

CREAMER MEDIA'S

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Circular Virtue

Tailings retreatment has emerged as core part of modern mining

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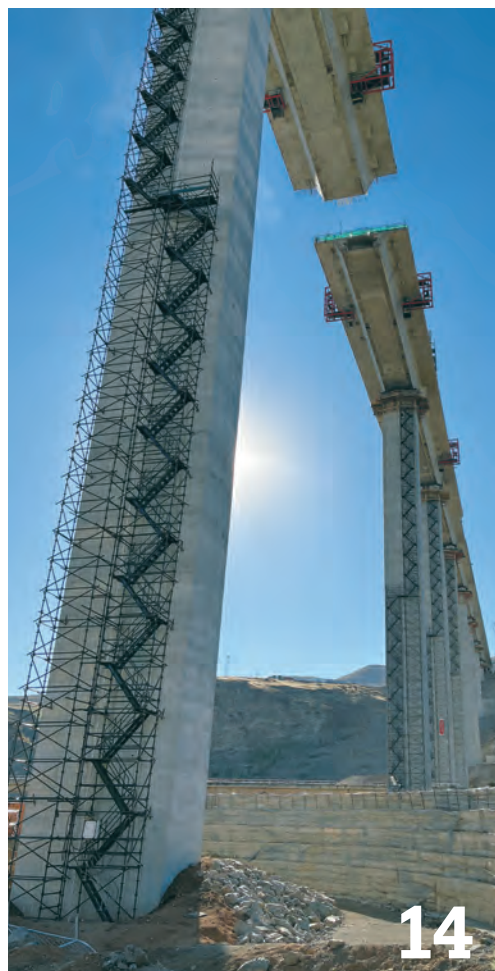
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PUSH PAUSE II

My five-year-old: "I don't want to be your daughter anymore. I QUIT!" No two-week notice or anything. She'd better not expect a reference.



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FIRST WORD



Martin Creamer | Publishing Editor

Europe's exceptionally friendly economic embrace of South Africa is very pleasing

"We can now take €12-billion into our Just Energy Transition Partnership," European Commission president **Ursula von der Leyen** remarked to an acknowledging **Cyril Ramaphosa** in Brussels last week. "This is a win-win situation. It'll make Africa stronger, our partnership deeper, and our planet healthier". Exceptionally friendly words such as these have been directed towards South Africa on several occasions in recent months by Von der Leyen. Against such a

promising backdrop, South Africa should make every effort to uplift economic relations with Europe as well as with all the other countries that are attending the G20 in Johannesburg next month. We're very lucky to be hosting such a big global get-together by so many collaborative countries.

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WINDS OF CHANGE: The giant Umbila Emoyeni Wind Farm is visibly changing the electricity landscape of the coal heartland of Mpumalanga. This month, Seriti Green announced that the third phase of the wind component of its 900 MW renewables development in the coal region had entered construction and that 25 wind turbines had already been installed near Bethal, Davel and Morgenzon. The third 155-MW phase advanced to financial close after securing long-term funding from Standard Bank, RMB and ABSA.

INNOVATION

Sustaining Growth

IT IS NOW WIDELY ACCEPTED that we live in a misinformation era – one where it has become acceptable, even fashionable, to be anti-science. Scientific consensus is making way for conspiracy theories, and scientists are often treated with far greater scepticism than social media influencers.

To be sure, rejecting science is nothing new, with numerous historical examples. Everything from the church's persecution of **Galileo Galilei** for his support for the idea that the Earth orbits the Sun, to opposition to the smallpox vaccine in the late eighteenth century (a trend that has contemporary echoes), to the fringe belief, made popular by a former South African President, that HIV did not cause Aids.

What is new, however, is the ability to disseminate, popularise, globalise, and politicise such messages at the speed of light and to amplify their impact by using the digital communication platforms now available.

In such a context, the 2025 Sveriges Riksbank Prize for Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel provides an important reminder of the centrality of scientific innovation to sustained growth; a phenomenon that the work of the prize winners shows is neither guaranteed nor the historical norm.

This year's prize was shared between economic historian **Joel Mokyr** and economic theorists **Philippe Aghion** and **Peter Howitt**.

Mokyr has been recognised for his description of the mechanisms that enable scientific breakthroughs to support growth,

including the importance of a society being open to new ideas, so that incumbent interests do not prevent progress.

Aghion and Howitt have been acknowledged for their mathematical model that shows how technological advancement leads to sustained growth and explains the transformative process of creative destruction, whereby companies and jobs continually disappear and are replaced.

There is a recognition in this work that sustained growth does not equate to sustainable growth, and that innovations can have significant negative side effects. However, Mokyr argues that such negative effects sometimes prompt the uncovering of solutions to problems, making technological development a self-correcting process.

Such a message seems particularly apt for this moment, where the threat posed by climate change is increasingly visible, and those who rightfully fear its destructive consequences are arguing for a de-growth agenda. Such arguments have probably helped fuel current resistance to the innovations that have emerged to mitigate the climate threat.

But in truth, the resistance is rooted in what some call anti-scientism, and a desire to protect incumbents from the forces of creative destruction. This can be seen in the restrictions being imposed on academic freedom, and in moves to entrench the power of those companies that have dominated energy markets for more than a generation.

That said, the resistance is not universal, with the process of creative destruction arguably visible in the emergence of electro states that have grasped the reality that clean electricity is the fuel of the future; one that will be increasingly digital in nature.

The question for South Africa is whether we will be one of them.

Terence Creamer | Editor



PUSH PAUSE II

It is not work that kills, but worry. African proverb



UNDER PRESSURE: The pressures faced by the South African steel industry have been well documented throughout the year. The lack of domestic demand growth, coupled with rising electricity and logistics costs, continues to eat into margins. However, the industry is also at the centre of trade-war hostilities, where tariffs are the order of the day. In the process, surplus steel is seeking new markets and there are reports that imports into South Africa are surging. There are no good solutions, but government intervention is looking increasingly likely.

FACTS IN FIGURES

300

The amount in billion rands to which municipal arrear debt owed to South African State-owned power utility Eskom could increase by 2030, CFO Calib Cassim reported at the utility's results presentation at the end of September.

4 200

The price in dollars per ounce to which gold could rise by mid-2026, according to global financial services firm UBS.

Africa is rising . . .
We must, as a region, take control of our resources.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO MINES MINISTER **LOUIS WATUM KABAMBA** DELIVERING A KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE AFRICA MINING WEEK 2025 CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 1.

Mining Multiplier

Exploration-driven mining revival would reignite industrialisation

TERENCE CREAMER | CREAMER MEDIA EDITOR

Rather than focusing narrowly on minerals beneficiation, South African policymakers have been urged to pay much closer attention to reigniting and expanding the market for the country's already extensive mining-linked manufacturing base by reviving and accelerating exploration and mine development activity.

Speaking at the Joburg Indaba, Southern Palladium executive chairperson **Roger Baxter** highlighted the extensive industrial capability and capacity that had already taken shape around the country's mining sector, describing the Gauteng city of Ekurhuleni, for instance, as a "mining supplier park".

"One of South Africa's biggest exports over the last ten years has actually been mining technologies and services to the rest of Africa, because the industry hasn't grown domestically," the former Minerals Council South Africa CEO said.

"A lot of local companies at the mining supply level have exported their skills into the African continent and around the world.

"There's not a single part of the world where mining is taking place globally, whether it's Latin America, North America, Australia, or Africa, where South Africans are not involved in some way or another," Baxter said, while also pointing to the academic, research and services capabilities that remained intact despite the lacklustre domestic mining performance.

"If we had a growing mining industry, all those other components that add value

would all be growing too," Baxter said, while stressing that such growth had to begin with exploration.

Exploration, however, continued to be weighed down by policy uncertainty, administrative delays, lack of a functional mining cadastre and insufficient visibility of the resource potential, given that only 20% of the country had been mapped at a geophysical level.

"If that pre-competitive information was done for 80% of the country, and you were able to give much shorter timelines to allow the venture capital-funded junior exploration companies to come and invest in the country, it would be a massive boost to the pipeline."

Kearney partner **Prashaen Reddy** agreed that scaling up exploration would be foundational to growing mining's contribution to the economy, as well as to stimulating industrialisation, including through beneficiation where it made commercial sense.

Reddy also argued that, for mining to play a catalytic role in rebuilding South Africa's industrial base, it should play to its existing strengths, while exploring new areas where South Africa could manufacture the components and technologies needed for both domestic and international mining companies.

He argued that demand for such products could be further stimulated through greater procurement collaboration between the mining and energy clusters.

Eunomix CEO **Claude de Baissac** called for a back-to-basics approach to growing mining that did not focus primarily on seeking to "force" a comparative advantage in minerals into a competitive advantage in processing and manufacturing.

"Instead of trying to preserve this or preserve that, let's rather have the conversation about how you unlock the potential of downstream industries through creating real competitive advantage.

