

Bilateral Relations

CALIFORNIA:
OPENING NEW
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Investment

LIVENT INVESTS
\$1.1 BILLION TO
PRODUCE LITHIUM
IN ARGENTINA

Science

AMBASSADOR
JORGE ARGÜELLO
VISITED NASA'S
JET PROPULSION
LABORATORY

EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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The Los Angeles city's mayor, Eric Garcetti (Left), and Ambassador Jorge Argüello (Right).

CALIFORNIA: OPENING NEW PATHS TO COOPERATION

The Ambassador of the Argentine Republic in Washington D.C. Jorge Argüello made an official visit to Los Angeles 7 to 9 March. There, accompanied by Consul Rubén Caro, he maintained an intense work agenda with local authorities and institutions, think tanks, universities, representatives of the Argentine community, chambers of commerce, and entrepreneurs.

The city's mayor, Eric Garcetti, and the Deputy Mayor for

International Relations, Ambassador Nina Hachigian, met with Ambassador Argüello at the Los Angeles City Hall on March 9.

During the meeting, the close historical ties between the city of Los Angeles and the Argentine Republic were highlighted, and the importance of continuing to strengthen these links was agreed upon. Likewise, they discussed the next Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles,



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the meetings held in Los Angeles with local authorities and institutions, think tanks, universities, representatives of the Argentine community, chambers of commerce, and entrepreneurs.

In this edition we also include an article on the meeting between President Alberto Fernández and the Governor of Catamarca, Raúl Jalil, with executives from the lithium producer Livent Corporation, which will invest \$1.1 million in a new expansion project in our country.

Finally, an article on the tour to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a research and development center operated by Caltech under contract with NASA.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

A POSITIVE AGENDA BETWEEN
ARGENTINA AND THE US, WITH
A FOCUS ON ATTRACTING
FOREIGN INVESTMENT, THE
ENERGY SECTOR, SATELLITES,
AND BIOTECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT IN OUR
COUNTRY.

the G-20 agenda and bilateral cooperation in this area, the U-20 and C-40 initiatives for interaction between mayors of large cities in the world, and the alternatives to promote trade and investment between California and Argentina.

As part of his visit, Ambassador Argüello met with authorities and members of the L.A. Chamber of Commerce, where he gave a presentation on the importance of bilateral trade relations between Argentina and the West Coast; Argentina's initiatives to achieve greater productivity and investments; Argentina's potential in the lithium sector and energy, and our country's aerospace industry development.

Likewise, Ambassador Argüello held a working lunch with the Los Angeles World Affairs Council and Town Hall (LAWACTH) authorities at the California Club. Also present were Consul General Rubén Caro and his team; Kim McCleary Blue, LAWACTH president; Adriano Guidice, CEO of Accenture North America; Rosa Bravo, senior technology services consultant; Scott Porter, Partner at Ernst & Young LL; Jeff Wilson, Manager of Corporate Affairs for Chevron Corporation; Marcos Delas, co-founder and CEO of Syocin; Julia Roulet, co-founder and CEO of Syocin, and Norbeto Cusinato, president of Hydromach. During the event, Ambassador Argüello highlighted the importance of the next "IX Summit of the Americas" to be

held in Los Angeles in June this year, and highlighted the positive agenda between Argentina and the United States, with a focus on attracting foreign investment, the energy sector, satellites, and biotechnology development in our country.

The Ambassador also held a valuable conversation with representatives and institutions of the Argentine community in Los Angeles, such as the Argentine School, the Argentine Association in Los Angeles, Argentines Looking South, and the San Martín Society of the San Fernando Valley, and also with Argentines with a brilliant professional activity who are true ambassadors of our country there, such as Miguel San Martín, head of Engineering for Guidance, Navigation and Systems Control at JPL-NASA, and Victoria Alonso, President of Physical Production and Post-Production, Visual Effects, and Animation at Marvel Studios.

In this edition, there is also information on his visit to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), a research and development center managed and operated by Caltech under contract with NASA, and a meeting with the Argentine scientists who work there.

The visit allowed the Ambassador to open new paths and links with universities. In this regard, met with the Chancellor of UCLA, Gene Block, and with Argentine professors and academics from UCLA Law School.

Likewise, the Ambassador met with President Jim Gash at Pepperdine University, as well as with students that have participated in the Buenos Aires Program of that institution.

He also met with the American Jewish Committee (AJC) authorities, and had a working dinner with representatives of the Red Chamber company from the fishing sector, which employs hundreds of people in southern Argentina. ■

LIVENT INVESTS \$1.1 BILLION TO PRODUCE LITHIUM IN ARGENTINA

President Alberto Fernández and the Governor of Catamarca, Raúl Jalil, met with executives from lithium producer Livent Corporation, who informed him about the company's expansion, including the construction of a second plant to produce lithium carbonate in Antofagasta de la Sierra, as part of a total investment of \$1,1 billion in our country.

The president met with the president and CEO of the company, Paul Graves, and the vice president of Communications and Public Affairs, Juan Carlos Cruz, who informed him about the third stage of the project, which has already invested \$640 million in the country, and whose completion is expected by 2025.

