



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE AGRICULTURA, ALIMENTACIÓN
Y MEDIO AMBIENTE

SPANISH TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS FOR AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF MERCURY

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BACKGROUND

- **Third century BC: Beginning of Mercury mining operations**
- **XVIth century: Almaden became an industrial centre**
- **1982: MAYASA (Minas de Almaden y Arrayanes S.A.), State Operator of the Almaden Mercury Mines**
- **2001: End of mercury mining activities**
- **2003: End of metallurgical activities**
- **Before March 2011: End of the remaining commercial activity (Reg. CE 1102/2008)**

Establishment of the National Technological Centre for Mercury Decontamination (NTCMD)

- DEEP KNOWLEDGE AND UNIQUE EXPERTISE ON MERCURY
- SIGNIFICANT SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT IN THE ALMADEN AREA
- NATIONAL COMMITMENT WITH THE GLOBAL MERCURY NEGOTIATIONS

The National Technological Centre for Mercury Decontamination (NTCMD) was created in 2009 with the **initiative and funding** of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Affairs and by **agreement** amongst the Ministry, the Regional Government (Castilla-la Mancha) and MAYASA



National Technological Centre for the Mercury Decontamination: Main objectives

- Promoting research and developing:
 - Technologies for environmentally sound management of mercury and mercury containing wastes (handling, transport, storage...) and for remediation of mercury contaminated sites
- Developing activities with other countries:
 - Experts training
 - Technical assistance and technology transfer

Identifying real problems related to mercury and searching for practical, **safe** and **environmentally** sound solutions

National Technological Centre for the Mercury Decontamination. Activity lines

The activities and the technological developments of the Centre are based on solid research works carried out by the NTCMD in collaboration with the National Centre of Metallurgical Research (**CENIM**), integrated in the Spanish National Research Council (**CSIC**)



Main activity lines

Temporary Storage

MERSADE EU *Life* project (2006-2010)

prototype 50t/50y



Main activity lines

Mercury Stabilization



Main activity lines

Remediation and monitoring



Joining the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

September 2011: Spain joined the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP)

5-6 November 2011, last meeting of the GMP: Spain and Uruguay were designated as co-leads of the Supply and Storage Partnership Area

Supply and Storage Partnership Area

- Main Goal: Minimization/elimination of global mercury supply
- Activities:
 - Phase out of primary mercury mining activities
 - Mercury storage projects



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**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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