



## REJUVENATING THE SILIUS FLUORSPAR MINE

Silius fluorspar ore  
Sardinia, Italy

Umberto Gioia  
*Managing Director  
Mineraria Gerrei*

FLUORINE  FORUM 2023

Pullman Cannes Mandelieu

16-18 October 2023



SPV established in 2018

Registered seat at Silius Mine, Sardinia, Italy

Public tender winner for Silius mine takeover

Core business fluorspar mining & processing

Extensive experience in mining operation

MINERARIA GERREI

Mineraria  
Gerrei

Aruba

Edilmac

Sma

## WHY FLUORSPAR ?

### DEMAND GROWTH

- Fluorspar classified as strategic mineral in EU, USA, China and other
- EU strategy for CRM reshoring
- No large scale commercial alternative
- Need for safe and reliable procurement (ore mining in stable areas)

### RESERVES SHORTAGE

- Limited number and size of new ores
- Environmental restrictions and mine closings
- China's declining exports
- Long period required for new mines exploration and setup

### INCREASING PRODUCTION OF VALUE ADDED FLUORSPAR DERIVATIVES

- Hydrogen fluorides for chemical industry
- Inorganic fluorides for steel/alum. industry
- Fluoropolymers in energy storage, aerospace, construction, automotive, electrics, electronics and packaging industries
- HFO as zero-ODP refrigerants

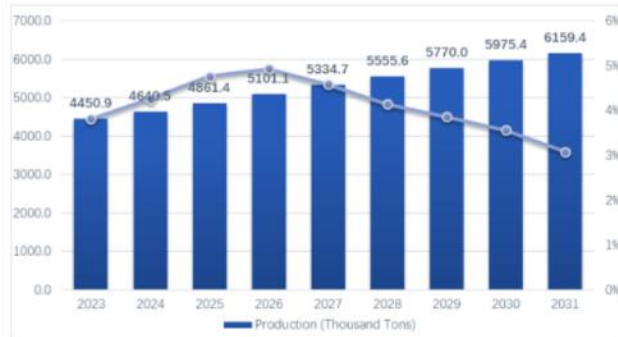
### COMPANY TRADITION

- Active in fluorspar market since 1997
- Former operator of Torgola and Ester fluorspar mines (Italian Alps)
- Owner of fluorspar exploration licenses in Italy

## WHY ACIDSPAR ?

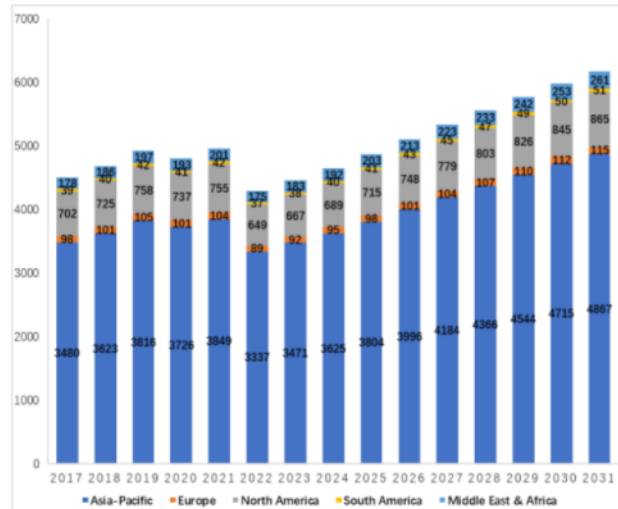
AAGR 2023-2031

**Figure Global Acid Grade Fluorspar Production (Thousand Tons) and Growth Rate Forecast (2023-2031)**



Source: Professionals Interview, Secondary Information and MAREsearch, Mar 2023

**Figure Global Acid Grade Fluorspar Production (Thousand Tons) Comparison by Region (2017-2031)**



Source: Professionals Interview, Secondary Information and MAREsearch, Mar 2023

Global fluorspar market +2.9% yearly

Global acidspar market +4,1% yearly

Global metspar market +2% yearly

Non feedstock fluorocarbons +2% yearly

Feedstock PVDF +2% yearly

Feedstock PTFE +4% yearly

LFP batteries +119% in 2022 and growing



**Short term revenues through restart of Silius mine**

*55 yrs track record, extensive ore data, certified reserves, developed infrastructures, huge unexploited potential*

WHICH VIEW?

**Long term view in developing sustainable fluorspar projects**

*Up-to-date technologies, environmental friendly solutions, circular economy approach, energy supply from RES sources*

**Building strategic partnership with large fluorspar consumers**

*to support long term operation strategies*

**Extensive exploration plans**

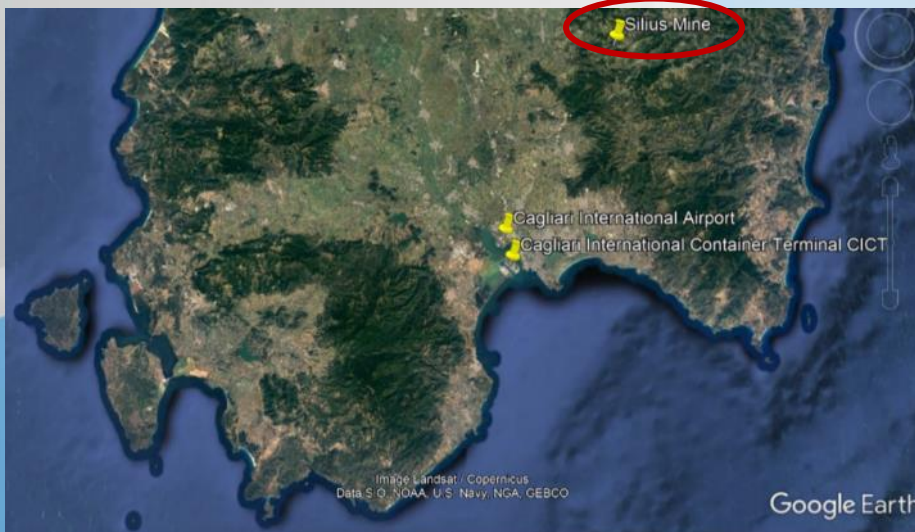
*Assessment of new fluorspar mining sites in/out of Italy*

