

For immediate release

**Cleveland House
33 King Street
St James's, London
SW1Y 6RJ, United Kingdom**

Telephone: + 44 20 7808 0988

ACQUISITION OF 40% INTEREST IN THE ALTO MAIPO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

London, 2 July 2013

Antofagasta plc announces that its wholly owned subsidiary, Antofagasta Minerals SA (the “Company” or “Antofagasta Minerals”), has today entered into a binding agreement with AES Gener SA (“AES”) to acquire 40% of Alto Maipo SpA (“Alto Maipo”), a company incorporated to develop, construct, own and operate two run-of river hydroelectric power stations located in the upper section of the Maipo River, approximately 50 kilometers to the southeast of Santiago, with a total installed capacity of 531MW (the “Project”).

As part of this transaction, the Company signed two 20-year power purchase agreements (“PPAs”) that will secure the provision of energy for the Company’s 60%-owned Los Pelambres operations for up to 160MW, with the first PPA starting in 2015. Energy for Los Pelambres has been acquired at spot prices since the previous long-term PPA expired at the end of 2012.

Alto Maipo has already obtained all the environmental permits needed for the construction and operation of the Project and all major construction contracts were signed in 2012. A significant proportion of the total cost is expected to be debt financed with the Company responsible for 40% of the equity participation in the Project, which is expected to be some US\$300 million.

Diego Hernández, CEO of Antofagasta Minerals SA, commented:

“This Project is an important part of our strategy to guarantee the provision of energy for Los Pelambres and we are delighted with this transaction as it allows us to secure a long-term competitive energy price for our largest mining operation in Chile from a sustainable source of energy generation.

“We are also very pleased to create this alliance with AES, a global leader in electricity generation with considerable experience in Chile where it operates several run of river power plants in the Maipo River area, including one since 1923.”

Enquiries

London

Investor relations - Antofagasta plc

Tel: +44 20 7808 0988

Andrew Lindsay - alindsay@antofagasta.co.uk

Santiago

Antofagasta Minerals SA

Tel: +562 2798 7000

Alejandro Rivera - arivera@aminerals.cl

Media enquiries - Bankside Consultants

Tel: +44 20 7367 8871

Simon Rothschild – simon.rothschild@bankside.com