



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santiago, Chile, December 30, 2005.- Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. (SQM) (NYSE: SQM, SQMA; Santiago Stock Exchange: SQM-B, SQM-A) informs that it has reached a preliminary agreement with Antofagasta Holdings PLC, in order to subscribe a sale-purchase and royalty payment contract related to SQM's mining properties associated to Antucoya's project. The amount of the transaction could reach USD 8 million, with an effect in net income of approximately USD 1.5 million. The agreement, in principle, considers a future royalty payment to SQM, to the extent that Antofagasta Holdings PLC effectively sells copper and other related products extracted from the respective properties.

SQM and Antofagasta Holdings PLC will negotiate the terms of the contract and they expect to obtain a final agreement during the month of January of year 2006. After these negotiations, SQM will inform if it was possible, or not, to reach an agreement with Antofagasta Holdings PLC.

SQM is an integrated producer and distributor of specialty plant nutrients, iodine, lithium and industrial chemicals. 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 world leadership in its three main businesses: specialty plant nutrition, iodine and lithium.

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