**Developing reliable position on the global fluorspar market**

*Regular supplies in stable political and social environments*



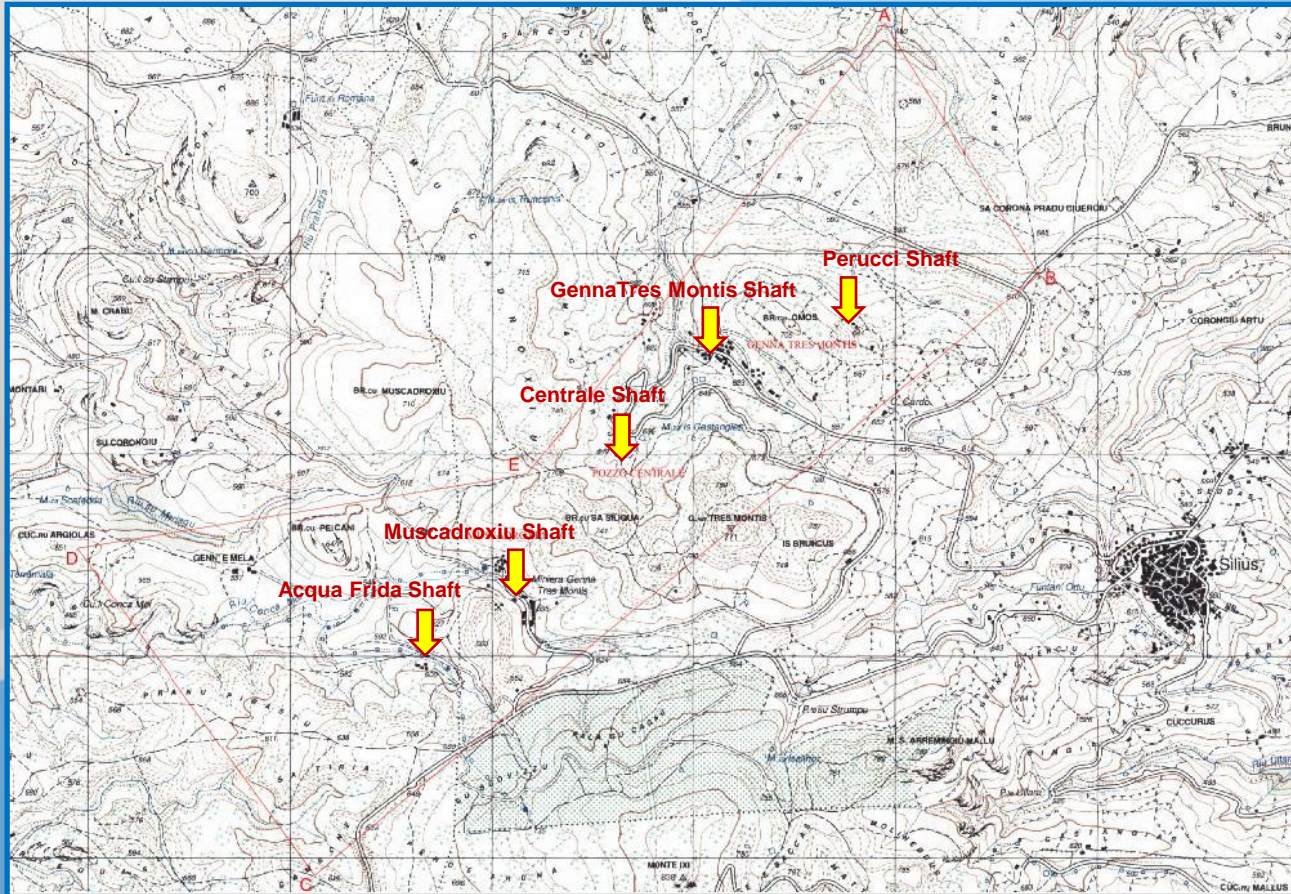
**MINE LOCATION**



- South Sardinia, Italy
- 50 km NE of Cagliari Intl Airport and Cagliari Intl Container Terminal
- In the heart of Mediterranean Sea

- ❑ Existing mine, open, accessible, held under maintenance, with ore panels exposed
- ❑ Mining claim area 500 hectares
- ❑ 3 km East of Silius village, average elevation 600 m a.s.l.
- ❑ Mining sites easily interconnected with main roads

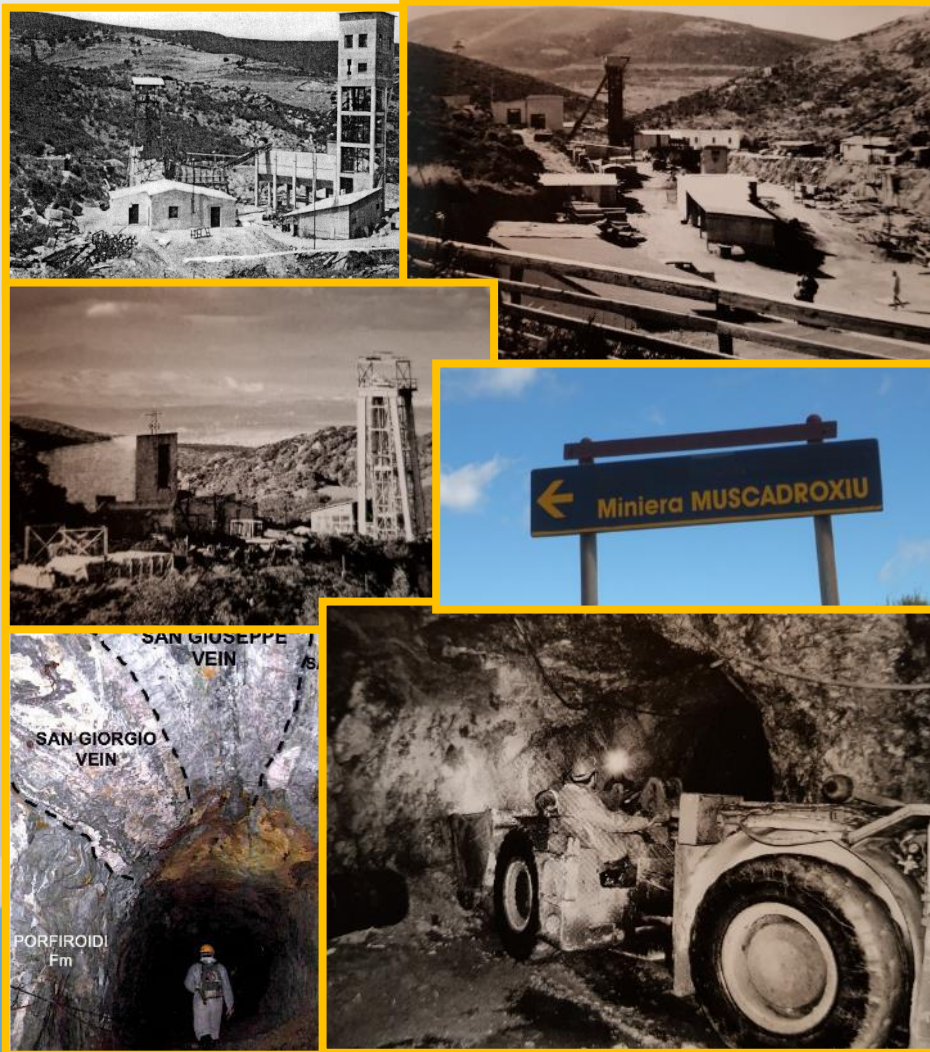
## MINE SITE



## ENVIRONMENT

- ❑ Strategic location in the middle of Mediterranean Sea (Gibraltar-Suez route)
- ❑ Availability of skilled workers, mining schools, extensive mining culture and experience (Sardinia has been representing one of the European leading mining areas for over 150 years)
- ❑ Low density population and no need for structures or people relocation
- ❑ Existing underground mine with no need for new land occupation
- ❑ Effective infrastructures (safe roads, 50 km to Cagliari CICT and int'l airport, 80 km from Oristano industrial port, reliable power network, etc.)
- ❑ Owned land rights according to national mining laws
- ❑ Strong support from local communities

