

Bilateral Cooperation in the Mining Industry between South Australia and Chile

July 2012

On 2 July 2012 South Australian Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Tom Koutsantonis signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the his Chilean Counterpart Hernan Eduardo de Solminihac Tampier. The two governments have agreed to share geosciences data and mineral exploration expertise to foster growth in the mining industry.

Minister Koutsantonis's media release is available [here](#).

Background

Chile sits on the world's largest copper reserves and South Australia has 70 per cent of Australia's known copper reserves, including three of the country's most significant new copper discoveries in the past ten years.

Australia and Chile have a record of bilateral cooperation and this is not the first time the two countries have entered into a formalised agreement regarding cooperation in the mining industry. In 2007 Austmine, the Australian mining industry export association, and Chile's equivalent, Minexport Chile AG, signed a memorandum providing an avenue for the exchange of mining expertise, innovation and technology.

A media release about this earlier MOU is available [here](#).

Memorandum of Understanding for the Bilateral Cooperation in the Mining Industry

The MOU is between the South Australian Government's Geological Survey, part of Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy (DMITRE) and the National Geological and Mining Survey of Chile.

The aim of the MOU is to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation and to further spur developments of geoscience technical capabilities of mutual interest in the future.

Specifically, the MOU aims to:

- Encourage and maximize the economic development of the mineral sectors for Chile and South Australia.
- Share experiences with data management information systems to most effectively disseminate government and industry geoscientific information.
- Advance and promote best practice and continuous technical and scientific improvement in geoscientific activities.
- Cooperate in the preparation of geological studies, or other forms of information of mutual interest.



- Provide greater opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between South Australia and Chile in exploration, mining and geosciences.