"And you do that not by restricting exports or imposing taxes and quotas . . . I think the conversation needs to pivot towards a conversation about competitiveness at a manufacturing level and what we can do from a country level perspective, as opposed to putting pressure on mining companies to go down the [beneficiation] route," De Baissac said. ■



ROGER BAXTER

Exploration continues to be weighed down by policy uncertainty

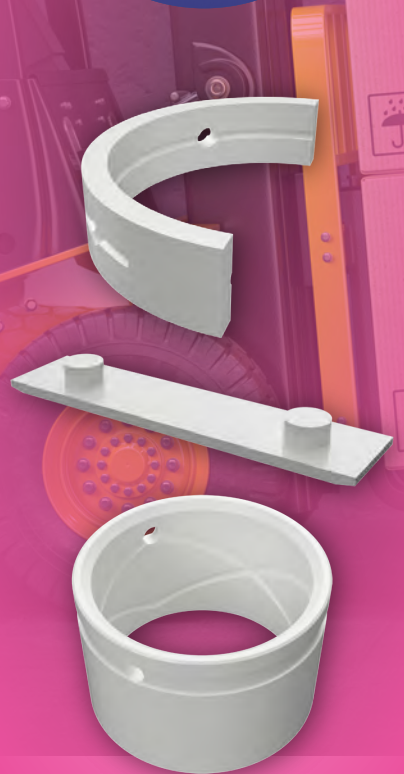
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ELECTRICITY

Mislabelling Fallout

Classifying Eskom's coal fuel costs as fixed would damage SAWEM

TERENCE CREAMER | CREAMER MEDIA EDITOR

Allowing Eskom Generation to classify the primary energy used by its coal power stations as fixed costs will undermine the objective of using the upcoming launch of the South African Wholesale Electricity Market (SAWEM) to usher in a competitive supply industry.

This stark warning was delivered by **Jenna Harris**, an experienced energy professional, who was also founder and former CEO of a licensed electricity trader, during recent regulatory hearings into the National Transmission Company South Africa's (NTCSA's) application for a Market Operator licence.

While making no objection to the licence application itself, Harris urged the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (Nersa) to pay closer attention to the proposed SAWEM structure and the Market Code, which will set the rules for participation and engagement.

SAWEM could be launched by April next year, but is likely to be delayed in light of the various approvals still required, including approval of the Market Code, which has been widely canvassed but is yet to be submitted to Nersa for public participation and adjudication.

In her presentation, Harris noted that Eskom Generation is expected to be the dominant participant in SAWEM at its launch and is seeking to recover much of its fixed costs and its fuel costs through regulated tariffs and vesting contracts, independent of SAWEM prices.

Should that be the case, the coal-fired power stations would then bid marginal costs into the SAWEM that would be artificially low, possibly at between 20c/kWh and 30c/kWh, with its far higher total costs recovered through a fixed-cost pass-through in the regulated



JENNA HARRIS

Nersa must pay closer attention to the proposed SAWEM structure and the Market Code

tariff charged to customers by Eskom Distribution.

Such "low-ball prices" would make it impossible for independent power producers (IPPs) to raise finance to build new capacity to bid into SAWEM, as they would need to be able to recover their full costs. These would be between 50c/kWh and 85c/kWh for utility-scale solar PV and about 100c/kWh for wind.

Harris argued that, under these conditions, the SAWEM, promoted as a platform for broad multi-party participation, risks functioning in practice as little more than Eskom trading with itself.

Eskom's proposed vesting contracts for the SAWEM guarantee their cost recovery, even as

private buyers increasingly source power from IPPs. To offset lost sales, Eskom is expected to push more costs into fixed charges — a shift that Harris said would erode IPP competitiveness and discourage new investment. With no clear sunset on these protections, consumers risk paying for coal costs they don't need.

A more cost reflective price would emerge, however, if Eskom Generation were to include its primary energy costs and environmental taxes and levies into its marginal cost bid into the SAWEM. Harris argued that this would then support a meaningful investment case for private sector participation.

She, thus, urged Nersa to reject the suggestion that Eskom Generation's coal costs be classified as fixed costs purely on the basis that they were procured under long-term contracts.

"This is completely inappropriate with respect to global norms and accounting practices," she said, arguing that it would result in the SAWEM being little more than a charade masquerading as liberalisation.

Harris also called on the regulator to place time limits on the phase-out of vesting contracts to prevent customers from having to fund uncompetitive generation capacity that the market no longer required.

A failure to do so could entrench coal's current market dominance, delay the scheduled decommissioning of more than 20 GW of coal-fired capacity in the 2030s and undermine the business case for the much-needed renewables and flexible generation investments required to replace coal in line with the just energy transition.

She also argued that government should immediately halt the public procurement of new renewables that will enjoy a cost pass-through into the regulated tariff.

"It is more appropriate for Eskom Distribution, through its trading function, to be the initiator and counterpart of such contracts moving forward, just as any other trader would in a liberalised market design."

That said, she warned that the entity's current dual role of distribution and trading posed a risk of market abuse, which was already in evidence in the way Eskom Distribution was limiting grid and customer access for IPPs.

From a governance perspective, Harris also urged the regulator to ensure that the Market Operator's board comprised a majority of independent directors and that no Eskom Holdings executives be allowed a seat on the board.

In addition, she recommended that Nersa should provide its concurrence for the appointment of senior executives, including the CEO. ■

SAWEM risks functioning as little more than Eskom trading with itself

Jenna Harris

MINING INDUSTRY

Balanced Advance

Promote growth, transformation together,
Minerals Council South Africa urges

MARTIN CREAMER | CREAMER MEDIA PUBLISHING EDITOR

Growth of the mining industry and the transformation of the economy are inextricably intertwined but need a stable, predictable regulatory environment that promotes both together, Minerals Council South Africa president **Paul Dunne** told the Joburg Indaba audience.

A mining industry that attracts local and international capital for the development of new mines and the expansion of existing operations would, he said, create more employment opportunities, attract new entrants, and multiply all the benefits that the mining industry delivers for the country.

The Minerals Council would not relent in lobbying and advocating for the best possible regulatory and operating environment to realise this potential.

"Mining is a very people-centric industry and we're deeply connected to the fabric of society at ground level. It's important that we succeed.

"Providers of capital will not put their money into risky environments where their returns are threatened by regulatory uncertainty, crime and corruption and failing infrastructure. At the very least, the cost of capital increases significantly, rendering projects unviable that otherwise would proceed," Dunne pointed out.

"The mining industry has been severely constrained during the past three decades by regulatory uncertainty, weak administrative processes, unnecessary delays in licensing authorisations, as well as the severe

repercussions that State capture has had on electricity supply and costs, and rail and port disruptions.

"The mining industry has enormous untapped potential in the minerals we already mine and the minerals of the future, provided we can unlock exploration and attract investment," Dunne said.

It costs R20-billion and ten years to build a decent sized mine. Very few mining companies have that type of money lying around on the balance sheet. Companies need to operate in an environment that allows them to attract capital in the form of debt or equity to fund projects.

Currently, South African mining employs 465 000 people in relatively well paid jobs that come with a high economic multiplier effect and the industry spends some R7-billion a year on training and skills development.

"Mining is so much more than just digging minerals out of the ground. Companies have extensive social and labour plans, which uplift communities through enterprise and supplier development programmes, as well as large investments in infrastructure, schools and healthcare facilities."

In many cases, mining operations take place in remote parts of the country, where they are the only source of jobs and income.

Often, mining companies step in to provide services and infrastructure that failing or dysfunctional municipal governments are not delivering.

Mining accounts for 6% of GDP and R800-billion worth of exported mineral products, representing 45% of total exports.

Corporate tax payments amounting to R43-billion make up 14% of total corporate tax collection.

"Mining matters' is not just a slogan, it is a fact," Dunne pointed out, while emphasising the critical importance of having a pragmatic, stable regulatory environment that attracts investment rather than discourages it through onerous, globally uncompetitive policy.

"It's our considered view that the proposed Minerals Amendment Bill in its original form does not encourage or sustain the growth and investment that the mining industry needs to realise its full potential to create employment, to stimulate the economy and to fulfil its social mandate," Dunne pointed out. ■



PAUL DUNNE

Providers of capital will not put their money into risky environments



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Green Wall

Despite some immediate CBAM reprieve, South African industry warns of serious potential fallout

TERENCE CREAMER | CREAMER MEDIA EDITOR

A postponement from incorporating indirect carbon emissions into the European Union's (EU's) calculation of a product's embedded emissions under its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will provide something of a short-term reprieve to South African steel and aluminium exporters, which are heavily exposed to the measure.

The EU intends implementing the CBAM from January 1, 2026, and the postponement will continue until at least 2027.

Nevertheless, local industry remains concerned about the threat posed by the CBAM to their medium-term competitiveness, warning of possible further deindustrialisation and job losses.