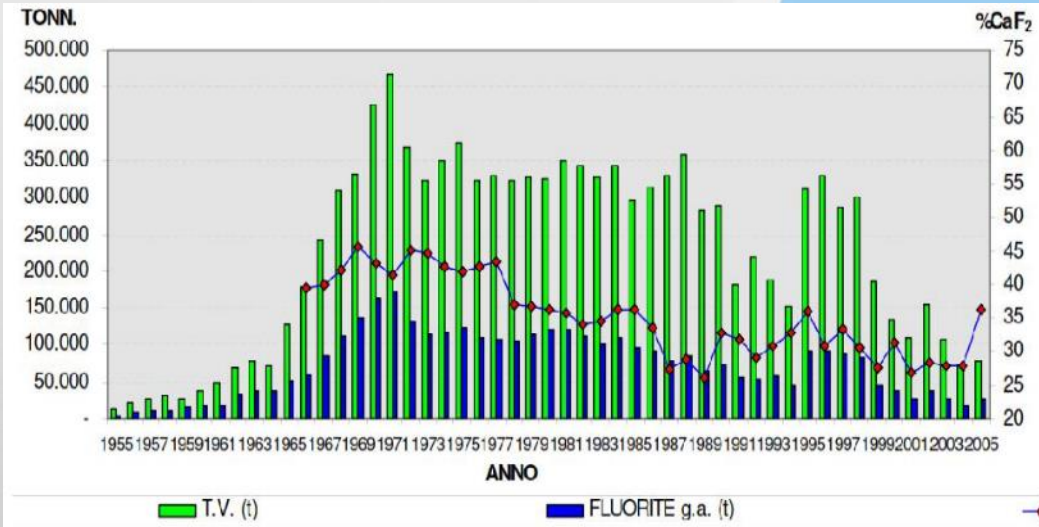




## MINE HISTORY

- ❑ Explorations since 1870's
- ❑ First mining claim dates back to 1915
- ❑ Originally licensed for lead and silver surface mining
- ❑ Underground extensive fluorspar mining since 1952
- ❑ 1954 - 1991 operated by private investor Mineraria Silius, reaching remarkable levels of  $\text{CaF}_2$  production (up to 450.000 t/y TV)
- ❑ 1992 – 2007 operated by public companies owned by Sardinia Region
- ❑ Operation stopped in 2007, after Sardinia decision for mine privatization
- ❑ Privatization process delayed by EU rules tender claim and complex environmental impact assessment
- ❑ New mining license awarded to Mineraria Gerrei in 2023

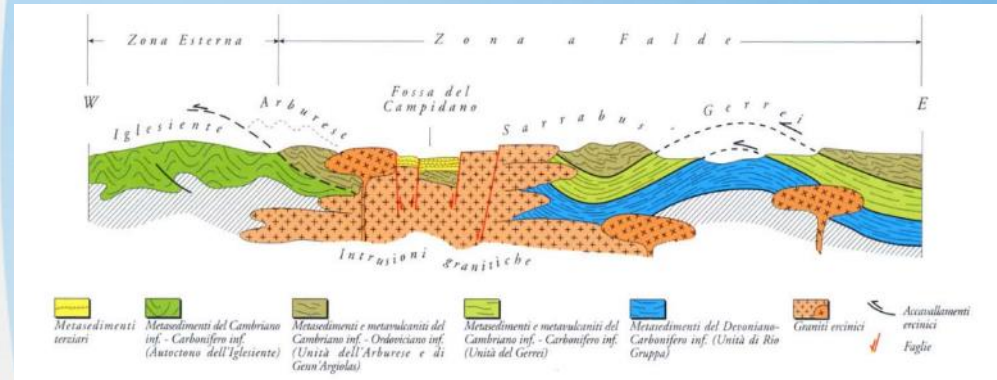
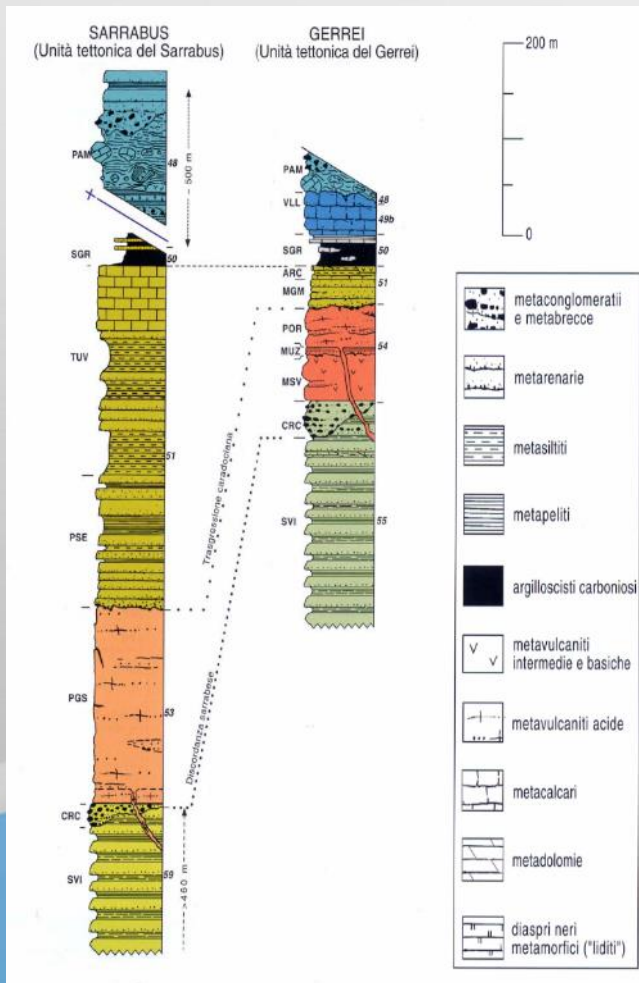
## MINE HISTORY



- ❑ Over 11 mln tons of TV extracted and nearly 4 mln tons of acidspar produced in 50 yrs operation
- ❑ Maximum historical production reached in 1971 (> 450.000 tons TV)
- ❑ Up to 600 employees in the 1970's
- ❑ Average historical fluorspar grade 35%

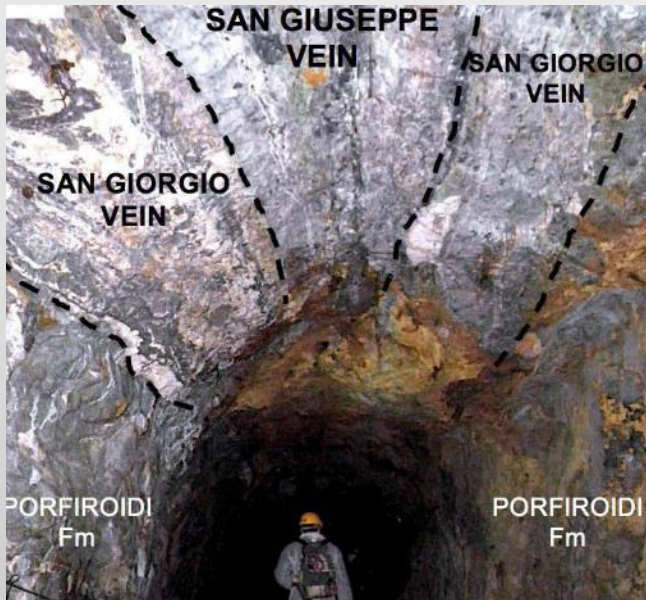


## REGIONAL GEOLOGY



- ❑ Gerrei Hercynian range featuring thrust tectonics
- ❑ Silius ore and mine located within Gerrei Tectonic Unit
- ❑ Hydrothermal veins developed after thrusts stacking and during late extensional phase of Hercynian orogenesis
- ❑ Main tectonic structures and ore veins finally dislocated by Alpine tectonics

