

The tallest VSoL[®] Wall for the biggest copper mine in the world, Chuquicamata, Chile



▲ Building a 4,000m² 36 m high was an amazing goal, the project was built with non-galvanized mesh

Chuquicamata is the biggest open cast mine of the world and is located in the middle of the Atacama desert.

The mine belongs to Codelco, a public company which reports the largest turnover in the Chilean economy.

In 2001 Codelco decided to build a rock crusher in the middle of the mine, to enable the crushed rock to be transported out by a conveyor belt through a tunnel, rather than by truck.

Savings in truck tyres alone would easily justify this investment, so how big should the crusher be to meet the mine's requirements?

The solution required a 36 m tall wall, with heavy truck loading applied to the retained ground at the top.

VSL Chile took the challenge and started studying the solution, but convincing the owner to build something which had never been done before, wasn't an easy task.

VSL Chile's Engineers with the assistance of the best geotechnical Consultants in Chile, studied the problem and concluded that the absence of water and the life of rock crusher (8 years), wouldn't cause corrosion to be the main factor in the VSoL[®] mesh design.

So the project was built with non-galvanized mesh, making for a more cost-effective solution for the Client.

Building a 4,000 m² 36 m high was an amazing goal, our Client and everyone in VSL Chile felt proud of taking and achieving such a landmark project.

Scope of works performed

- Engineering of VSoL[®] Solution.
- Precast of Concrete Panels
- Supply of VSoL[®] Components.
- Supervision of Panel Erection.

PROJECT

Chuquicamata E4 Rock Crusher

OWNER

CODELCO

MAIN CONTRACTOR

Leighton Contractors (Asia) Limited

ENGINEER

VSL Chile

VSL ENTITY

VSL Sistemas Especiales de Construccion. Chile.