

Full English Translation – *Herrera en Cope* Interview with Juan Luis Pozo (Emerita Resources)

Host: Hello, good afternoon and welcome to *Herrera en Cope*. Today we want to talk a little about mining. Just a few days ago, the **Andalusian Regional Government** confirmed that **Emerita** has been granted a **permit to investigate 184 mining grid units** in the province of **Huelva**—specifically, if I’m not mistaken (and you’ll correct me shortly), between the municipalities of **Paimogo** and **Puebla de Guzmán**.

To discuss this, we’re joined by **Juan Luis Pozo**, General Director of Emerita.

Host: How are you, Juan Luis?

Pozo: Good morning, very pleased to speak with you.

Host: First of all—I didn’t get that wrong, did I?

Pozo: No, you’re right. It’s **184 grid units**, located **northeast of our current investigation permit**, which is presently in the **Unified Environmental Authorization** phase—this is the **Romanera project**.

Host: When we talk about grid units, how big are we talking?

Pozo: We’re talking about **5,600 hectares**. These 5,600 hectares correspond to the 184 grid units. For comparison, the current permit—which has been a complete success in terms of its evaluated and confirmed resources—covers **51 grid units**. So we’re **multiplying our current footprint significantly**. Of course, this doesn’t guarantee that we’ll find mineralization in all of them, but the **indications are quite strong**, and so this is **very, very positive news**.

Host: Why are the early indicators promising?

Pozo: Let me explain. We’re talking about a continuation of the **Iberian Pyrite Belt**, which contains a **mineralized body with polymetallic characteristics**. That means it contains primarily **copper, zinc, silver, and gold**, among other materials.

What we’ve done so far—early **geophysical** and **geochemical** surveys—suggest that the **mineral body extends into these new grid units**. So, considering the current deposit already has **25 million tonnes** quantified—and is significant enough to provide **work for generations over more than 25 years**—we now have **very strong indications** that this same mineralized body extends through the 184 new grids.

Host: To ground this for our listeners—what kinds of metals are found in this Pyrite Belt? And, more importantly, are any of them on the EU’s list of **critical raw materials** for electrification?

Pozo: Yes, absolutely. These **critical raw materials** are usually associated with this type of deposit. Historically, due to **production costs** and **market value**, the focus was on **copper and zinc**. But when it was profitable, **silver and gold** were also extracted.

Host: Why are we now talking about possibly finding critical raw materials?

Pozo: Because many **minerals that were previously ignored**—since they had little economic

value at the time—are now considered essential. For example, we have confirmation in the deposits we've already explored of the presence of **antimony**.

Antimony is crucial for **mobile phone manufacturing**. It's not a rare earth element, but it is **one of the most critical raw materials** in the EU's strategy. With today's **new extraction technologies**, we not only **extend the life of existing deposits**, but also **uncover these critical materials** we're now actively seeking.

Host: What kind of **economic impact** could this new exploration have, especially for the surrounding towns?

Pozo: We're talking about around **1,600 jobs**, including both direct and indirect employment. These numbers depend on how we scale the deposits and reserves. The idea is **not to exploit all the deposits at once**—that wouldn't make environmental or operational sense.

What we're doing is **extending the life** of the current operation. If we now have **25 years of work**, we want to **stretch that to 35, 40, even 50 years**, adding generations of employment through new discoveries.

But this goes beyond jobs. There's a **major social transformation** underway. In the **Romanera project**, we've launched something called the **Raw Materials Valley**.

This is a **cutting-edge social transformation initiative**. Emerita isn't just an economic driver—we're working to create a **center of knowledge in sustainable mining**, with a focus on **climate adaptation**. We already have **agreements with several major companies** to attract **technology firms** to the Andévalo region. The goal is to **transform a depressed region into a hub of innovation in sustainable mining and new technologies**.

This initiative could generate over **100,000 jobs** focused on **what really matters to us**: ensuring our youth—who are excited by **AI and new technologies**—can develop their future right here.

They won't need to migrate elsewhere. They'll be able to receive **technical training in the fields they love**. Because 21st-century mining is radically different—it uses advanced **technology** to work **safely, efficiently**, and with **zero resemblance** to the mining of past centuries.

Today, a person is seated at a console, operating machinery using **artificial intelligence**, guiding teams underground that perform work once done with hand tools and pickaxes. That's already part of history.

Thanks to **digital transformation**, mining operations now take place in **fully secure, high-tech environments**. We're aiming to **develop and export this knowledge globally**. This is about more than mining jobs—it's about retaining talent in the Andévalo region and **showing the world** that this area can become **the "European Silicon Valley"**.

Host: That sounds very promising, Juan Luis. And of course, from here, we sincerely hope all of this—what is now still in early stages—truly becomes a **reality**. This region, which has suffered economically and in terms of employment, **deserves a renaissance**.

Pozo: Just one small correction, if I may. The **Romanera project is already launched**—we're in the final stages of permits. That project will be the **economic engine** for the **Raw Materials Valley**, the **technology center**, and the **entrepreneurship hub**.

What the Ontario [project] allows us to do is **increase the deposit's scale**, ensuring this isn't just a short-term boom, but rather a **total long-term transformation**. We're talking about **50 to 60 years of activity** that will create **extraordinary long-term wealth**.

Host: We'll leave it there. Juan Luis Pozo, General Director of Emerita—thank you so much for joining us and shedding light on this exciting new exploration between **Paimogo** and **Puebla de Guzmán**.

Pozo: Thank you very much for having me.