European Commission director-general of taxation and customs union **Gerassimos Thomas** acknowledged during a workshop with South African stakeholders that the CBAM would affect 6% of the country's steel and aluminium exports to the EU, valued at €1.2-billion yearly.

However, he also noted recent changes, including the decision to exclude Scope 2, or indirect, product embedded emission calculations for at least the first two years of the CBAM's implementation.

The EU has also decided to exclude yearly imports of below 50 t from the CBAM to help smaller importers, as well as countries linked to the EU emissions trading system.

Likewise, it has streamlined its certificate management process, removed the obligation

to buy CBAM certificates quarterly in 2026, indicating that this will start in February of 2027, and postponed the deadline for submitting yearly CBAM declarations from May 31 to September 30.

In the South African context, the change in approach to indirect emissions is significant, as Scope 2 emissions are high because affected companies rely heavily on coal-derived electricity produced by Eskom.

During the initial phase, Scope 2 emissions will not be taken into account for iron and steel, aluminium, electricity and hydrogen imports into the EU, but will remain in place for cement and fertiliser imports.

Under the scheme, importers are required to purchase CBAM certificates, the value of which is calculated by measuring the embedded emissions of a ton of the product, then subtracting those emissions covered by a free allocation in the EU and/or paid for under a carbon price in the originating country, before multiplying the figure by the volume of the product being imported.

Each CBAM certificate is equal to a ton of a product's embedded carbon.

The CBAM is imposed uniformly on companies rather than countries, making exemptions at a country level improbable.

Thomas argued that the implementation of the CBAM would be "very gradual" to allow for companies to adjust and stressed that the objective was to change environmental behaviour, rather than penalise exporters or raise revenue. He also argued that the direct emissions of South African exporters to the EU compared favourably with companies in other jurisdictions, and could be improved further through investments into cleaner production methods.

Nevertheless, the South African government, together with industry and trade analysts, remains strongly opposed to the CBAM, and wary even of the concessions and simplifications made in recent months.

Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies economist **Seutame Maimele** said during the workshop hosted by the German Embassy and the EU Delegation to South Africa that the 50 t/y exclusion threshold might help exporters in other parts of Africa. But it was unlikely to be effective for South African companies, which typically exported at

volumes exceeding that yearly level.

Maimele also remained concerned about the cost to companies of establishing and maintaining the measurement, reporting, and verification systems required to collect and report emissions data under the CBAM and also questioned why the EU had not made greater initial concessions for developing countries.

Timing Mismatch

While acknowledging the postponement in the incorporation of Scope 2 emissions into the CBAM calculation, he stressed that if it were reintroduced in 2027, South African exporters would be penalised, as they relied on a coal-based electricity system that could not be decarbonised in the short term.

There was also currently no recognition for renewable energy certification.

This timing "mismatch" was reinforced by Minerals Council South Africa's **Shamini Harrington** and the National Business Initiative's **Gillian Maree**, who highlighted the long-term nature of the investments required to facilitate a transition from coal.

Harrington warned that the sectors exposed to the CBAM were considered "hard to abate" from an emissions perspective and that, despite the threat posed by the CBAM, were also experiencing various other headwinds, from unstable energy supply to logistics blockages.

"These are price takers in the global market. We cannot simply pass these costs on, so the CBAM costs will be absorbed directly, squeezing already tight profit margins further," she said.

She, thus, cautioned that the CBAM would further exacerbate the problems of deindustrialisation and unemployment.

More than 600 000 jobs could be placed at further risk as a result of the CBAM once the full value-chain effects were taken into account, Harrington added.

EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism policy officer **Klaus Röhrig** stressed that the EU had adjusted the CBAM following ongoing bilateral and multilateral discussions with governments and companies, as well as through a CBAM expert group.

He, too, stressed implementation would be gradual but underlined that, in keeping with the World Trade Organisation principles of fair and equal treatment, any exemptions would apply to all CBAM declarants. ■



CARBON CRUNCH

Despite CBAM reprieve, South African steel braces for a long-term hit

To watch a video in which European Commission director-general of taxation and customs union Gerassimos Thomas speaks about some of the recent changes made to the scheme, which is set to affect South African steel and aluminium exporters from 2026, scan the barcode or visit www.engineeringnews.co.za.



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Clean Partnership

Discovery Green, Glencore sign 20-year renewables deal to power coal mines

MARTIN CREAMER | CREAMER MEDIA PUBLISHING EDITOR

To support South Africa's transition to clean energy, Discovery Green, the renewable-energy business of Discovery Limited, and Glencore Operations South Africa, part of the global diversified natural resources group, have signed a 20-year renewable energy supply agreement that will replace the majority of the electricity consumption at four of Glencore's major mining operations with renewable energy.

Starting in 2027, Discovery Green will supply renewable energy to the Goedgevonden, Tweefontein, and iMpunzi mine complexes near eMalahleni, in the Nkangala district. The electricity consumption across these operations is estimated to exceed 290 gigawatt-hours (GWh) a year.

This long-term agreement is expected to substantially reduce the operations' direct carbon emissions, while providing Glencore with stable, predictable electricity costs.

"We're excited to support Glencore, a major player in South Africa's economy, on their journey towards renewable energy," Discovery Green head **Andre Nepgen** stated in a release to *Engineering News & Mining Weekly*.

"This deal is one of the largest renewable energy trading agreements in the country and the first solution we've co-designed with an offtaker to dynamically adjust supply as their strategy and operations evolve.

"It's a new model for the mining sector that can be replicated across other industries – offering cost savings, long-term price certainty and a clear path towards a low-carbon future," Nepgen added.

Glencore's commitment to sustainability is central to this partnership. This agreement supports Glencore's broader Climate Action Transition Plan, which includes expanding its renewable-energy portfolio.

"This partnership with Discovery Green is a key part of our strategy to decarbonise our South African operations while maintaining energy security," Glencore Coal South Africa CEO **Murray Houston** explained. "It reflects our commitment to responsible mining, long-term sustainability, and supporting South Africa's energy transition."

Delivering Clean Power at Scale

Glencore joins a growing list of leading businesses that have partnered with Discovery



ANDRE NEPGEN

This is one of the largest renewable energy trading agreements in the country

Green to transition to renewable energy, including Sasol, Impala Platinum, Fortress REIT and Southern Sun.

Under the agreement, energy will be generated from Discovery Green's growing base of contracted large-scale wind and solar farms and delivered to Glencore's mining operations through the national grid.

"South Africa has some of the best renewable-energy resources in the world, and this agreement shows how we can harness them to deliver clean, reliable power at scale. Our focus is on building the infrastructure and partnerships needed to unlock this potential and support the country's transition to a more sustainable energy future," Nepgen pointed out.

Backed by the scale and actuarial expertise of the Discovery Group, Discovery Green empowers businesses to replace more than 90% of their electricity demand with affordable, price-certain renewable energy. Through partnerships with some of the country's largest wind and solar plants, Discovery Green aims to contribute significantly to South Africa's energy transition.

Glencore is one of the world's largest global diversified natural resource companies and a major producer and marketer of more than 60 commodities that advance everyday life. Through a network of assets, customers, and suppliers that spans the globe, it produces, process, recycles, sources, markets, and distributes the commodities that support decarbonisation while meeting energy needs. ■

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Refraline expands local capability with new anchor manufacturing facility

South African refractory specialist Refraline has broadened its manufacturing capabilities with the launch of a new stainless steel anchor production facility, a move the company says will enhance quality control, reduce lead times, and provide customers with a more comprehensive service offering.

Refraline, which has operated in the refractory sector for 45 years, has steadily grown its portfolio across material supply, manufacturing and installation. Refraline divisional manager for material trading, precast and stainless steel anchors

Gareth Newall says that the addition of anchor manufacturing represents a natural extension of the company's existing expertise.

"Refractory anchors tie hand-in-hand with the monolithic products we already produce. Bringing this process in-house strengthens our competitive advantage and allows us to serve customers faster and more effectively," he notes.

Anchors play a critical role in stabilising refractory linings within industrial furnaces and other high-temperature process equipment. They must be carefully

selected and designed based on operating conditions such as heat, vibration and chemical exposure.