## ORE GEOLOGY

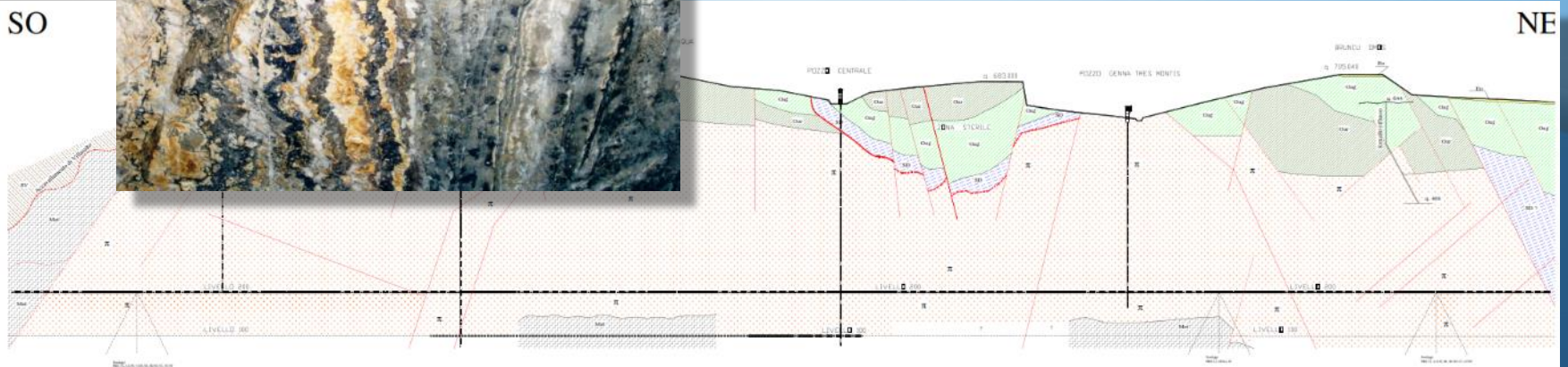


- ❑ Fluorspar veins typically 3-6 mts wide (up to 18 mts)
- ❑ Extraordinary ore persistence (vein system > 500 m deep, still without relevant CaF<sub>2</sub> % decrease)
- ❑ Typical paragenesis includes fluorspar, quartz, calcite, galena, marcasite, baryte, pyrite and zinc sulfide
- ❑ Fluorspar veins swarm directed N55 and plunging SSE with 70°-80° inclination angle
- ❑ Porfiroids qualify as most common embedding rocks (stable walls, preserving joints opening)
- ❑ Mineralization boundaries marked out by regional tectonic structures and/or plastic rocks outcropping (joints closing)
- ❑ Gangue carbonates carry relevant REE amounts



SO

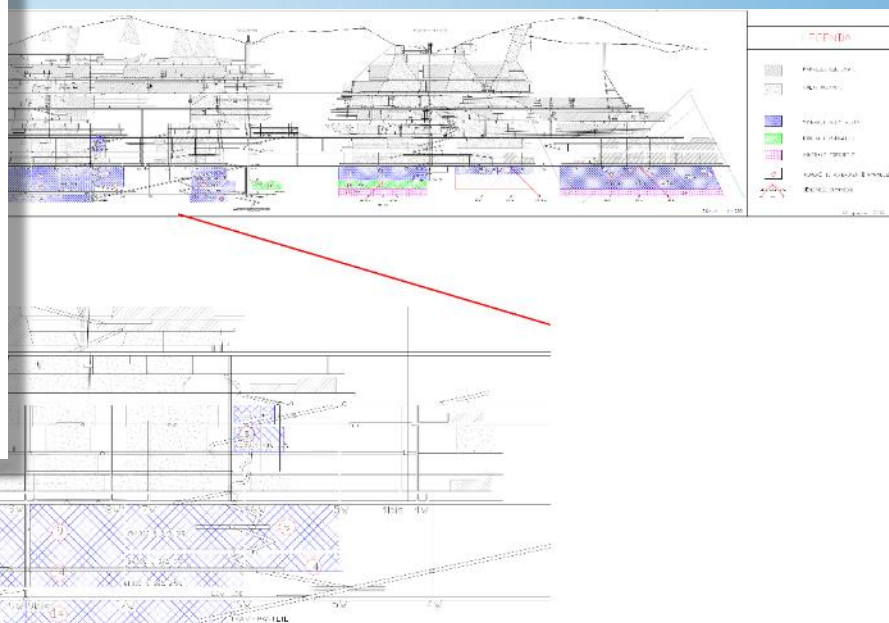
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## FLUORSPAR ASSESSED RESERVES

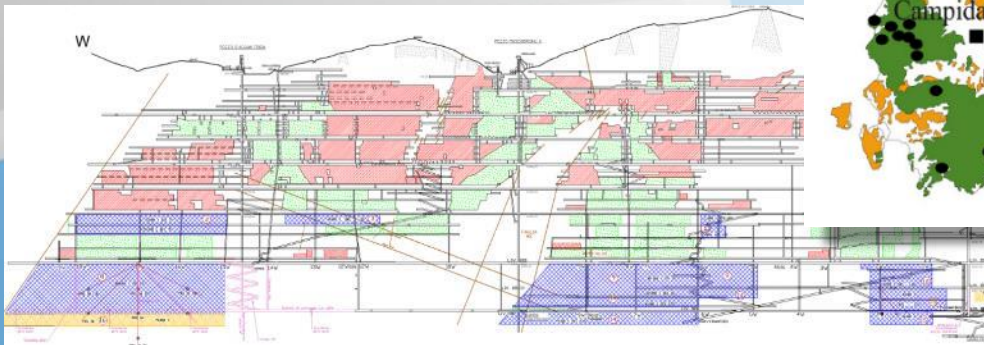
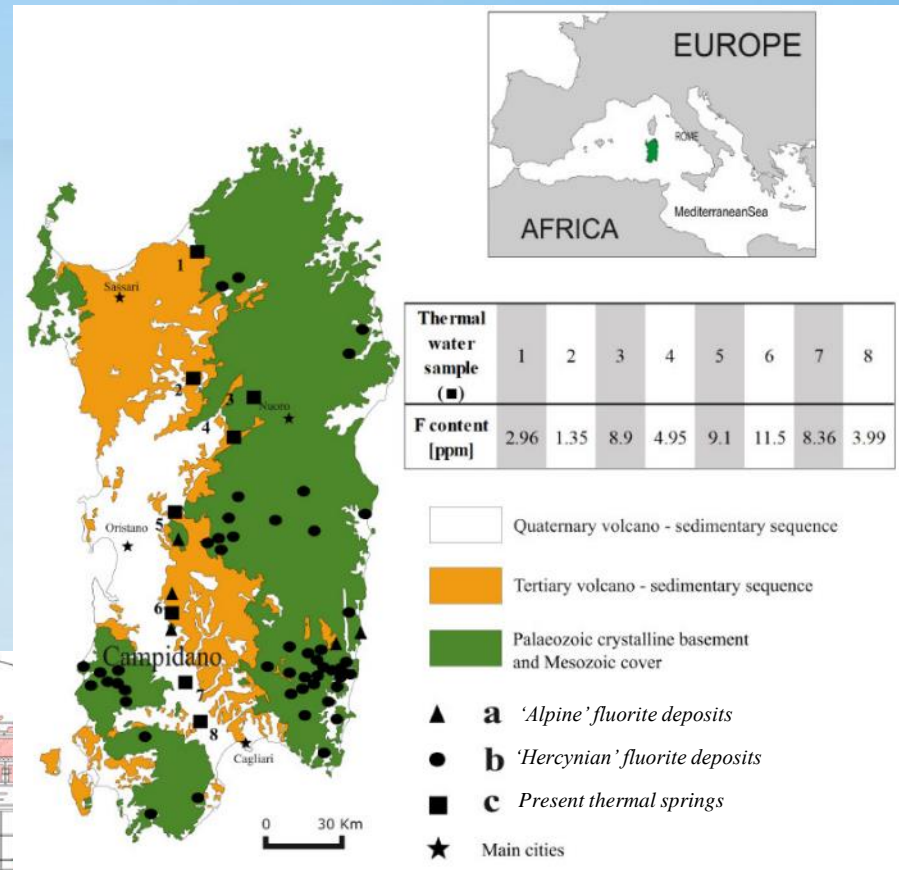
- ❑ Certified resources (independent audit)
- ❑ 2.100.000 tons measured resources (average grade 32% CaF<sub>2</sub>, 3% PbS)
- ❑ 1.200.000 tons from unexploited upper mine panels (review of previous 30% cutoff grade)
- ❑ Data from systematic sampling on accessible fluorspar panels and boreholes

