

Andalucía, 5 de febrero de 2013

## **The Regional Minister of Economy announces the biggest tendering process in metallic mining organized in the recent history of Andalusia**

It includes a total of 61 rights for the provinces of Seville and Huelva, distributed over 80.930 hectares

The Regional Minister of Economy, Innovation, Science and Employment in Andalusia, Antonio Ávila, has announced the biggest tendering process in metallic mining organized in the recent history of the region. These are 61 rights for the provinces of Huelva (40) and Seville (21), of which 38 are concessions and 23 research permits.

Overall, the total space affected in both provinces amounts to 80,930 hectares (Seville, 48,700; Huelva, 32 200). This area is equivalent to 4.6% of total occupied by the Iberian Pyrite Belt in Andalusia. With respect to investigated municipalities, there will be 17 locations in Sevilla (Gerena, Sanlúcar la Mayor, El Garrobo, Aznalcóllar, El Castillo de las Guardas, La Algaba, Salteras, Olivares, Villanueva del Río y Minas, La Rinconada, Alcalá del Río, Burguillos, Huévar, Castilleja del Campo, Peñaflor, La Puebla de los Infantes, Carrión, and finally Hornachuelos and Palma del Río, both bordering the province of Seville) and other 14 in Huelva (Escacena del Campo, Chucena, Paterna, Almonaster la Real, Cortegana, Cabezas Rubias, El Cerro del Andévalo, Valverde del Camino, Alosno, Calañas, Villanueva de las Cruces, Hinojos, Villalba del Alcor and Beas).

In this sense the award, according to the law, must be made on free lands because previous rights expired: and always through a tendering process. "It is thus the point where we are: a set of caducated mineral rights; and in a situation like the current, with a sharp increase in demand and prices for metals, they should be exploited," said Ávila.

The fact of holding just now a contest of this kind corresponds to three specific objectives:

- To take advantage of the increase in demand for non-ferrous metals, such as copper, and the consequent rise in prices of material. These two elements can generate a strong economic activity that could have a deep impact, especially in the mining areas in both provinces. "The Administration has the responsibility to mobilize these resources: they exist, generate interest, and our obligation -and our desire- is to managed them in the most effective and sustainable way for the benefit of all citizens. It is responsibility of the Government to focus on the huge potential in natural and human resources we have in Andalusia ", stated the Regional Minister of Economy.

- To take an important step forward a more effective reorganization of Andalusian mineral deposits, according to the Management Plan of Mineral Resources in Andalusia 2010-2013 (PORMIAN). It also updates the Mining Registry of Andalusia, in line with the same spirit of reorganization and besides to generate a more competitive sector. Nowadays there is in the region a group of mining rights that have either expired or are in the process of expiration. So this public tendering process not only helps to manage them in a more rational way, but also allows interested companies to explore the area and find new mineral deposits.

- To improve a greater and better knowledge of real Andalusian mining. "These phases of study are not only useful for economic activity, but also to generate a volume of information that serves all of us: the Government to make decisions and plan, and companies to estimate the economic potential of a particular site," remarked Ávila.

#### **Research and granting permission**

According to the Mining Law, the main difference between the two categories is that through a research permit, the contractor obtains administrative approval to investigate the presence of mineral resources in free areas; in the other hand, the concession, which may be direct or derived from a research permit, is requested on well-known lands where

the existence of mineral resources has been evaluated; besides these areas must be free areas.

### **More Information**

To get more information about this process or solve any question, stakeholders can make it through two different ways: using the link CONTACT on the web [www.juntadeandalucia.es/innovacioncienciayempresa/sigma](http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/innovacioncienciayempresa/sigma), or sending an email to [sigma.ceice@juntadeandalucia.es](mailto:sigma.ceice@juntadeandalucia.es).