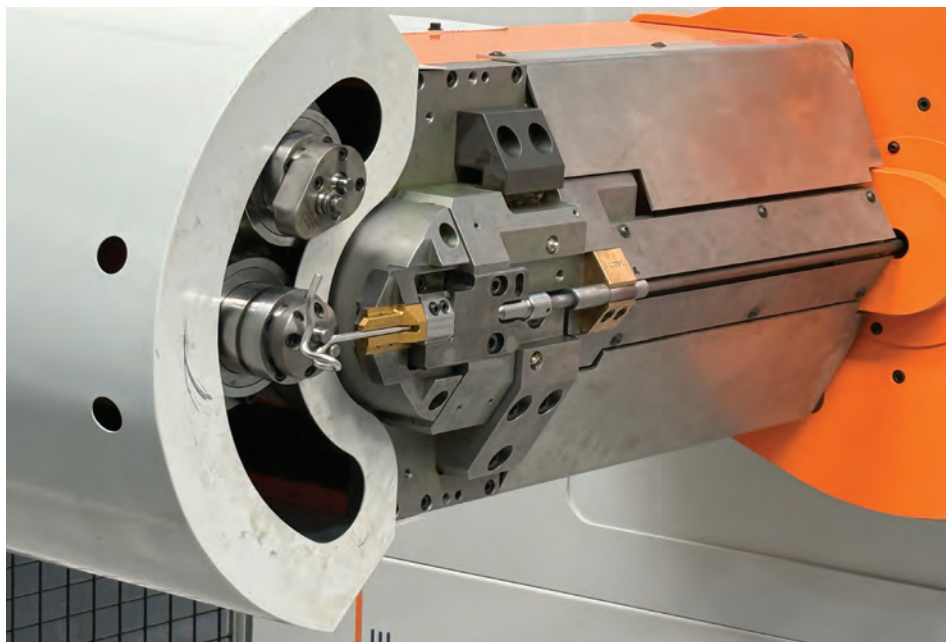
"Anchors need to be welded or bolted into place and designed according to the thickness of the lining, the operational environment, and the grade of stainless steel required," Newall explains. "These factors determine not just the anchor's dimensions, but also whether materials such as Inconel or higher-grade steels are necessary for extreme conditions."

Quality Assurance

Quality has been a central focus in establishing the new facility. Refraline sources stainless steel coils from certified suppliers, accompanied by test certificates. These are further verified through in-house and, when required, independent laboratory testing.

"Once we receive the coils, we test them to ensure they meet client requirements. We then label and allocate them by grade, ensuring complete traceability from procurement through to final installation," Newall explains.

During production, each anchor is checked against design specifications. "We monitor angle, height and diameter closely, ensuring the finished product matches the approved client drawing. That attention to detail underpins the reliability of our anchors in service," he adds.



By manufacturing anchors locally, Refraline can significantly shorten turnaround times compared with imports. The company also maintains minimum stock levels of commonly used grades to meet urgent requirements.

"The immediate benefit is lead time. Overseas procurement introduces delays, but by producing locally, we can deliver quickly — even on unplanned orders. This strengthens client confidence and secures market share," Newall says.

Equally important is Refraline's ability to integrate anchor manufacturing with its wider refractory solutions. "We can manage the full chain, from thermal calculations and design drawings through to material supply, anchor production and final installation. That makes us a true one-stop shop," he emphasises.

Advanced Technology in Design, Production

The facility is equipped with a modern 3D computer numerical control (CNC) bending machine, which enables rapid and precise anchor manufacture. Refraline draughtsperson **Praylene Dikshoorn** explains that the process begins with a CAD drawing, which is converted into a CNC programme.

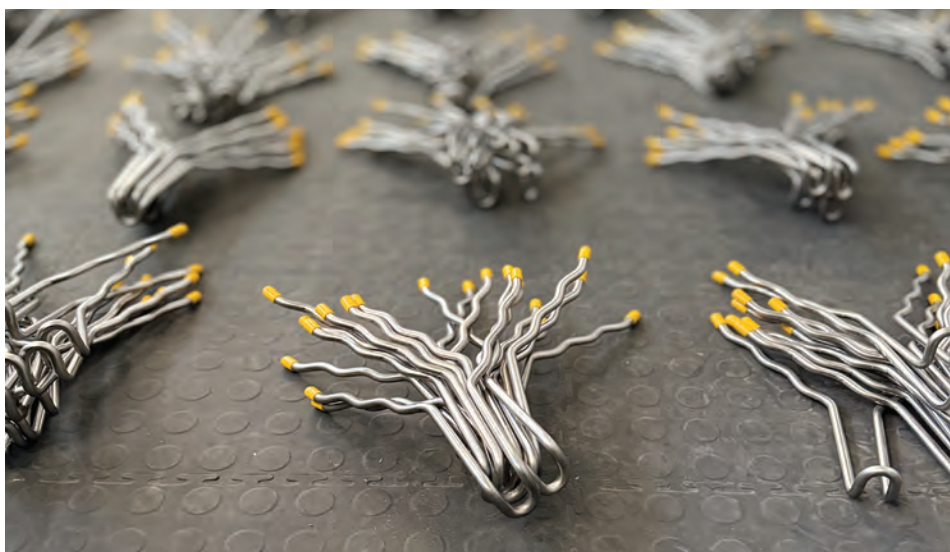
"Once the client approves a design, I feed it directly into the machine, make the necessary adjustments, and run a sample. If everything matches the drawing, we proceed to full production," she explains.

Depending on the size, anchors can be produced in seconds. Shorter designs take as little as two seconds, while longer models may require around 12 seconds.

The machine's bending technology also produces smoother surfaces compared with pressed anchors, which can leave sharp edges. "Pressed anchors often show press marks that may compromise the lining material. With our method, we avoid that risk, ensuring a cleaner, higher-quality product," Dikshoorn notes.

Refraline offers a wide variety of anchor types, from gullwings and bullhorns for shorter linings to more specialised designs for insulated systems. Some anchors are threaded or notched, providing versatility for different installation methods.

"The design depends entirely on the application — whether it's for insulation, wear resistance or impact resistance. We work closely with clients to advise on the



most suitable solution," Dikshoorn says.

Looking ahead, Newall sees the anchor facility as a springboard for further expansion. "Right now, one CNC machine can handle a substantial workload. But as demand grows, we anticipate adding more machines and broadening our capacity," he says.

For Refraline, the new division represents

more than just additional capability. It reinforces the company's reputation for professionalism, quality and innovation in refractory solutions.

"What we want clients to see when they walk into this facility is neatness, cleanliness and professionalism; a reflection of the standards Refraline has maintained for 45 years," Newall concludes.

Scan the QR Code to watch a video of Refraline's Gareth Newall and Praylene Dikshoorn discussing the company's new anchor manufacturing facility.



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INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Highlands Link

Construction of LHWP's Senqu Bridge enters final lap

NATASHA ODENDAAL | CREAMER MEDIA SENIOR DEPUTY EDITOR

Construction of the Senqu bridge, a part of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), is nearing completion, ensuring the connection of communities across the Polihali reservoir.

Once the Polihali dam is complete, its reservoir will flood 5 042 ha of the Senqu and Khubelu river valleys, submerging roads, farmland and sections of Lesotho's vital A1 national route.

Without intervention, the regional hub, Mokhotlong, would lose its primary road link to the rest of the country.

Three existing river crossings on the primary A1 route will vanish beneath the water, including the deepest at the Senqu river, where the valley will be inundated to a depth of about 80 m.

Completion of the extradosed Senqu bridge will mitigate this.

"This bridge is not just about engineering; it is about ensuring that communities remain connected, that children can still get to school and that trade and livelihoods can continue, despite the changes the dam will bring," says LHWP Phase II divisional manager **Nts'oli Maiketso**.

Construction of the bridge started in June 2023, following completion of site establishment.

By July last year, eight of the 15 piers had been completed and work was under way on the leading deck segments on both banks. By December, the contractor had completed all 15 piers and both abutments – a major milestone.

By the end of February this year, the two extradosed cable-stay sections had been cast and launched, the deck was more than 25% complete and the overall project was past the 75% completion mark.

The leading edge of both decks had reached the final piers in early August this year, leaving only the final 100 m to launch.

On August 15, the final deck segment on the western abutment was cast, with the final deck segment on the eastern abutment cast only a week later. By the end of that month, the final stages of the deck construction were well under way.

"Inside the deck, construction of the stiffening diaphragms that sit above each of the piers was well under way. On top, the installation of the ten remaining cable stays, five on each side, had begun."

At the time, on the leading edges, removal of the temporary steel 'noses' was nearly complete, while, on the abutments, the dismantling of the temporary construction sheds was also close to completion.

With crews working from both ends of the bridge, the deck steadily extended towards the centre, with the two halves meeting in September.

This will be followed by meticulous "stitching together" to form the continuous 822-m-long deck.

After that, the final stressing of the deck's internal cables will be done, the balustrades and handrails completed, the approach roads finished and, finally, the bridge deck surfaced.

"If all goes to plan, the Senqu bridge will open to traffic in February 2026 – restoring a vital artery across Lesotho's highlands and

standing as a testament to ingenuity under extreme conditions."

The site is 2 100 m above sea level, and is accessible only through steep mountain passes topping 3 000 m, with most materials trucked in from South Africa, adding border logistics to the list of challenges.

Winter temperatures can plunge below -15 °C, while summer highs can exceed 35 °C, exacerbated by severe thunderstorms, strong winds and snow, further complicating work schedules.

To keep crews safe and productive, the project team has deployed freezer suits, infrared heaters and low-temperature accommodation units – measures rarely seen on African construction sites, says Maiketso.

