



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SQM Comments on News Published March 9, 2009

Santiago, Chile, March 9, 2009.- Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. (SQM) (NYSE: SQM; Bolsa de Santiago: SQM-B, SQM-A), with respect to news articles that were published today in the Diario Financiero and El Mercurio newspapers, wishes to confirm that information appearing in these articles originated from interviews between Mr. Patricio Contesse, Chief Executive Officer of SQM, and the mentioned newspapers. The following remarks are examples of some comments that originated from the interviews:

- We expect that results in 2009 will be in line with 2008 results. We also expect that results for the first half of 2009 will be higher than those for the first half of 2008 and that second half 2009 results will be higher than the those we expect to obtain in the first half of 2009.
- The Company, as part of its business strategy, has maintained informal contact with the majority of lithium battery suppliers. This strategy is in line with the Company's position as world leader.
- The Salar de Atacama contains the largest known commercially exploitable reserves of lithium in the world, and SQM has access to these reserves with low production costs.
- SQM estimates that in the next 10 years demand for lithium could approximately double reaching levels close to 200,000 tons.
- In a scenario of global crisis, demand for lithium and iodine could decline in 2009.

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.

The leadership strategy is based on the Company's competitive advantages and on the sustainable growth of the different markets in which it participates. SQM's main competitive advantages in its different businesses are:

- Low production costs based on vast and high quality natural resources.
- Know-how and its own technological developments in its various production processes.
- Logistics infrastructure and high production levels that allow SQM to have low distribution costs.
- High market share in all its core products
- International sales network with offices in more than 20 countries and sales in over 100 countries.
- Synergies from the production of multiple products that are obtained from the same two natural resources.
- Continuous new product development according to the specific needs of its different customers.
- Conservative and solid financial position

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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.

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