



SQM Teams-up with the Porcelain Enamel Institute

SQM is pleased to announce its participation through financial support in efforts of the Porcelain Enamel Institute (PEI) to evaluate improvements in steel reinforced concrete structures through the use of porcelain enamel coatings containing Lithium. SQM is an active member of the PEI, and as part of our strategy of stimulating new uses for Lithium, SQM, among other member companies, will contribute financially to start the initial proof and testing phases.

Initial findings suggest that the inclusion of porcelain enamel coatings containing Lithium in steel reinforced concrete structures will greatly enhance the bond of the steel to the concrete and thus produce stronger concrete elements within the infrastructure and buildings. At the same time this will improve the life of the element and decrease cost over time by preventing corrosion. This would represent a new potential market for the porcelain industry at a time when large portions of the North American infrastructure are reaching points of significant deterioration.

We are confident in the success of this project which will enhance the strength and safety of our reinforced concrete structures. As a long time supplier to the porcelain enamel industry, SQM is excited to take part in this opportunity to develop a new technology.

SQM is an integrated producer and distributor of specialty plant nutrients, iodine and lithium. Its products are based on the development of high quality natural resources that allow the Company to be leader in costs, supported by a specialized international network with sales in over 100 countries. SQM's development strategy aims to maintain and strengthen the Company's world leadership in its three core businesses: Specialty Plant Nutrition, Iodine and Lithium.

For media inquiries, contact: Fernanda Guerra, 56-2-4252027 / fernanda.guerra@sqm.com

Statements in this press release concerning the Company's business outlook, future economic performances, anticipated profitability, revenues, expenses, or other financial items, anticipated cost synergies and product or service line growth, together with other statements that are not historical facts, are "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined under Federal Securities Laws.

Any forward-looking statements are estimates, reflecting the best judgment of SQM based on currently available information and involve a number of risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those stated in such statements. Risks, uncertainties, and factors that could affect the accuracy of such forward-looking statements are identified in the public filing made with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and forward-looking statements should be considered in light of those factors.

SQM
Los Militares 4290, Piso 6
Las Condes, Santiago, Chile
Tel: (56 2) 425 2485
Fax: (56 2) 425 2493
www.sqm.com