"The terrain itself is equally unforgiving. On the west bank, access roads had to be blasted into sheer cliffs, and foundations for the first five piers were excavated sequentially from the top down."

One of the most unusual engineering challenges was designing tall, slender reinforced concrete piers that will eventually stand submerged up to 80 m under water.

The team had to account for hydrodynamic forces, likely seismic events, and even the potential impact of a landslide into the reservoir. This required significant reinforcement in both piers and foundations.

The extradosed deck also demanded dense reinforcement, particularly around the cable pylons, leading to complex steel fixing operations.

Close collaboration between contractor and engineer was essential to keep progress on track.

The Senqu bridge construction tender was awarded to the WRES Joint Venture, which includes South African, Lesotho and international companies, in line with the requirements of the Phase II Agreement.

The primary partners are Italy-based Webuild, South African firms Raubex Construction and Enza Construction, and Lesotho's Sigma Construction.

Subcontractors include South Africa's EXR Construction and Post Tensioning and Structural Solutions, Austrian firm Gleitbau-Gesellschaft, and France-based Freyssinet International et Cie.

Work on the bridge design started in 2018, led by Zutari, formerly Aurecon Lesotho, which also designed the Mabunyaneng and Khubelu bridges, the other two major bridges to be constructed under Phase II.

Zutari is also supervising construction of the three bridges.

"When the ribbon is finally cut, the Senqu bridge will not only span a deep valley – it will bridge the gap between isolation and opportunity for thousands of people in Lesotho's rugged heartland." ■



CLOSING THE GAP

Crews worked from both ends of the bridge, with the deck steadily extended towards the centre

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Circular Virtue

Tailings retreatment has emerged as core part of modern mining

SCHALK BURGER | CREAMER MEDIA SENIOR DEPUTY EDITOR



CLEAN COMEBACK

Renewable energy plants can be built on rehabilitated land, thereby providing additional economic use

While the viability of retreating mine tailings remains a key consideration – both for reprocessing these mining by-products and for determining the end use of any reclaimed land – it has nonetheless become a core component of modern mining.

Tailings reprocessing is closely linked to gold producer Harmony Gold's environmental, social and governance (ESG) commitments, and the company aims to address the dual considerations of environmental risks and economic opportunities through these retreatment and rehabilitation initiatives, says Harmony Gold North West operations head of metallurgy **Rollet Masakona**.

"Reclaiming and relocating mining tailings to new well-designed and well-constructed facilities can enable the removal or reduction of the impacts on the groundwater system by removing the source of contamination," he says.

This approach can support circular economy goals by recovering valuable minerals and making land available while mitigating long-term environmental risks.

The retreatment of tailings can also help to extend the life of a mine, which would enable the mine to sustain its economic contribution to the local and national economies for longer, thereby generating greater social and economic value for communities and mining companies, he adds.

While South African companies are keeping pace with or pulling ahead of international

tailings management best practices, following changes in legislation, there is tension between what is required by the new regulations and what the objectives of the original design of a tailings storage facility were, says mine rehabilitation specialist company Agreenco director **Fanus van Wyk**.

Additionally, ESG considerations require that mines look even further ahead to determine the long-term impact of the tailings storage facility, he adds.

"Thirty years ago, it was sufficient to understand the geochemistry well and then place green covers (vegetation) on tailings facilities to ensure their geotechnical integrity.

"Now, however, designs need to ensure that the facility is protected from disintegration for 500 years to 1 000 years into the future and must consider whether reclamation or rehabilitation can create a landscape that is suitable for future land use."

To address these challenges, the mining industry is using innovative solutions, with Agreenco involved in putting in place sustainable green covers, which have lower maintenance requirements and present a cost advantage to mines, says Van Wyk.

In terms of the final landscape following mining processes, brown (topsoil) or grey (rock) cover systems can be used to line the facilities, which, if the covers are designed properly, can allow for water to be stored and released on to the cover, with much less water entering the groundwater system.

Additionally, a well-designed cover system

matches the erosion scenarios of the surrounding environment so that there is no net erosion in the environment and, therefore, less pollution, he adds.

"In terms of advancing cover systems, pricing and implementing them correctly, there has been a lot of innovation and a lot of progress made in understanding these over the past 30 to 40 years. Many companies have shown what can be achieved."

Of the 400-odd tailings storage facilities in South Africa, only five or six use topsoil for cover systems. However, the local mining industry has learned a lot about these cover systems, notes Van Wyk.

Recently, geomorphic designs – which are aligned with or similar to the surrounding landscape – have become more prevalent, and such designs also reduce costs over time, although this approach is still in its nascent phase in South Africa.

From green covers, and using the mine's water system for dust suppression, the industry has been moving to brown covers, and then sustainable surfaces, while ensuring the geotechnical integrity of the facilities, he adds.

Green covers, or vegetative layers – historically regarded as sufficient for closure – require long-term maintenance, as they battle to grow, owing to the presence of chemicals, requiring that companies re-vegetate the tailings storage facility, he says.

Ameliorating the impact of chemicals – for example, by removing pyrite and sulphates

– reduces the risk of vegetative die-back, but presents its own challenges.

Further, the commercial viability of post-rehabilitation land use is a crucial consideration. For example, an agricultural system placed on rehabilitated land would need to generate sufficient revenue, serve as collateral for debt to be raised and be built into local economic value chains, emphasises Van Wyk.

Data from projects cultivating commercial crops on mined land shows that, while this can be done, it is uncompetitive price-wise, compared with conventional agriculture. For example, to improve disturbed soil to produce crops, a soil depth of 500 mm to 600 mm is required for sufficient moisture.

If the soil is not microbially active and moisture-rich, then it will be difficult, even for professional farmers, to sustainably farm such land.

Additionally, the data shows that it takes five to seven years for this type of rehabilitated land to stabilise and be at a development stage where the carbon and nitrogen cycles can sustain healthy root systems.

To get soil organically rich increases costs and, while irrigation and adaptable plants can be introduced, this approach must make commercial sense to be sustainable, says Van Wyk.

Rehabilitated Land Use

Harmony Gold, at its operations near Klerksdorp, in the North West province, is reprocessing tailings covering about 1 800 ha of land. It aims to reduce this to 900 ha by building smaller, but taller, tailings dams that are well engineered, thereby freeing up land for other uses, says Masakona.

He adds that rehabilitated land increases post-mining opportunities, such as hosting solar PV or wind power plants or planting crops to produce biofuels, which can generate additional social and economic value, and help to sustain communities beyond mining.

One of Harmony Gold's re-mining initiatives near its Free State operations has created 500 direct and indirect jobs, engaged 25 local suppliers and service providers, and generated R130-million in yearly profits.

Part of the revenue from the re-mining operation is channelled into development trusts, which are helping the communities to advance other non-mining activities.

Additionally, at the company's North West operations, specifically near its Kareerand re-mining and rehabilitation operation, the



ANDRIES STRAUSS

For some mines, tailings become a valuable resource

land has been successfully rehabilitated and repurposed for additional livestock grazing, notes Masakona.

The Kareerand operation also focuses on ensuring that the future soil covers of these tailings storage facilities can support post-mining commercial uses.

Typically, only about 300 mm of soil is needed to cover a tailings storage facility; however, the company is digging to a greater depth, down to about 1 m. It is also preserving the topsoil, which will be used later to cover the tailings and provide the necessary depth to ensure plant growth and other commercial agricultural uses, he adds.

The retreatment and rehabilitation of tailings storage facilities can make new land available for use and, for some mines, tailings become a resource, hence the need to consider what to do with such resources in the future, says consulting engineering firm Knight Piésold Southern Africa director **Andries Strauss**.

International Standards

Prompted by several major tailings storage facility failures worldwide – including the Brumadinho tailings dam collapse, in Brazil, in 2019, and the failure of the tailings dam in Jagersfontein, in the Free State, in 2022 – the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management (GISTM) was published.

This is the global standard the companies aim to comply with, and it addresses some novel aspects, such as zero-tailings mines or limited footprints and limited water use



FANUS VAN WYK

Land can be reintegrated back into the surrounding environment

while creating robust designs, says Strauss.

Additionally, the GISTM addresses alternative uses for tailings, such as rehabilitating openpit mines or storing tailings underground, which can help with subsidence. However, the specifics of such initiatives vary, and underground tailings storage can cause pollution.

As long as these approaches are environment friendly, properly permitted and designed correctly, then storing tailings underground or using them to rehabilitate an openpit mine is a better option than storing them on the surface.

However, even if tailings can safely be used for backfilling underground, only about 65% of gold mining tailings, for example, could be placed in underground voids, leaving the remaining 35% to be stored above ground, Van Wyk adds.

Meanwhile, Harmony Gold does not place tailings underground, using only the minimum necessary for backfilling. These go through strict processes to ensure that they do not contaminate the underground environment, notes Masakona.

"However, if we want to create land that can be part of a functional economy in the future, then we need to ensure the geotechnical stability of the facility. If we can design out the risk, then the land can be reintegrated back into the surrounding environment and used for economic activities," says Van Wyk.