Site	Commodity (%)		Carbonate Gangue (%)	Measured Resources Tons
	CaF <sub>2</sub>	Pb		
<b>above +200 m level</b>				
Acqua Frida shaft west	30.5	7.0	36.0	104,819
Acqua Frida shaft east	38.0	3.0	30.0	45,012
Muscadroxiu shaft west	35.0	3.5	22.0	8,184
Muscadroxiu shaft east	38.6	1.0	15.0	24,576
Centrale shaft west	35.7	1.6	12.0	17,958
<b>below +200 m level</b>				
Acqua Frida shaft west	34.7	4.8	28.5	357,504
Muscadroxiu shaft east	36.8	3.2	19.3	306,956
Centrale shaft west	35.0	1.3	10.0	109,973
Genna Tres Montis west	30.0	2.0	35.0	134,044
Genna Tres Montis east/1	30.0	3.0	32.8	105,400
Genna Tres Montis east/2	36.9	3.0	26.9	503,828
Muscadroxiu shaft east	33.3	2.7	15.0	261,618
Centrale shaft west	30.9	1.3	24.8	127,199
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>2,107,069</b>



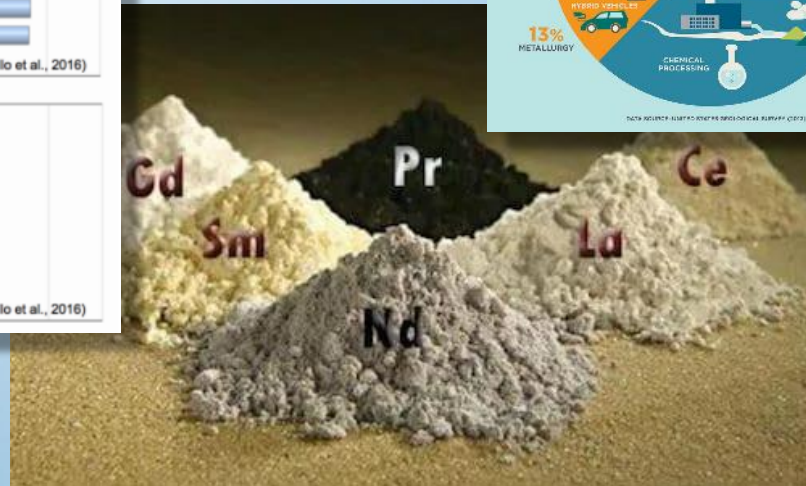
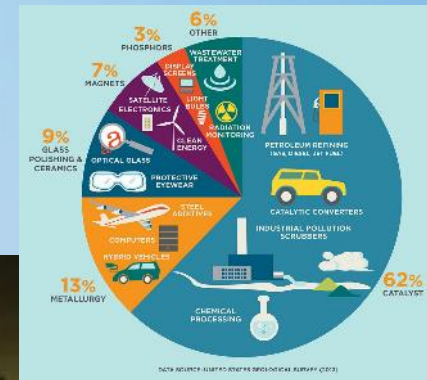
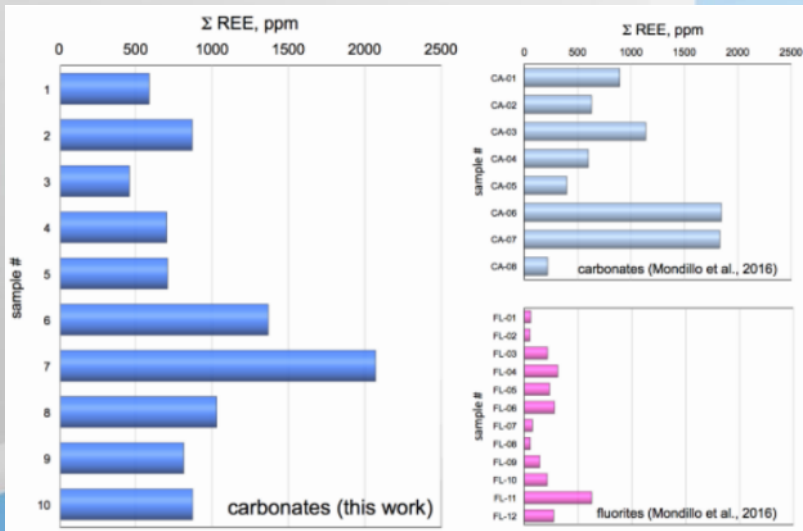
## FLUORSPAR ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL

- ❑ Ore prosecution under +100 level
  - Geochemical evidence of downward ore rejuvenation
  - Progressive increase of  $\text{CaF}_2$  and PbS grade, especially on the western side
- ❑ Unexplored veins system prosecution over Eastern ore boundary fault
  - Nearly 400 m downward dislocation with southward component
  - No systematic exploration in the past, due to richness of the exploited ore
- ❑ Extensive exploration plan focused on SE Sardinian fluorine anomaly area



## REE ASSESSED RESERVES

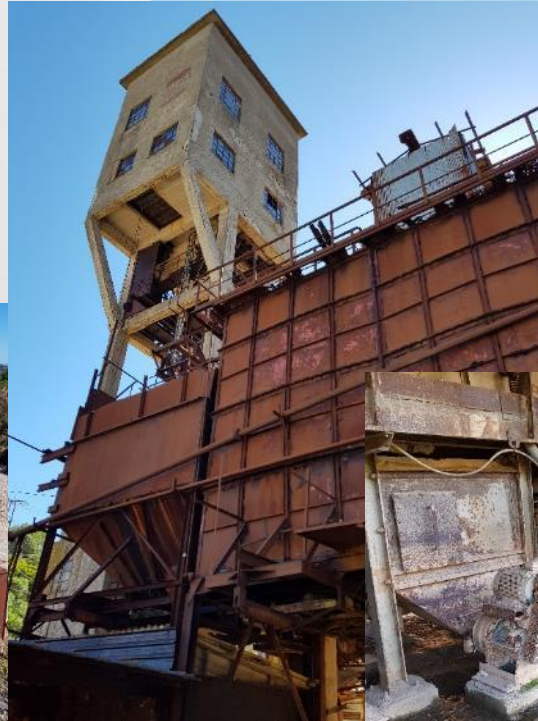
- ❑ Extensive studies and analysis performed by University of Naples over the last 10 years
- ❑ Vein gangue carbonates (calcite and ankerite) contain REE-minerals synchysite-(Ce) and xenotime
- ❑ Concentrations range between 462 and 2,071 ppm (951 ppm on average), mainly consisting of LREE
- ❑ REE in fluorspar process tailings (added value, additional treatment line under analysis)



## WHAT WE FOUND

### Mostly scrap !!

During maintenance period (2007-2023), just ordinary maintenance of dewatering system, lifting equipments and tunnel reinforcement has been performed, keeping the mine accessible and focusing on main haulage tunnels



