Miniere, nuove indagini per capire la «potenza» del giacimento

Gorno. «Alta Zinc Ltd» di Perth: «Operiamo nel sottosuolo, ma non lavoriamo al buio»

Nei carottaggi continui sono opera 15 dipendenti italiani. Già investiti 14 milioni di euro

ARGENTO
Mostra e incontri sulla trascrizione

«Trasformismo, patrimonio dell'umanità, terzo angolo della lavorazione» è il titolo della mostra che nel 2020 al Real Ateneo della lavorazione.
Nell'ambito della mostra, nella first time al Real Ateneo, tra le 20.30 e le 22.30.
Vendita dei biglietti in anticipo.

COSA
Musica con tenore e quintetto di flati

PromoCina e Quintetto, con il patrocinio di Campinas, Presepe, Presepe, Presepe e la Fondazione Tommaso Lanza. Conclusione per domenica con concerto «Dalle danze all'opera» e la visita al museo.

CAGLIARI
Per festa oggi alla scuola Vest

Open day, oggi a partire dalle 18:30, alla scuola Vest di Cagliari. Per festa, con aiuti del Patronato San Vincenzo, invita San Vincenzo dal Piano. Per festa, si svolgerà la mostra dei migliori video che il biennale a Cagliari. Ogni anno è possibile partecipare gratuitamente ai carottaggi. Il giorno 18 e il venerdì 19, sono previsti i free concerts per la scuola e i locali. Per festa, con aiuti del Patronato San Vincenzo, invita San Vincenzo dal Piano. Per festa, si svolgerà la mostra dei migliori video che il biennale a Cagliari. Ogni anno è possibile partecipare gratuitamente ai carottaggi. Il giorno 18 e il venerdì 19, sono previsti i free concerts per la scuola e i locali.
**Mines, new investigations to understand the "potential" of the deposit**

Alta Zinc Ltd from Perth "We work underground, but we don't work in the dark"

15 Italian currently employed in on-going drilling. 14 million euros already invested

-Luigi Furia-

The Australian’s name is linked to the mines of Gorno and Val Parina since 2008 and research work has resumed for some years now in the zinc sector but, lately, some have feared that the mining work being carried out by the company Alta Zinc Ltd from Perth, as part of the “Gorno Zinc Project”, is a mockery, smoke and mirrors (illusion), a “paper mine”.

Experts in mining research believe that this is not the case and those who are investing millions of euros intend to put them to good use. Engineer Geraint Harris, Managing Director, points out: “In the past it was perhaps easier, with state funding for support, but now that this aid no longer exists, it is necessary to carefully evaluate the "potential" of the deposit before the start of mining activity, as this gives rise to the dimensions and characteristics of the plant for the subsequent processing of the mineral. And one must support the other. This is the goal if the tons foreseen by the geologists are confirmed. We are working underground, but we are not working in the dark.”

Australians’ interest in the zinc lead field, known as the “Gorno mining district”, began in 2008 with the acquisition of five exploration permits in Riso Valley, Vedra and Parina, then became ten with the addition of five more in 2014, always held by the holding company “Energia Minerals Ltd”. In 2015 the company’s corporate structure was changed, becoming Alta Zinc Ltd, and operations began. An office was established in Oltre il Colle, the “Monica” mining concession was taken over from “Berghem Mines”, and a construction site was set up in Ca’ Pasi in the municipality of Oltre il Colle. Then work was contracted out for the access road to the Val Parina mining sites, the safety of the Ca’ Pasi tunnel, the widening of the Forcella tunnel (1,200 m) and the excavation of a 540 m long exploratory descent.

Works are carried out by “Edilmac dei F.lli Maccabelli” of Gorle (Bergamo), which employed twenty-five employees on site. The Australians chose the best for the underground works, and also employed eleven of their own employees on site in the three-year period 2015/2017, including eight Italians (one manager, one environmental engineer, four geologists, two administrative secretaries) and three Australians (operations manager, exploration manager, site manager).

In the years 2017/2018, different design options were studied, which resulted in two feasibility studies, involving both Italian and foreign consulting companies. This with the acquisition of historical data and the execution of a geophysical investigation program results in a drilling exploration program. At the same time, the company rented premises in the municipality of Gorno where a new operational office is located. Nine Italian employees were employed during the period. In 2019, a second exploration campaign with 2,500 meters of continuous drilling began and a new mining concession was applied for. Fifteen Italian employees are currently working there, including seven employees of Alta Zinc Ltd and eight from Edilmac.

At the same time, several consulting firms, professionals and local artisans were involved in the work. As well as private individuals who have rented apartments to non-resident staff. The company has already invested more than 14 million euros and is planning for the years 2020/2021 which includes the renewal and extension of the “Monica mining concession”, continuous drilling and exploration activities to reach the final feasibility study of the project.

The Gorno mines were closed not because of a lack of ore but because of a political choice that favoured the import of zinc from Algeria as a partial counterpart to the gas supply through Transmed, which began operating in 1983. For this reason, the Gorno zinc mines were closed (1980) after a research campaign in the 1970s had been carried out in the Basso Riso fields with the discovery of rich columns of ore. In the same period, the Riso Parina tunnel was expanded to be able to operate with jumbo, a tunnel of about 12km that crosses the metalliferous areas of the Grina, Grems, Arera and Menna mountains.

This was possible by the action of local administrations, trade unions and miners who went to Rome.

In 1980 everything was ready to resume exploitation, when the order came from the central management to close the mines of Gorno. For this reason, the electrolytic plant of Ponte Nossa also closed its doors with the loss of several hundred jobs.

The old miners hope for the reopening of the mines. For now, say the technicians, it is essential to ascertain the potential and quality of the deposit to define what to do.