

Chile's Minera Centinela awards water transportation contract

Chilean copper mine Minera Centinela has signed a long-term build, own, operate and transfer agreement with Aguas Esperanza for the purchase of existing facilities and the development of new seawater transportation infrastructure.



The waterworks will serve Minera Centinela and Minera Antucoya, as well as supplying the Nueva Centinela project.

Minera Centinela is owned by mining giant Antofagasta.

Chile has suffered a 15-year drought, depleting water reservoirs and raising concerns about freshwater supply. In this context, the mining industry, key to the Chilean economy, needs sustainable solutions to continue operating and growing. The Centinela project not only addresses this need, but also reinforces Antofagasta's commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

The construction of two water pipelines, each 144 km long, which will transport seawater to the ports, is a central component of the project. The infrastructure will facilitate the expansion of the Centinela mine, increasing annual copper production by 140,000 tons. This increase will position Centinela as one of the top 15 copper mines in the world by production.

Minera Centinela was advised on the contract by Chilean law firm Larrain y Asociados, advice that included the bidding process and negotiation of the development and water transportation agreement with the awarded consortium, and a direct agreement with the lenders of Aguas Esperanza to secure project financing.

Larraín y Asociados' team was led by partner Jorge Granic, with associates Francisco Cerda, Trinidad Moran and Michelle Inzunza.

Law firm Barros y Errázuriz advised Aguas Esperanza and its shareholders, with a team led by Nicolás Balmaceda, with Diego Ovalle and Pablo Ulloa.

Minera Centinela's in-house attorney was Renzo Stagno.