ANDES
AGUA NEGRA DEEP EXPERIMENT SITE

Proposal for the construction of a Deep Underground
Laboratory in the Southern Hemisphere

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Summary of the proposal:

To build an Underground Lab in the AGUA NEGRA tunnel. The AGUA NEGRA tunnel is a road tunnel to be built under the Andes Mountains between Chile (Coquimbo Region) and Argentina (San Juan Province).

The Agua Negra Tunnel will be 14 km long at an altitude of 4000 m a.s.l.

ANDES, the underground lab, will be app. 4 km from the Chilean entrance, at the deepest point under the rock (1700 m overburden).

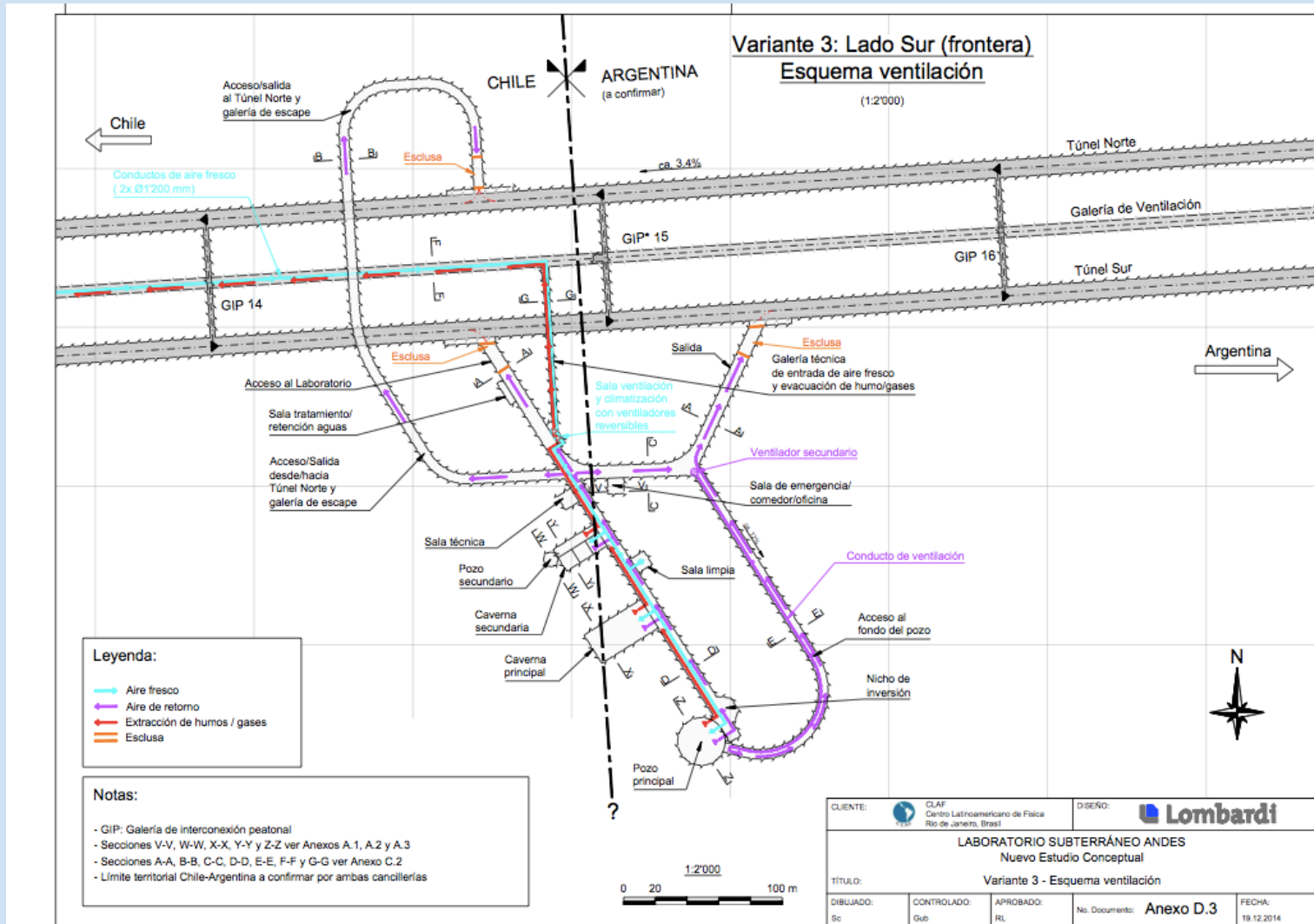**Latest advances (Jan 2015):**

- CLAF (Centro Latinoamericano de Física) has created the Unidad ANDES in its administration. This Unit will handle all funds and payments for the ANDES project.

- ANDES requested a Conceptual Study (CS) for the ANDES Lab to Lombardi SA, the firm in charge of the tunnel design. The cost was covered 50/50 from research grants of Chile and Argentina.

- The CS presented 6 options of design and locations.

- Pending as a next step is the Detailed Engineering Study, which has a cost near 480 kUSD. This study should be ordered before the end of March 2015 for ANDES to be integrated to the Tunnel design. Funds are not yet available.

Latest advances (cont.):

- The Ministry of Planning in Argentina has agreed to finance 50% of the lab construction, and in Chile there are current conversations with the Ministry of Work (MOP).

Latest advances (cont.):

   - Conceptual Study: option 3 is in principle the most favorable (at the border between the countries and at the deepest point).

Latest advances (cont.):

- ANDES has formal representation at CLAF.

- The Conceptual Study has been done and payed, and includes 6 alternative options of location, which must be prioritized and later decided according to the conditions of the site.

- The Detailed Engineering Study needs to be ordered soon, for ANDES to be part of the Tunnel design.

Thank You.