



## SQM PARTICIPATES IN AUTOMOTIVE BATTERY CONFERENCE

**Santiago, Chile, May 15, 2008.-** Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. (SQM) (NYSE: SQM; Santiago Stock Exchange: SQM-B, SQM-A) is participating as a gold sponsor in the 8th International Automotive Battery and Ultracapacitor Conference and Symposia, which is taking place this week in Tampa, Florida.

At this event, the world's largest automotive companies and energy storage developers are meeting to discuss the latest technological progress and market direction for the use of lithium batteries in hybrid electric vehicles (HEV). There is a consensus in the industry that batteries using lithium are the key to the development of HEVs, and, in the medium term, pure electric vehicles (EV).

As the worldwide leader in lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide production, with an estimated market share of 31%, and with a focus on sustainable development, SQM is committed to supporting the development of more efficient HEVs and EVs. Thanks to its access to the largest known lithium reserves in the world and a healthy financial situation, SQM is capable of meeting the growing needs of this market. In line with this, the company is currently in the final stages of the capacity expansion of its lithium carbonate facility, which should have a capacity of approximately 42,000 metric tons by 3Q 2008.

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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 a 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.