For example, in Zambia, wind turbines have been placed on rehabilitated tailings storage facilities, with a buyer for the power generated by this plant, which generates a sustainable revenue stream, he highlights.

"Only if an initiative for the use of post-mining land is commercially viable can it be considered sustainable," he says.

These views were expressed by mining and geological experts during the 'Mine tailings success stories and benefits of well-managed land rehabilitation' webinar, hosted by *Creamer Media* earlier this month. ■

Tailings retreatment can support circular-economy goals by recovering valuable minerals and making land available

JOBURG INDABA

Funding Promise

Anglo committed to investing R600m in junior exploration fund, Joburg Indaba hears

MARTIN CREAMER | CREAMER MEDIA PUBLISHING EDITOR

On day one of the Joburg Indaba, Anglo American CEO **Duncan Wanblad** revealed commitment to investing R600-million in South Africa's junior exploration fund as part of the Anglo Teck deal.

Wanblad disclosed this to audience applause during his opening discussion with indaba chairperson **Bernard Swanepoel**.

"We've made a commitment to invest another R600-million in the junior exploration fund because we believe in exploration," said Wanblad, who also expressed very firm attachment to what is to become Anglo's sole mining asset in South Africa – Kumba Iron Ore, headed by CEO **Nompumelelo (Mpumi) Zikalala**.

Besides having a very high ferrous content that lessens CO₂ emissions, Kumba is now also dispensing a waste-derived ultrahigh dense media separation (UHDMS) premium product. "Kumba's a great business. It has a very unique type of iron-ore in the world today and I'm a big believer that the world will ultimately transition to a cleaner type of economy . . . and the role that Kumba will play in that transition in the next couple of decades is a really important one."

"What Kumba produces is a differentiated product in the market today and the work that Mpumi's doing on UHDMS will make Kumba even more differentiated and therefore more sought-after. There's lots of longer life extensions at Kumba," Wanblad pointed out.

With much of Africa still to be explored and mined, Anglo's focus on Africa is

South Africa is
under-explored today
because it had an
unsupportive policy
for the last
20-odd years

Duncan Wanblad



DUNCAN WANBLAD (RIGHT) AND BERNARD SWANEPOEL

It is not too late for South Africa to be transformative by growing the country through enabling exploration and building new mines

poised to intensify significantly.

"So, part of our strategy here is not only South Africa itself but also using South Africa as a mining window into the balance of Africa, which is one of the most under-explored, highly valued continents as far as minerals generally are concerned, before we even start talking about what critical minerals are. Anglo is a company that likes South Africa and the region."

"For strategic reasons, it was the right thing to demerge Valterra and it is absolutely the right thing to divest of De Beers but that creates other opportunities for us and those opportunities could very well be in South Africa."

"South Africa is under-explored today because it had unsupportive policy for exploration in the last 20-odd years, and that's a very important part of a mining life cycle. The data will show you that it takes about 17 years from the time you find the deposits to the time you get it permitted and ramped up into full production," Wanblad added.

Although a generation of mines had been foregone, it was not too late for South Africa to be transformative by growing the country through enabling exploration and building new mines.

But the country was behind the curve and needed very strong leadership and supportive policy. Without supportive policy, South Africa would find it exceedingly difficult

to attract capital to what is a very capital-intensive industry in which investors had to wait a long time for payback.

"That's part of the challenge that we're working quite hard on and that's slowly starting to change, so I am optimistic but I have a very healthy dose of realism around this optimism too."

"We have challenges here in South Africa. I think we know what they are. I think there's a strong coalition of the willing that's working very, very hard to overcome those challenges."

"Nothing's telling me that these things are going to be overcome tomorrow, but nothing's telling me that they can't be overcome with this amount of effort, and that includes infrastructure, rail, logistics, electricity, and we don't have a cadastral system just yet, but we're talking about one."

"It feels to me that might be the last hurdle to open up investment again in exploration in South Africa, and as part of the Anglo Teck deal, we've made a commitment to invest another R600-million in the junior exploration fund, because we believe in exploration," said Wanblad to applause. ■

To watch a video of Anglo's Duncan Wanblad talking to the Joburg Indaba's Bernard Swanepoel, scan the barcode or visit www.miningweekly.com.



Footprint Extension

EV lease company Everlectric expands to the Western Cape

IRMA VENTER | CREAMER MEDIA SENIOR DEPUTY EDITOR

Electric vehicle (EV) full maintenance lease business Everlectric has opened shop in Cape Town.

Businesses can lease commercial EVs from the company, which will also provide the charging infrastructure and software support required to ensure the workhorses do not run out of juice.

Everlectric co-founder **Wesley van der Walt** says the EV-as-a-service company, which has its roots in Pretoria, decided to expand to the Western Cape in support of its customer base.

Its client companies include UPD, Nightwing Couriers, DSV, FedEx and Woolworths.

At this point, Everlectric largely

supplies its clients with the smaller Maxus panel van – the eDeliver3 – from Chinese manufacturer SAIC Motor.

“This is our bread-and-butter product,” notes Van der Walt. “The typical, real-life range on an eDeliver3 before it needs recharging is 250 km.”

As the evolution of EVs continues, however, larger commercial EVs, such as 4 t or 8 t vehicles, are also becoming increasingly attractive, he adds.

Everlectric’s business owners are also the official Maxus commercial vehicle distributor in South Africa.

Everlectric currently manages a fleet of 200 vehicles nationwide,



MOVER & SHAKER

The electric eDeliver3 from SAIC Motor is Everlectric’s bread-and-butter product

with about 40 of these operating in Cape Town.

Van der Walt says Durban will most likely be the next expansion node for the company, which opened its doors in 2020.

“Companies typically start with us with one vehicle, investigating whether EVs make sense,” he notes. “Now we find that they are coming back to electrify the rest of their fleet.”

A number of Maxus panel vans in the Everlectric fleet have already travelled more than 150 000 km, “with no problems

at all”, says Van der Walt.

“We expect them to go to at least 400 000 km.”

But what happens once the vehicles in the Everlectric fleet hit that 400 000 km mark?

“We expect the usable range to decrease to perhaps 200 km,” says Van der Walt.

“We can then look for uses for EVs with this range, or we can deploy the batteries as storage, or we can recycle the batteries.”

Van der Walt says Everlectric’s goal is to have a vehicle parc of about 1 000 by 2030. ■

AUTO INDUSTRY

Stellantis launches electric vehicle brand in SA

STELLANTIS South Africa (SA) will start to roll out Chinese electric vehicle (EV) brand Leapmotor at select local dealerships from this month.

Leapmotor was founded by entrepreneur and tech expert **Jiangming Zhu** and has sold more than 600 000 vehicles to date. However, it aims to boost this number to 500 000 unit sales a year, starting this year.

Through a strategic joint venture with Stellantis, Leapmotor International is now embarking on a programme of global expansion, with South Africa among the targeted markets, leveraging Stellantis’ infrastructure and distribution network.

“South Africa is a key market for Stellantis, and the launch of Leapmotor marks an important step in offering innovative new-energy vehicle

options through product, innovation and partnerships,” says Stellantis SA MD **Mike Whitfield**.

Leapmotor offers range-extended EV (REEV) technology. This system incorporates a combustion engine dedicated exclusively to recharging the battery – with no traction on the wheels – thus guaranteeing a 100% electric driving experience.

Stellantis SA believes this should address one of the biggest barriers to EV adoption in South Africa, namely range anxiety. “In South Africa, where energy challenges and limited charging infrastructure slow EV adoption, REEV offers a practical solution,” says the company. ■

IRMA VENTER
SENIOR DEPUTY EDITOR

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Tailings

Rehabilitation presents opportunities, benefits for surrounding communities but context needs to be understood

Compiled by Tasneem Bulbulia



Old tailings facilities present considerable opportunities and potential benefits for surrounding communities following land rehabilitation and reclamation, if done correctly – taking into consideration the requirements of these communities and the condition of the land.

This is according to the panel discussion during *Creamer Media's* tailings webinar on October 8, which focused on success stories and the benefits of well-managed land rehabilitation.

Facilitating the webinar, Stellenbosch University associate professor **Charles MacRobert** said there are many different

people who need to be consulted about the process.

"We don't want people in ivory towers making decisions about these pieces of land without any context and understanding, which takes a lot of work."

Harmony Gold Mining Company North West Operations metallurgy head **Rollet Masakona** highlighted that land reclamation and rehabilitation offers benefits for communities by providing new activities in towns where mining activity is coming to an end. It provides the potential to use reclaimed and rehabilitated land for different projects, thus creating additional value for communities that lasts beyond the life-of-mine.

He added that there are a range of stakeholders involved in the process of rehabilitating and reclaiming land, including environmental, mining and water departments, local authorities, surrounding communities, technical experts and environmental specialists, and a need to engage all of these and find balanced solutions for everyone's interests.

