

Codelco and SQM form NovaAndino Litio, a joint venture for lithium development in the Salar de Atacama

The merger between Minera Tarar SpA and SQM Salar SpA has created an unprecedented public-private partnership in Chile, with licenses to extract brine until 2060 and majority state ownership. The first meeting of the company's board of directors will be held on Monday, 29 December 2025.

Santiago, 27 December 2025. Codelco and SQM announced the creation of Nova Andino Litio SpA, the result of the merger between their subsidiaries Minera Tarar SpA and SQM Salar SpA, respectively that formally established the joint venture that will carry out lithium exploration, exploitation, production and marketing activities in the Salar de Atacama until 2060.

This transaction, reported to the Financial Market Commission (CMF) through a Material Fact, formalises the public-private partnership between Codelco and SQM. It is one of the most significant in Chile's business history, combining state leadership, world-class operational experience and modern, professional governance.

NovaAndino Litio combines all the assets, subsidiaries, international offices, permits, technical knowledge and human resources necessary for the continued development of the lithium business, following a reorganisation process carried out by SQM between 2024 and 2025. The agreement also ensures operational and contractual continuity in the Salar de Atacama, under the current contracts with Corfo and those that will govern from 2031 onwards.

"Today, Codelco is taking a strategic step to actively participate in the production of lithium, a key resource for global energy and digital transition. This partnership with SQM fills us with pride and reflects a new form of public-private collaboration that is transparent, professional and long-term," said Máximo Pacheco, chairman of Codelco's board of directors.

The merger is the result of the Partnership Agreement signed on 31 May 2024, which was reviewed by more than 20 agencies and institutions in Chile and abroad, and included an extensive Indigenous Consultation process led by Corfo. All background information on the agreement has been publicly available throughout the process (www.acuerdocodelcosqm.cl).

Ricardo Ramos, CEO of SQM, highlighted that "this joint venture allows us to plan the development of the Salar de Atacama and continue advancing our standards of operational excellence, sustainability and shared value creation, combining complementary capabilities for the benefit of Chile and global markets."

The board of directors of the joint venture will be composed of three representatives from Codelco - Máximo Pacheco, Josefina Montenegro and Alfredo Moreno, and three representatives from SQM - Ricardo Ramos, Hernán Uribe and Manuel Ovalle. The first board meeting will be held on Monday, 29 December 2025.

As part of the partnership's commitments, SQM transferred all of its mining operations in

position in this strategic territory and enabling the development of future lithium projects.

The companies also reported that the merger and partnership will have a positive and material effect on Codelco's results, an impact that will be reflected in the company's financial statements as of 31 December 2025.