## WHERE WE STARTED FROM ?

### Demolition...

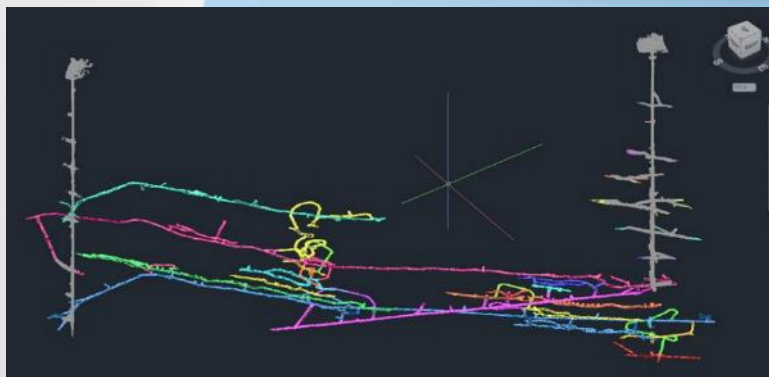
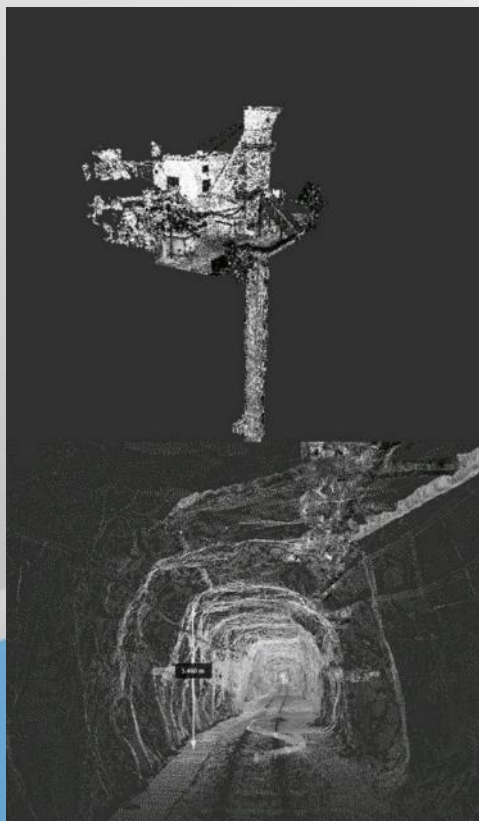
Full demolition of 2 former treatment plants, sets of conveyor belts, 3 mine shaft towers, 3 lifting equipments, several service buildings, concrete basements and structures, old storages, old power lines, etc.



## ... and surveys ...

Up-to-date 3D survey of underground shafts/tunnels and surface mining areas and structures, with Lidar drones, laser-scanners with gyroscopic sensors, video inspection tools and specialized softwares

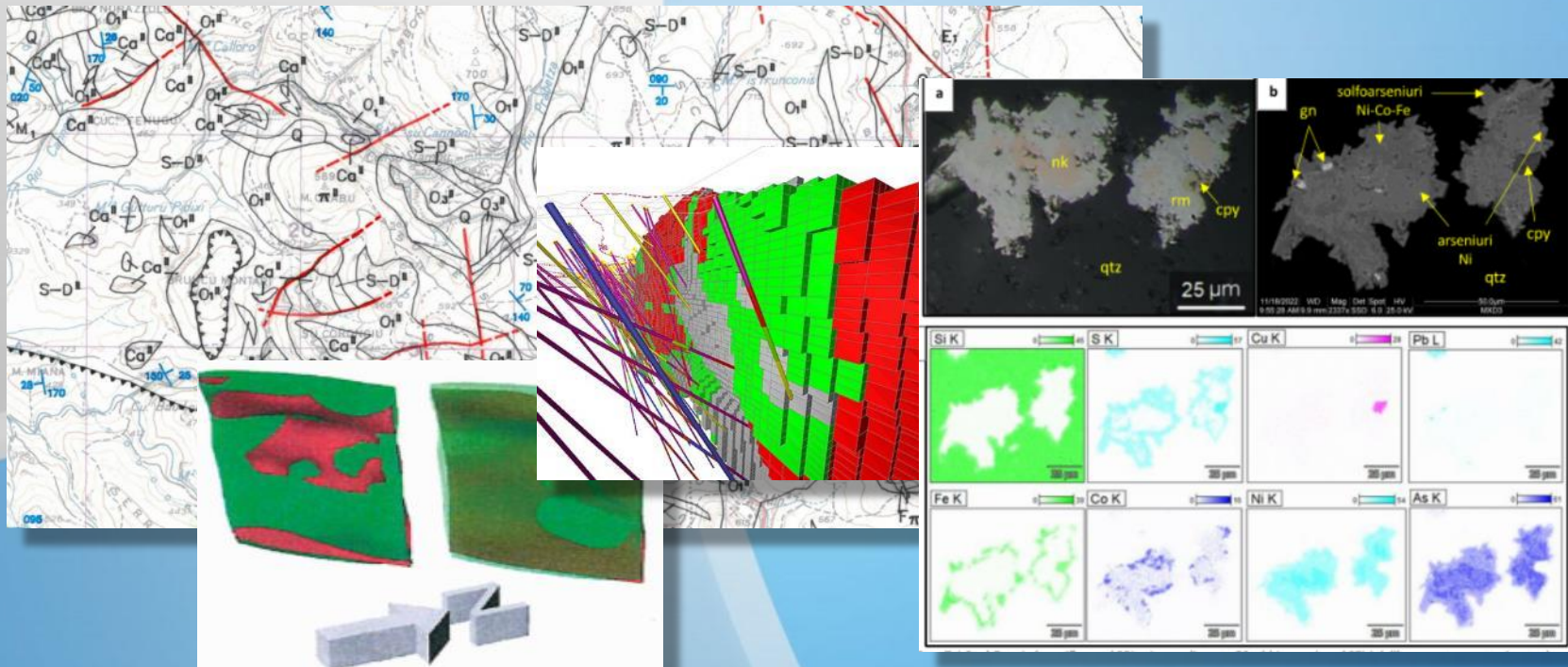
## WHERE WE STARTED FROM ?



## WHERE WE STARTED FROM ?

### ... and update of orebody model

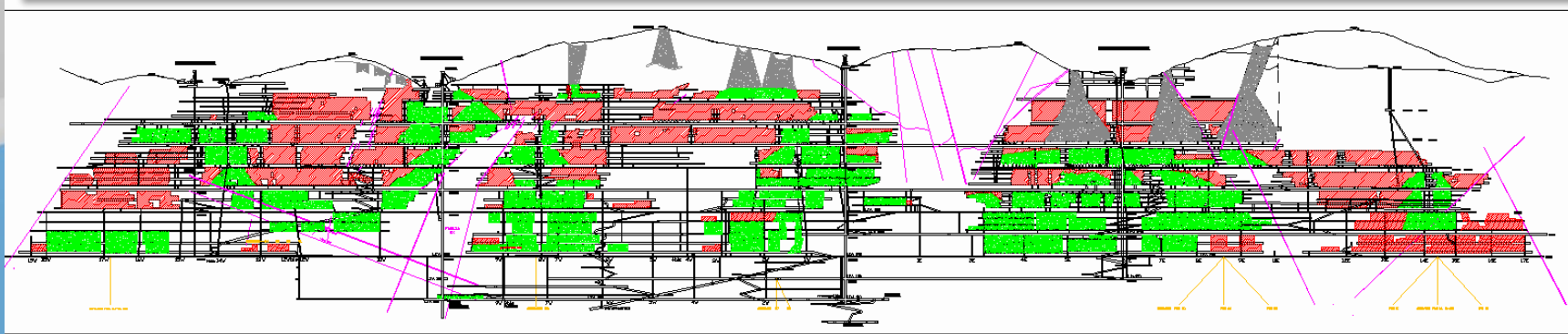
- ❑ Review of structural setting finalized to new exploration (vein system layout controlled by structures)
- ❑ Upgrade of geochemical model (complex mineralization process, several phases, rejuvenation)
- ❑ Analysis of geomechanical framework (review of reinforcement solutions)
- ❑ Ongoing cooperation agreements with Universities of Cagliari and Naples



