
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Regarding this initiative, the Regional Governor, Ricardo Díaz, stated that: “There has to be a balance. Virtue is in the middle. Virtue is not in the extremes, but to balance the respect for the environment, the respect for the communities, but to balance it with the action of the industry that gives meaning to this region. We are a mining region, that is why we must be able to travel on this virtuous path.”

The presidential delegate from Antofagasta, Karen

Behrens, highlighted that: “We appreciate SQM's invitation. As a government, without a doubt, we want to continue materializing this type of initiatives in our region that contribute to the transformation of mining into a more sustainable, more responsible and more harmonious mining with the environment. We want to position mining in Chile as an example to contribute to the fight against the climate crisis.”

The delegate added that: “prospering in electromobility is key to achieving our goals towards carbon neutrality. Changing the country is everyone's task, and with actions such as the one

promoted today by SQM, we will show that we are walking the same path, contributing to a better Chile."

SQM is committed to high social and environmental performance and is the second lithium mining company that started an independent third-party audit against the IRMA Standard. With this, the company explicitly commits to effective climate protection, to the Paris climate targets and to further future measures that contribute to achieving the 1.5 degree target.

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About SQM

Headquartered in northern Chile, SQM has been providing solutions for human progress for 53 years through its five business lines. Its products are essential for the health, food and technology industries, and for the generation of clean energy that moves the world.

SQM was built and managed based on a culture of excellence, safety, sustainability, and integrity. It seeks to position itself as a leader in sustainability to create a "green" brand through its ongoing efforts to manage natural resources responsibly, care for the environment, trust-based relationships with communities, and the creation of shared social value.

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