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THE JUMP TO THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF THE FIRM THAT WANTS TO EXTRACT URANIUM IN SALAMANCA

BELÉN RODRIGO

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Last Wednesday, Berkeley Energía, a company specializing in the mining sector, debuted on the Spanish Stock Exchange with the traditional bell ringing. An operation carried out through a tri-listing connecting the stock exchanges of Spain, London and Australia, the first of these characteristics in the Spanish market. Berkeley debuted on the parquet floor of Madrid with a rise of 51.9%. The company of Australian origin with British headquarters is developing a mining project in the region of Salamanca for the extraction of uranium. «I am very proud of what we are doing in Spain. It is a very important project that will give jobs to many people, "Paul Atherley, CEO of the group, explained in an interview with ABC Empresa.

With this presence in the stock market is expected to increase interest in the company "generating support among Spanish institutional investors." Remember also that what is being built "is the best mine in the world, in the best place, at the point of origin of an international benchmark such as Rio Tinto".

They have been working on the mine project in Retortillo (Salamanca) for more than five years and Atherley says that "the whole process has been very transparent, the administration is very professional and we are very comfortable with how everything has developed". It is divided into three phases, "the first, the pre-approval for construction, which is ready". The

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second, the license, "we are waiting for," and the third, "correct the procedures to put the mine to work." The idea is to produce uranium by the end of 2019. The total investment will be 250 million euros "and we will create a total of 450 direct jobs". The University of Salamanca "has indicated that another 2,000 indirect jobs will be generated". Works divided into five ranges with different characteristics including "many Spanish engineers with very high qualifications".

Protests

Since the project was announced, neighborhood groups and ecologists have shown their rejection of it. Aware of this discomfort, Paul Atherley believes it is more important to note that "200 businessmen in the area support us, they want the project and the work because the local impact is going to be real". He claims to have listened to those critical voices and all the factors have been taken into account when constructing the mine.

The project, pending the authorization of the CSN, would generate 450 direct jobs

This initiative will generate long-term results worldwide, capable of supplying more than four million pounds of uranium per year, equivalent to 10% of the total required in Europe. In this way, it is ensured that the European Union will be able to count on an internal supplier. "The European guidelines point to the need to build more mines that in addition to giving jobs to young people that allow reducing European dependence on imports," clarifies the responsible. Subaraya also that the Association of Mining Regions of Europe (EURACOM) "welcomes us, what we are doing is necessary". For the CEO of Berkeley, it is worrisome that "Castilla y León has lost more people than in another Spanish area. We are creating conditions so that young people can stay and create their family there »

The price of the cost of uranium "is at the lowest point and as a business, it is the best time to build". Remember that the use of this element will grow. "We want clean energy in our lives, driving an electric car ... we are seeing the greatest transformation in terms of energy in history," says the CEO of Berkeley. Everyone wants electrical things and for that "more clean energy is needed". If there is no more sun or more wind, "the other source of clean energy we have is nuclear."

The company awaits the opinion of the Nuclear Safety Council on the construction of the mine but Atherley is very sure that everything will continue as planned. It also studies new investments in Spain.