During the meeting, attended also by the Minister of

Productive Development, Matías Kulfas, and the Secretary of Mining, Fernanda Ávila, the head of state conveyed his gratitude to the company authorities "for the trust placed in Argentina", adding that "a great opportunity in the field of renewable energies is opening up" for the country.

Before his trip to Argentina, Juan Carlos Cruz held a working meeting with the Argentine ambassador to the United States, Jorge Argüello, in which they reviewed the new stage of the project, as well as the logistical details of this undertaking in Catamarca Province.

In the meeting, Cruz highlighted the efforts related to corporate social responsibility undertaken by Livent in Argentina, through job creation in the communities, promotion of new suppliers, and a permanent dialogue

President Alberto Fernández (Ctr.) and directors of Livent Corporation.



THE PROJECT LOCATED IN THE SALAR DEL HOMBRE MUERTO WILL GUARANTEE COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN RESPONSIBLE MINING, CONTRIBUTING TO A REDUCTION IN TOTAL WATER INTENSITY.

with civil society. Likewise, he stated the company is promoting a new system for the use of water resources that minimizes the use of water through its reuse.

The project located in the Salar del Hombre Muerto will guarantee international standards in responsible mining, and contribute to the reduction in total water intensity through its propriety reuse and recycling process technologies.

After the meeting with the president, Mr. Cruz said: "We have been working in Argentina since 1998, and here we have found an excellent workforce, engineers, and are helping to train people from communities in mining techniques so that they can work with us."

The expansion project will contribute an additional 20,000 metric tons of lithium carbonate in Argentina, which in turn will increase the company's total annual capacity by 60,000 MT and lithium chloride capacity by 9,000 MT by 2025. This would imply an upsurge in the global supply of lithium for energy transition, while at the same time increasing the workforce in the project's area of direct influence.

Regarding the benefits of the lithium industry's development for Argentina, Kulfas explained that "Livent

is a company with international agreements on a global scale with automakers such as Tesla and BMW", adding that announcement of the trebling of the company's lithium production capacity "shows that the industry is very important for Argentina, and showcases that the country is an important market in world production."

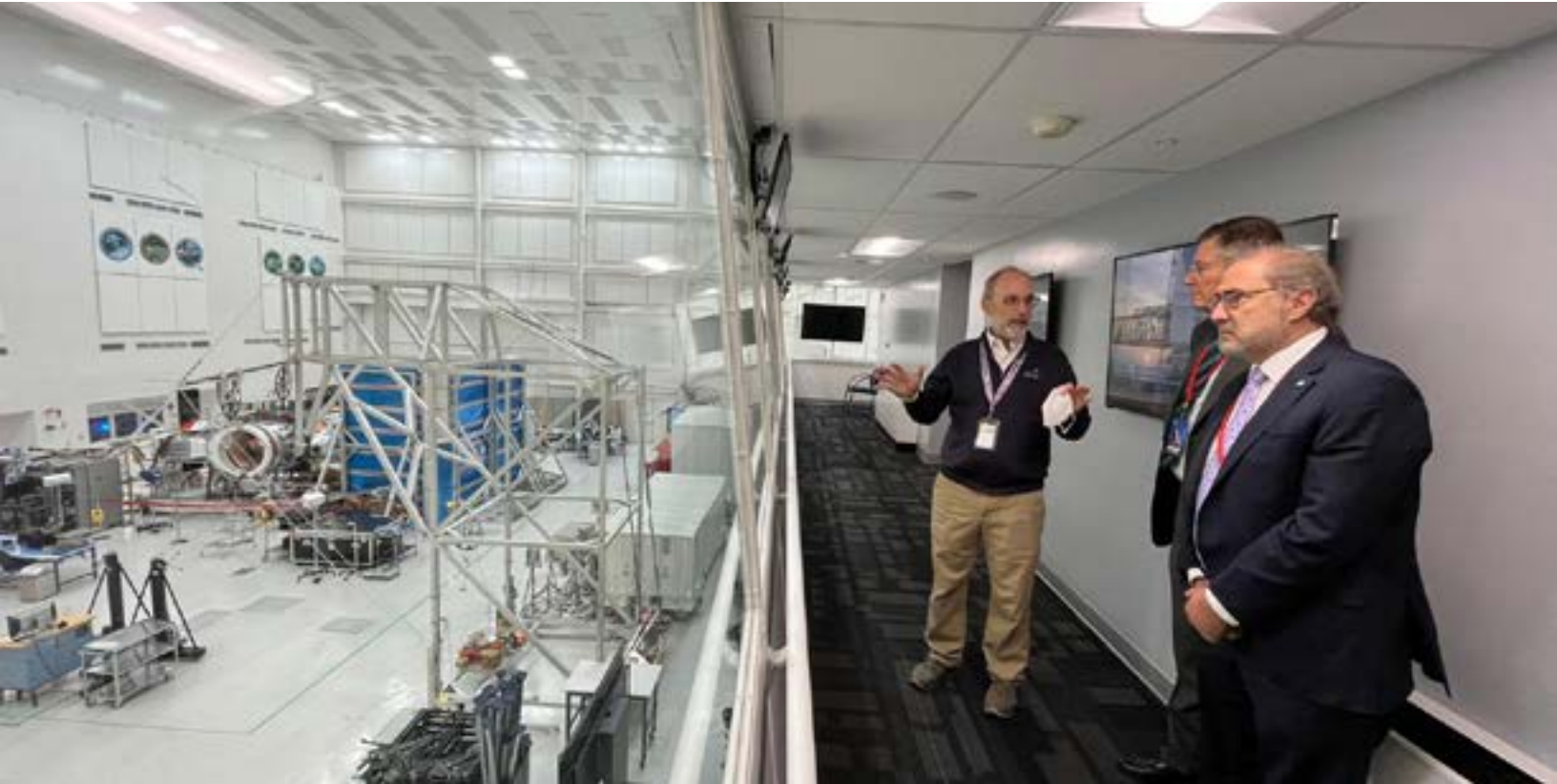
Livent Corporation, which has a global presence in the United States, England, China, India and Argentina and 900 employees, has partnered with different clients with the aim of using lithium safely and sustainably, and to promote a global demand for green energy, the mobile economy, and specialized innovations in areas such as light alloys and lubricants.

