

NEVES CORVO SUCCEEDS TO NEVES CORVO.

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Neves Corvo is one of the richer volcanic-hosted massive sulfide deposits of the world (300 Mtons; 47 Mtons @ 5% Cu; 53 Mtons @ 11.30 Cu and 2.0 % Sn; 50Mtons @ 6% Zn). Its discovery in 1977 generated a notable recrudescence of the exploration activity in the Iberian Pyrite Belt, where it locates, aiming to find a new Neves Corvo deposit. The results are extremely encouraging as 9 new deposits and occurrences were discovered since though. However, up till now, none of those findings are comparable to the Neves Corvo deposit neither in size nor in ore grades. Periodic up-dating of estimates on ore reserves in operating deposits, usually reflects the progressive exhaustion of the existing resources while exploitation proceeds. Understandably, that evolution doesn't deserve much attention from the geologic community. However, in the Neves Corvo case, that common neglect hides a relevant fact: despite 11 years of intense production, the calculated amount of metals contained in this deposit almost duplicated relative to the initial estimates, leading to a pronounced augmentation of its estimated ore reserves:

Ore Type	Mtons	%Cu	%Sn	%Zn	%Pb
Copper Ore	32810	5.15	0.14	0.90	
- Tin Ore	1835	10.52	2.38	2.23	
- Zinc Ore	50353	0.50	0.07	5.99	1.32

This highly successful evolution has been possible due to a very effective control on the geologic and to a strong bet on the understanding of its ore-forming processes. Assessment to hydrothermal alteration zonation and stockwork mineralization patterns, in particular, was crucial for the success achieved.