

Q&A Andrea Mohr Beckdorf - CORFO

Has Corfo encouraged industrial use or only focused on R&D? (Agreements and arrangements with the Sonami which include all "private" mining companies, or the Mining Council, which include the big mining companies?)

- Corfo is the Chilean government agency, dependent on the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism in charge of supporting entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness in the country along with strengthening human capital and technological capabilities. Although Corfo promotes R&D development, its focus is always productive development. Corfo supports centers and projects, which are promoted by the industries themselves and the private sector.

With the government's R&D investment, will Antofagasta be our new silicon valley?

- Corfo has decided to support the creation of a Technological Institute in the Antofagasta Region to carry out research and development, technology transfer and innovation, specialised technological and technical assistance, technological dissemination and the generation of research and information to support regulation and public policy, in the areas of solar energy, sustainable mining and advanced lithium and other mineral materials. The initiative, a result of the agreement signed between Corfo and SQM Salar, represents a financial contribution of up to US\$ 193 million over a period of 10 years and will become the largest R&D investment in the country in this area. By 2030, it will be a worldwide technological reference in its specialization topics, and a global innovation and entrepreneurship center that will capture value for the regional and national economy, taking advantage of the unique conditions of the Atacama Desert.