Knight Piésold South Africa director **Andries Strauss** emphasised the importance of ensuring community engagement and buy-in as part of these endeavours to ensure that inhabitants receive what is required from reclaimed and rehabilitated land, and that

decisions are not made for them by people who are not directly impacted on.

MacRobert also steered the conversation toward the indicators of positive outcomes for land rehabilitation linked to tailings operations.

Proffering his opinion, Agreenco Group executive director **Fanus van Wyk** said that this would entail meeting three aspects – geotechnical stability, no water pollution and commercial land use that is viable and generates revenue.

Masakona said Harmony has enjoyed several success stories over the years, with notable ones including Klerksdorp, in the North West, where two tailings dams were located close to a community. The company was able to mitigate dust and environmental concerns, as well as free up land.

Environmental, social and governance measures have come a long way over the past few decades, noted Van Wyk, adding that tailings management standards have changed considerably, which requires realignment of how these facilities are approached and designed to ensure compliance.

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Scan the QR code to watch the recording of the Tailings webinar

Speaker Highlights

“To measure is to manage. The more data we can get on rehabilitation, on any aspect around successful rehabilitation, the better we can become in managing tailings . . . If we can get better data, we can make better decisions.”

Fanus van Wyk – Agreenco



“Harmony is guided by its Sustainable Development Framework, which is really a blueprint for integrating sustainability into how we work, achieving positive ESG outcomes and also leading to business operational excellence.”

Rollet Masakona – Harmony Gold

“The challenge for a mining company inheriting old facilities is to move this material to a new facility that aligns with current legislation. That can sometimes be challenging, but it's the opportunity to correct the wrongs of the past and, simultaneously, address this footprint that you're going to leave behind where the old facility used to be, and create something useful out of it.”

Andries Strauss – Knight Piésold South Africa



“A lot of people have been looking into whether we can use tailings for low-value products, and hopefully that is something that will produce something soon. But focusing on making land available for other uses is perhaps what we should be focusing on at the moment.”

Charles MacRobert – Stellenbosch University



Scan the QR code to register for the Construction webinar on November 12, 2025

CRANES

Global Traction

Canadian, Australian firms order cranes from South African manufacturer

NATASHA ODENDAAL | CREAMER MEDIA SENIOR DEPUTY EDITOR

South African crane manufacturer Condra Cranes has received multiple orders from consulting firms in Canada and Australia to manufacture cranes, hoists and other lifting equipment for mine expansion projects in Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Namibia.

The cranes, with capacities ranging from two tonnes to 18 t, will work in general workshop and feeder-line maintenance applications.

The orders were placed in late August, and manufacturing is under way at the company's factory in Germiston, on Gauteng's East Rand.

Delivery of the orders – to be staggered from later this year to mid-2026 to meet project timetables – will be by road, with a number of crane girders spliced to allow packing in standard 12 m containers.

Technicians from Condra Cranes will manage installation and commissioning in Sierra Leone, while local agents will carry out these procedures in Tanzania and Namibia.

The order for Sierra Leone comprises one long-reach jib crane, three single-girder overhead cranes and a portal crane, while the Tanzanian mines will receive two double-girder cranes, a single-girder machine, a portal crane and a long-reach jib crane.

Six Titan hoists – several of which are fitted with articulated carriages to negoti-

ate curved girder tracks – two portal cranes, a long-reach jib crane, two single-girder cranes and a double-girder machine, along with 15 chain hoists and blocks, will head to Namibia.

Condra Crane's Titan hoist range is versatile, comprising the Compact Series with capacities to 32 t and the short-headroom series with capacities to 18 t, a Condra Cranes spokesperson said in a statement sent to *Engineering News & Mining Weekly*.

All models are variants of the veteran K-Series hoists, but refined to offer a more compact profile with markedly reduced overall dimensions.

Among the cranes included in the international orders are several equipped with high-lift K-Series hoists, in one instance to a height of 40 m.

"These hoists have a proven record in high-lift applications, with Condra Cranes widely recognised as Africa's market leader in this specialised arena. The company's installed base includes hoists with controlled lifts as high as 150 m."

The company spokesperson adds that there had been close cooperation with the consultants to ensure that agreed prices could remain competitive without compromising the robust reliability required for harsh operating conditions.

"Overall lifetime cost will remain lower than cranes offered by rival firms, while inspection and testing will take place at defined stages during manufacture to ensure compliance with international quality control, safety and lifting equipment standards." ■



HOIST POWER

Among the cranes included in the international orders are several equipped with high-lift K-Series hoists, in one instance to a height of 40 m

AUTO INDUSTRY

VW's Kariega plant produces vehicle number 3 000 000

VOLKSWAGEN Group Africa (VWGA) has celebrated assembling its three-millionth vehicle – a grey Polo Vivo – at its Kariega plant.

Production at the Eastern Cape facility started in 1948.

Although VWGA marks its birthday as August 31, 1951 – the date on which the first Volkswagen (a Beetle) rolled off the production line – the plant has actually been manufacturing vehicles since November 1948.

Under the umbrella of South African Motor Assemblers and Distributors, selected Studebaker and Austin models were built at the plant, before the first Volkswagens were added to the production line-up.

Over the years, production models have included the Audi Super 90, various Passats, the VW Kombi, the Golf 1, the Jetta, the Citi Golf and the Fox.

The plant currently builds the Polo, which is sold locally and abroad. This model was, in fact, the top export model from South Africa last year, while its sibling, the Polo Vivo, has been the best-selling passenger car in the country since 2010.

"This milestone affirms Volkswagen's legacy in Kariega and the South African market at large," says VWGA production manager **Ulrich Schwabe**.

"This plant has produced many icons over the past seven decades, including



MAGIC NUMBER

The three-millionth Volkswagen from Kariega is a Polo Vivo

the Beetle, the Citi Golf and now the Vivo, and we intend to make our Tengo the next icon when we start manufacturing it in Kariega from 2027." ■

IRMA VENTER
SENIOR DEPUTY EDITOR

DIAMONDS

Sparkling Support

De Beers chair calls on South African diamond industry to back Luanda Accord

DARREN PARKER | CREAMER MEDIA DEPUTY EDITOR ONLINE

Diamond producer De Beers Consolidated Mines (DBCM) chairperson **Barend Petersen** has urged the South African diamond industry to support the Luanda Accord, a new initiative requiring diamond producers to contribute 1% of their yearly revenue towards the collective marketing of natural diamonds.

Petersen made the call during his address at the Joburg Indaba, in Sandton, on October 9, saying the future of the industry depended on shared responsibility and collaboration.

The Luanda Accord, which came into effect in June, has faced strong opposition from South Africa's smaller junior diamond miners, who argue that the mandatory contribution will place an unfair financial burden on smaller operators.

Nonetheless, Petersen said the measure was essential to reignite global consumer demand and ensure the long-term sustainability of the natural diamond sector.

"That's why the Luanda Accord ... is so important. It commits diamond-producing countries and industry organisations to contribute one per cent of their annual rough diamond revenue to the Natural Diamond Council for a global campaign promoting natural diamonds," Petersen said.

He added that DBCM, as a signatory to the accord, viewed it as a shared responsibility among all players in the industry, not just major producers.

"De Beers is not the industry. We are a significant player, but others must also step up," he said.

Petersen emphasised that collective marketing would be vital to reviving consumer desire for natural diamonds in an increasingly competitive market shaped by lab-grown alternatives and changing consumer expectations.

He said marketing needed to focus not only on the beauty of diamonds but also on their social and environmental impact.

"No matter how much the world changes, the dream of a diamond forever remains the spark that drives our entire industry. To keep that spark alive, the first thing we must do is reignite consumer desire, and this begins with marketing," he said.

He noted that De Beers had committed to its highest marketing investment in more than a decade and had also partnered with the government of Botswana to boost consumer awareness.

Petersen said De Beers' 2024 'Worth the Wait' campaign in the US, with retailer Signet, had achieved record results, reaching 1.3-billion bridal impressions and generating nearly \$30-million in sales.

He added that the company's 'Diamond Proof' initiative – an instant verification technology that confirms whether a diamond is natural – had already reached more than 20-million views online and appeared in 400 media outlets worldwide. These efforts, Petersen said, were part of a broader strategy to reinforce transparency and boost consumer trust across the diamond value chain.

He added that Tracr, De Beers' blockchain-based tracing platform, was now tracking every



COLLECTIVE FUTURE

By pooling resources through the Luanda Accord, producers aim to revitalise global demand for natural diamonds and strengthen long-term industry sustainability

rough diamond above 1 ct from mine to retail, while a new collaboration with technology partner Sarine would expand that coverage even further.

"With more than three-million diamonds already uploaded to Tracr, and Sarine planning to track the majority of the world's diamonds, this partnership will deliver a step-change in assurance and transparency," he said.