The company also operates one of the highest purity sources of lithium under international sustainability standards in Argentina, and implements its own high-tech system that allows derivation into lithium carbonate and chloride through over 99% pure processes.

Another important aspect that should be highlighted in the specific case of Livent, is the company's firm commitment to sustainable development, which in 2020 allowed it to secure a strategic alliance with BMW, which requires the provision of lithium with the highest environmental standards for the production of its lithium-ion batteries.

Livent is a concrete testimony of the Argentine commitment towards the transition in clean energies, as well as of the investment opportunities, thanks to predictable and beneficial rules for the companies that seek a concrete profitability.

According to data from the Mining Secretariat of the Ministry of Productive Development, currently in Argentina there are two lithium mines in operation, six under construction and 28 advanced projects. In total, Argentina has 93 million tons. However, once the potential projects have been developed, it is estimated that 350,000 tons per year can be extracted. ■



Ambassador Jorge Argüello at Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

AMBASSADOR JORGE ARGÜELLO VISITED NASA'S JET PROPULSION LABORATORY

Within the framework of the Argentine ambassador Jorge Argüello's agenda in California, on March 7 he visited NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL-NASA), together with officials from the Consulate General in Los Angeles.

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory is a research and development center managed and operated by Caltech under contract with NASA. Some of JPL's projects include the Galileo mission to Jupiter and the Mars Rovers, including the Pathfinder to Mars in 1997 and the Mars Exploration Rovers mission in 2003. JPL has sent unmanned missions to every planet in the solar system. Its missions study the weather and assist in disaster recovery, and it describes itself as "humanity's leading center for exploring where humans cannot yet reach."

During the visit to the JPL, Miguel San Martín led a tour of the facilities and museum. San Martín is a renowned Argentine electronic engineer, and a NASA researcher. There, he participated in the design and development of several control systems for the exploration vehicles, including four missions to Mars. The contribution by the Sky Crane system used in the Curiosity mission for the rover's descent stand out. He currently serves at JPL as Chief of Engineering for Guidance, Navigation and Control systems.

During the tour it was possible to see, among others, the facilities and satellite models, as well as the data processing room, where the information that Curiosity collects on Mars is received.

AMONG THE JPL'S PROJECTS
ARE THE GALILEO MISSION TO
JUPITER AND THE MARS ROVERS,
INCLUDING THE PATHFINDER TO
MARS IN 1997 AND THE MARS
EXPLORATION ROVERS MISSION
IN 2003.

Likewise, this visit highlighted the important and long-standing collaboration between Argentina and the United States in the satellite field, such as the experiences linked to SAC-C and SAC-D, operated by the National Commission for Space Activities CONAE. SAC-C is for remote sensing of vegetation, wetlands and ecosystems, and SAC-D "Aquarius" to measure ocean salinity and water cycles.

Regarding the latter, the work carried out in Mar del Plata by Innova Space, and the launch of its MDQubeSAT-1 satellite, General San Martín, were also highlighted.

Reference was made of the importance of the DS3 Malargüe Station, built by the European Space Agency, which provides routine spacecraft tracking support to ESA's deep-space missions for the follow-up of deep space exploration missions.

After the tour of the laboratory and its facilities, a meeting was held with Argentine scientists, professionals, and technicians working at JPL-NASA, during which the participants exchanged personal, work, and scientific experiences.

Miguel San Martín was presented with a diploma in recognition of his role as an outstanding representative of the Argentine community abroad; he expressed his gratitude for the distinction and reiterated his willingness to collaborate in events that may be useful to promote opportunities related to Argentina.

During the meeting, the work carried out by JPL Cost Engineer Carlos Briñoccoli was also recognized; he played a vital role in the creation of the Network of Argentine Scientists in the Western United States, and will serve as its technical coordinator. ■