Las Cruces
21st Century Mining
Cobre Las Cruces, S.A.U. (CLC) is a mining and metallurgical complex located in Seville Province, in the municipalities of Gerena, Guillena, Salteras and with ancillary facilities in La Algaba. Las Cruces operates an open pit mine and a hydrometallurgical copper production plant.

This is a unique project in Europe, in which mining and industrial activity coexist on the same site. Very few companies in the world carry out, as in CLC, the complete process: from mine to refined metal, in the same facilities.

Las Cruces is 100% owned by the multinational First Quantum Minerals, one of the world’s leading companies in the mining sector. It represents one of the largest industrial investments made in the province of Seville in recent decades.

The company began mineral extraction and copper production in 2009 and since then it has produced almost 600,000 tons of copper cathodes (sheets). CLC has become a model of modern, innovative mining, committed to respecting its environment.
Innovation, the trademark of Las Cruces

Innovation in the industrial process
The CLC plant is internationally recognized as the major technological milestone of 21st Century hydrometallurgy. It is equipped with one of the most advanced and sustainable technologies in the world for obtaining refined copper, in the form of cathodes with a purity of 99.999%. They are the famous ‘five nines’ of Las Cruces.

Innovation in waste management
Las Cruces has an innovative dewatering and reinjection system (SDR) to protect groundwater. It also has one of the most advanced water treatment plants in the world.

A unique project in the world
Exploitation of the current mineral deposit of Las Cruces is in its final stage. However, new polymetallic mineral resources, rich in copper, zinc, silver and lead, have been located under the current ore body. This type of mineral resource is very abundant in the Iberian Pyrite Belt, but until now was very complex to exploit.
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CLC has developed a unique technology in the world that will allow these four metals to be produced in the same facilities. The project, called PMR (Polymetallurgical Refinery), will consist of an underground mine -instead of the current open pit- and an expansion of the metallurgical plant to produce copper, zinc, silver and lead.

This new project will make it possible to extend the activity of the mine for at least another 15 years, during which time it will continue to generate employment, innovation and economic development in its local environment.

### Current projet
- Open pit mine
- Copper
- Secondary sulphides
- Copper hidrometallurgy

### PMR projet
- Underground mine
- Copper, zinc, silver and lead
- Primary sulphides
- New polymetallurgical plant
30 Mt of mineral reserves

101 km of tunnels

500 M€ investment

15 more years of activity

Underground mine and polymetallurgical refinery
Copper, zinc, silver and lead

Copper
21,000 t/year

Plum
21,000 t/year

Silver
33 t/year

Zinc
45,000 t/year

450 m depth 10 levels

From an open pit mine to an underground mine

New polymetallurgical plant, unique in the world

New technology will enable to process ore from other deposits

Future: PMR Project
From Mine to Metal

At Las Cruces, much more will be done than just extracting the ore. The key to the PMR project lies in transformation and added value, capable of making the most of the mineral resources the earth has to offer.

The project is based on the most advanced technological concept known, called “From Mine to Metal”. CLC will develop a newly designed metallurgical refinery that is unique in the world: there is no other industrial plant able to treat polymetallic concentrates at the same time.

This technology, developed 100% by Las Cruces’ own talent, also opens up a new horizon for mining in Southern Spain: the model is scalable and replicable anywhere else in the Iberian Pyrite Belt. In addition, the Las Cruces plant will be able to process ore from other deposits.
Environmental commitment

The environmental policy of Cobre Las Cruces establishes as one of its main objectives the preservation and respect for the natural values of its environment.

Progressive environmental restoration
The restoration of land affected by mining activity has been carried out from the beginning of the project. Many of the recovered habitats are now rich in flora and fauna.

Circular Economy
In Las Cruces, water from Seville’s Wastewater Treatment Plant is reused and stored in a reservoir that has become the habitat of many bird species.

Compensatory measures project
This plan covers 330 hectares of agricultural land, where agri-environmental measures are applied that benefit the surrounding bird populations.
Corporate Social Responsibility

Respect, commitment and shared benefit. These are the cornerstones of CLC’s corporate social responsibility strategy.

Fundación Cobre Las Cruces - One of the most active non-profit organizations in Andalusia. More than 20,000 people have benefited from the activities carried out by the Foundation since its creation in 2010, with more than 9 million euros in social investment.

Municipal Development Plan (PDM) - This investment programme is implemented in the municipalities of Gerena, Guillena, Salteras and La Algaba. Promotion of entrepreneurship, sport and culture, new public spaces and services, attention to children and dependent persons are some of the initiatives implemented.

Municipalities panel - A direct communication channel between the company and the surrounding neighbours, to evaluate the actions carried out in the sphere of social responsibility.

CLC Industrial School - Created in 2014, it offers annual specialization courses to unemployed people from the surrounding area, facilitating their labour insertion in the industrial sector.

Cinco Nueves Award - This award recognizes the best entrepreneurial projects in the province. The award is given with a prize of 30,000 euros and to date more than 350 candidatures have been presented in the different editions.