## WHERE WE STARTED FROM ?

### Existing mine infrastructure

- Underground mine, 4.5 km E-W development
- > 120 km tunnels, 15 m<sup>2</sup> average section
- 5 shafts up to 550 mts deep
- Main haulage levels each 100 m depth
- Sublevels each 20 m depth
- Stable rock mass and relatively dry context
- Steady natural ventilation



## WHERE WE STARTED FROM ?

### Existing mine facilities

- 5000 m<sup>2</sup> of (battered) offices, labs, archives, warehouses, personnel facilities c/o Muscadroxiu, Genna Tres Montis and Centrale shafts



## WHAT'S NEW?

### A circular economy approach

- ❑ **FULL RE-USE OF BENEFICIATION PROCESS BYPRODUCTS FOR UNDERGROUND BACKFILLING**
  - Automatized mixing plant for inertization and stabilization, no tailing basins
- ❑ **FULL RICYCLE OF PROCESS WATER (CLOSED LOOP BENEFICIATION PLANT) FROM MINE DRAINAGE CIRCUIT**
  - Nearly 70% water savings with respect to former treatment plant (water is precious in Sardinia!!)
- ❑ **FULL ELECTRIFICATION OF MINING MACHINES FLEET**
  - Battery powered LHD loaders, dumpers, drilling jumbos, dth borers, rock bolting rigs, haulage railways
  - Facing market unreadiness for battery powered, CE certified machines for small size tunnels
- ❑ **ENERGY SELF-CONSUMPTION FROM COMPANY-OWNED RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANTS**
  - 12 MW wind and solar installations
- ❑ **REFORESTATION PLAN APPROVED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES**
  - Renaturalization of areas previously affected by mining subsidences



## Safety first !!

- SHAFT LIFTING EQUIPMENT SUBSTITUTION OR RENEWAL**
  - Two fully new lifting infrastructures and safety upgrare of a third one
- COMPLETE REHAB OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS**
  - Full new cabling of underground work sites, full new cabling of shafts and haulage tunnels, renewal of underground substations, upgrade of existing surface network
- COMPLETE REHAB OF VENTILATION NETWORK**
  - New coaxial fans in shafts, rehab of existing shaft fans for emergency backup
- ENVIRONMENTAL SENSING AT SURFACE AND UNDERGROUND**
  - Full set of new measuring devices for ventilation, radon and other poisonous gases, dust, temperature, noise, etc.
- NEW COMMUNICATION FRAMEWORK**
  - Shafts, haulage tunnels and production tunnels equipped with redundant fiber and wifi networks (for machinery remote control, remote sensors, cameras, etc.)
- NEW WORKERS DETECTION SYSTEM**
  - New access points located in building, shafts and tunnels, man down detection systems, etc.

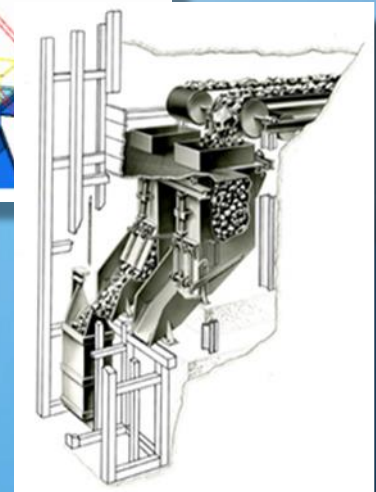
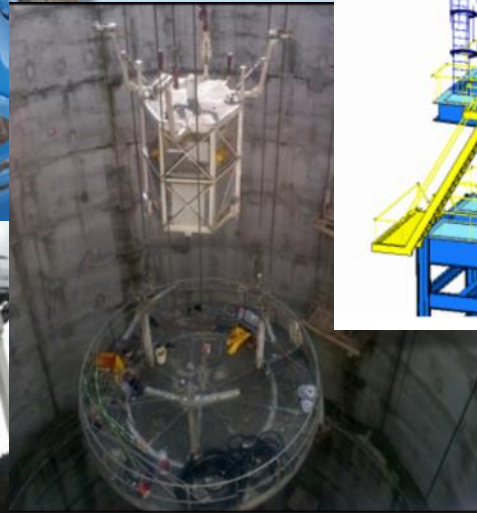
## WHAT'S NEW?



## WHAT'S NEW?

### New extraction shaft

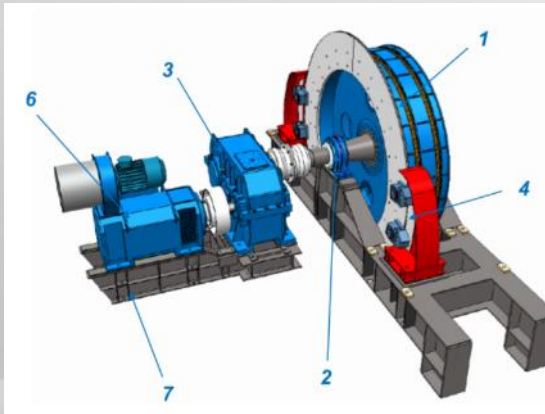
- Old shafts unreliable for high capacity/high speed lifting equipment (2x6 tons/skip, 8 m/s)
- Fully new shaft with raise boring technology, 600 m deep, 4.8 m gross diameter, fully lined
- Cable guided lifting equipment, automatized loading/unloading systems



## WHAT'S NEW?

### Rehab of existing shafts

- Fully new lifting equipment and shaft tower at Acqua Frida shaft (for heavy machinery/equipment)
- Upgraded lifting equipment at Muscadroxiu shaft (for personnel exclusive use)
- Fully new lifting equipment at shaft tower at Centrale shaft (dedicated to maintenance of service lines and backfilling system)
- Demolition of GTM shaft tower and shaft rearrangement for ventilation purpose

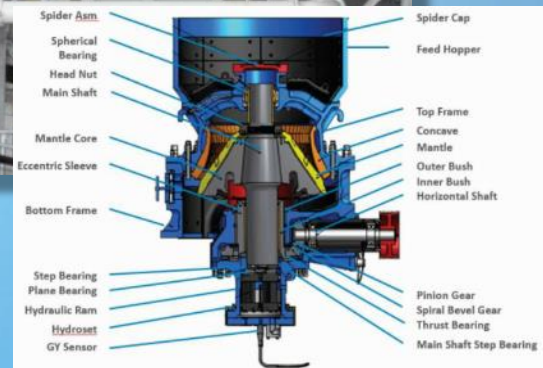


## WHAT'S NEW?

### New fluor spar beneficiation plant

#### NEW PRECONCENTRATION SINK-FLOAT PLANT AT CENTRALE SHAFT

- 125 t/h TV feeding
- Primary jaw crushing (underground) and secondary/tertiary cone crushing
- Gravity separation by air pulsed jet jigging technology
- Dewatering of concentrate and rejects



## WHAT'S NEW?

### New fluorspar beneficiation plant

#### ❑ NEW FLOTATION PLANT AT CENTRALE SHAFT

- Ball milling with hydrocyclone classifier
- Blower supported rougher flotation (1 stage each for lead and fluorspar circuits)
- Pneumatic cleaner flotation (3 stages for lead circuit, 6 stages for fluorspar circuit)
- Dewatering systems (thickeners, vacuum drum and disc filtering, filterpressing)



## WHAT'S NEW?

### New fluor spar beneficiation plant

#### ❑ EXTENSIVE SINK-FLOAT AND FLOTATION PREPARATORY TEST WORK

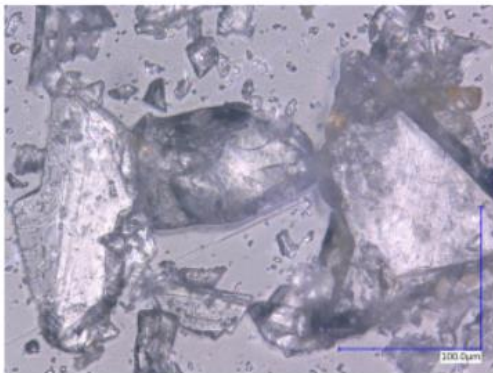
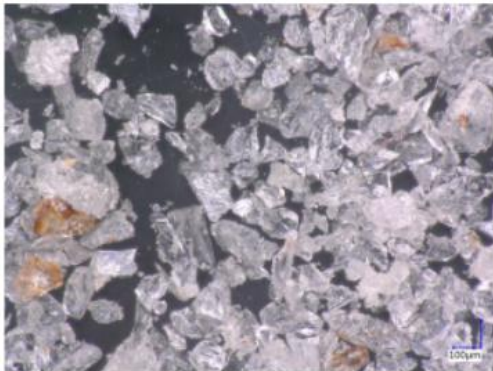
- Extensive sampling from different Silius ore sectors (mineralized veins and mine waters)
- Full textwork package
  - ❖ Mineralogical and liberation analyses of feed sample
  - ❖ Crushing and grinding test work
  - ❖ Float-sink and gravity test work
  - ❖ Complex flotation test work
  - ❖ Material balance and flowsheet



## FINAL PRODUCT FEATURES

### □ HIGH QUALITY FLUORITE CONCENTRATE (ACIDSPAR)

- ✓ 97%-98% CaF<sub>2</sub> concentrate
- ✓ Low impurities content (av. 0.67% SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0.01% P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 0.11% SO<sub>3</sub>, 0.13% Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, <1% CaCO<sub>3</sub>, no As)
- ✓ CaF<sub>2</sub> recovery further improveable for special uses

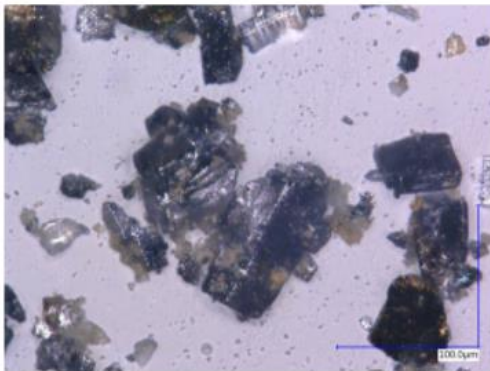
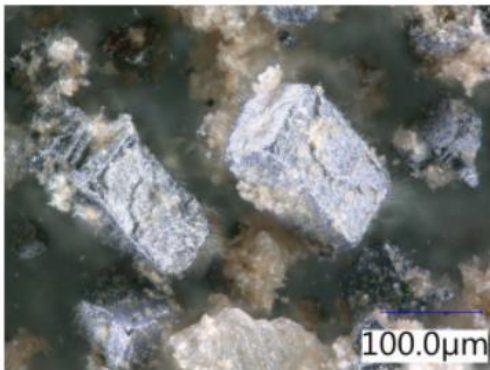


Parameter	Einheit	*	Verfahren / Aufbereitung	Messwert	Grenzwert
SiO <sub>2</sub>	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,67	-
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,08	-
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,13	-
TiO <sub>2</sub>	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	< 0,01	-
K <sub>2</sub> O	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	< 0,01	-
Na <sub>2</sub> O	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,03	-
MgO	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,16	-
PbO	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,02	-
BaO	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	< 0,01	-
SO <sub>3</sub>	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,11	-
MnO	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,02	-
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,01	-
ZrO <sub>2</sub>	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	< 0,01	-
GV/LOI 1025 °C	MA.-%	2	DIN 51081 2002-12	0,9	-
Feuchtigkeit/Moisture 105°C	MA.-%	1	DIN ISO 11465 1996-12	0,1	-
ZnO	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,01	-
CaO (ohne Ca aus CaF <sub>2</sub> )	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,85	-
CuO	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,02	-
F	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 10304-1 2009-07/ DIN 51084:2008-11 (8.1.2 Sinterextraktion)	47,2	-

## FINAL PRODUCT FEATURES

### ☐ HIGH QUALITY LEAD CONCENTRATE

- ✓ Up to 72% PbS concentrate
- ✓ Up to 11% ZnO content
- ✓ Minor quantities of chalcopyrite and secondary copper sulphidic minerals
- ✓ Low impurities content



Parameter	Einheit	*	Verfahren / Aufbereitung	Messwert	Grenzwert
SiO <sub>2</sub>	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	1,16	-
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,14	-
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	5,12	-
TiO <sub>2</sub>	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	< 0,01	-
K <sub>2</sub> O	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	< 0,01	-
Na <sub>2</sub> O	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,02	-
MgO	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,25	-
PbO	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	67,3	-
BaO	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,18	-
SO <sub>3</sub>	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	1,28	-
MnO	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,04	-
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	< 0,01	-
ZrO <sub>2</sub>	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	< 0,01	-
GV/LOI 1025 °C	MA.-%	2	DIN 51081 2002-12	8,3	-
Feuchtigkeit/Moisture 105°C	MA.-%	1	DIN ISO 11465 1996-12	< 0,1	-
CuO	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,04	-
ZnO	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	9,62	-
CaO (ohne Ca aus CaF <sub>2</sub> )	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 12677 2013-02	0,710	-
F	MA.-%	1	DIN EN ISO 10304-1 2009-07/ DIN 51084:2008-11 (8.1.2 Sinterextraktion)	3,56	-

## SILIUS MINE IN NUMBERS

220.000 TONS/YEAR TOUT VENANT

70.000 TONS/YEAR FLUORSPAR ACID GRADE

7.000 TONS/YEAR LEAD CONCENTRATE

+20% THORETICAL CAPACITY FOR HIGHER DEMAND

12 YEARS MINING LICENSE, RENEWABLE

45 MLN € INVESTMENT

+100 NEW HIRINGS

100% OF NATIONAL FLUORSPAR PRODUCTION

## LAST BUT NOT LEAST...

- ⇒ SILIUS MINE TENDER ISSUED EARLY 2012 BY SARDINIA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
- ⇒ NO PROTECTED AREAS WITHIN THE MINING CLAIM PERIMETER
- ⇒ STRONG SUPPORT FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- ⇒ ITALIAN GOVERNMENT STRATEGY FOR CRM RESHORING
- ⇒ MINE MAINTENANCE COSTS SUPPORTED BY PUBLIC FUNDS TILL NEW MINING LICENSE AWARDDING

## *DESPITE ALL THIS...*

MINING LICENSE HAS BEEN AWARDED ON MAY 2023  
AFTER MORE THAN **11 YEARS** FROM TENDER PUBLICATION



**NO CHANCE FOR RELEVANT EU CRM RESHORING**  
WITHOUT CRYSTAL CLEAR RULES, TIGHT EIA PROCESS AND FAST  
TRACK FOR NEW MINING PERMITS



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION  
AND KEEP MINING FLUORSPAR!

FLUORINE **FORUM** 2023

Pullman Cannes Mandelieu

16-18 October 2023