In discussing global partnerships, Petersen highlighted Angola's progress under the Luanda Accord, noting that reforms introduced by Angolan President **João Lourenço** and that country's Mineral Resources, Petroleum and Gas Minister **Diamantino Azevedo** had transformed Angola into one of the world's most attractive

destinations for diamond exploration. He also noted that De Beers' exploration team, in partnership with Angola's national diamond company Endiama, recently intersected kimberlite at a high-priority target site.

"In Angola, the Luanda Accord has opened a new chapter. With the reforms led by Lourenço and Azevedo, Angola has become one of the best places in the world to explore for diamonds," he said.

Petersen also pointed to Botswana as an example of how government collaboration could strengthen the natural diamond industry. The company's renewed agreement with the Botswana government, he said, represented a step forward in supporting jobs, maintaining stability, and ensuring that tariffs did not distort consumer prices. ■

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The accord has faced strong opposition from SA's smaller diamond miners



Alcohol Breathalysers (Pty) Ltd

Digital breathalyser supplier Alcohol Breathalysers was established in 2004 with the aim to make available reliable, affordable and accurate digital breathalysers to ensure that all businesses and individuals can gain access to alcohol testing equipment.

The company offers the widest range of breath alcohol testers available in Africa including professional, industry, law enforcement, small business and personal models. Breathalysers save money, time and lives.

Alcohol Breathalysers is an ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 13485:2016 accredited company and its laboratory is ISO 17025:2017 accredited. The company holds a SAHPRA licence and its Bluetooth models are ICASA approved.

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Breathalyser iBlow10 Pro

Alcohol Breathalyser's newest product, the Breathalyser iBlow10 Pro, is the latest no-contact high-speed alcohol tester for testing the breath of motorists at road blocks, drivers in fleets and employees entering workplaces.

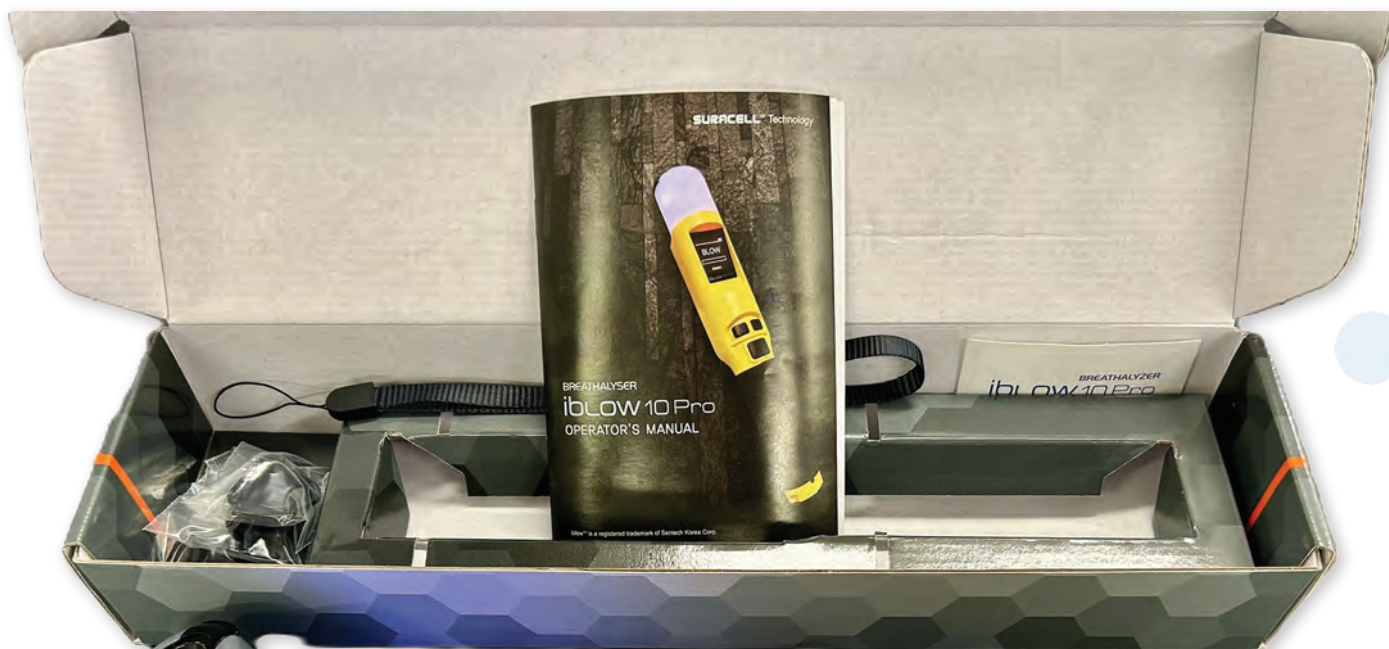
The main benefits and features of the iBlow10 Pro:

- Built-in rechargeable LiPO battery
- Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) connectivity compatible with its iSober App
- Suracell Fuel Cell Sensor for ethanol specific testing providing a 12 month calibration cycle
- Built-in magnet for attaching the breathalyser to gates, poles and vehiclebodies for no-touch testing
- Up to 12 breath tests a minute
- Rubberised outer skin supplied as standard
- Operating Temperature from -15 °C to +55 °C
- On-board memory storage of the last 5 000 test results, including date and time, downloadable to a Windows PC with SentechView

iBlow10 Pro provides rapid digital display of test results together with green or red bright LED indication based on a pass or fail when breath alcohol is detected based on a pre-set pass / fail limit depending on whether iBlow10 Pro is ordered for workplace or law enforcement use.

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TRADE@WORK

Riaan de Lange



Betting big on Ecoterms

Yes, you read correctly; it's not a spelling error. Were you thinking that instead of the 'E' there should have been an 'In', and therefore it should read 'Incoterms®'? As to why 'Ecoterms' is written without a registered trademark symbol – that's a discussion for another day.

'Ecoterms' is referenced in the 'Roadmap 2024-2026' of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the same institution that conceptualised International Commercial Terms, better known as Incoterms®, in 1923.

The roadmap, the core mission of which is to enable peace and prosperity through trade, has never been more relevant, given the challenges of climate change, rapid digitalisation, and geopolitical tensions. In this context, the ICC contends that it is vital to be ready and equipped to deliver for business and the communities in which it operates. To this end, the ICC is guided – every day – by three simple words: 'engagement', 'focus', and 'impact'.

The roadmap specifies five objectives: tackling trade frictions; promoting access to justice, integrity and respect for the rule of law by enhancing the reach and scope of the ICC's dispute resolution services; enabling effective action on climate and sustainability; accelerating trade digitalisation; and enhancing multilateralism.

Aspects of interest in this piece are 'Enabling effective action on climate and sustainability' and, specifically, the third point, 'Providing tools to enable environmental trade – including new 'ICC EcoTerms' standards'. However, there is already no consistency in how the term is written: 'EcoTerms', 'Ecoterms' or 'ECOTERMS', depending on the ICC document that is referenced. It is never a good start when you do not introduce a term with a consistent way of writing.

In the ICC's 'Global Policy Commissions Workplan 2025', its objective is to lead the global debate on trade policy reforms and

the harmonisation of rules and standards to meet global sustainability goals, including in the areas of carbon border adjustments and the circular economy, and through the development of 'Ecoterms'. So, why not register it as a trademark?

Ecoterms is intended
to be a standard
collection of words
and phrases

In essence, 'Ecoterms' is intended to be a standard collection of words and phrases used to describe environment-friendly practices and products, aiming to create global standards for defining these terms, as their meanings can be unclear or used misleadingly. Standard 'Ecoterms' are expected to include terms such as 'biodegradable', 'compostable', and 'eco-friendly'.

In the realm of international policymaking in the area of trade and the environment, the absence of universally agreed-upon definitions is a pressing challenge. As governments seek to introduce new rules and regulations on environmental sustainability, the lack of standard global definitions poses a significant barrier to practical cooperation and the implementation of cohesive strategies on a global scale. Varying interpretations of terms, such as

'reuse' in the circular economy context, hinder consensus-building efforts, impede the formulation of coherent policies and contribute to growing regulatory fragmentation.

From a business-to-business perspective, this creates supply chain risks and the potential for costly misunderstandings between sellers and buyers. This critical gap not only fosters ambiguity and increases complexity but also undermines the collective pursuit of solutions to pressing environmental issues.

Drawing inspiration from the successful track record of Incoterms®, the ICC aims to create a set of standards known as 'Ecoterms' that can be used in policymaking and by participants in international and domestic supply chains, reflecting business-to-business practice. The goal is to establish a global standard for interpreting the most common terms in environmental trade, thereby creating a clear basis for shared assumptions and a unified regulatory environment.

This initiative will complement existing ICC work in the areas of sustainable trade finance and the circular economy.

The ICC has formed a small working group comprising experts from its Global Trade and Investment, Customs and Trade Facilitation, and Environment and Energy Policy commissions as well as representatives from select ICC national committees – such as the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Its initial task has been to examine and validate the concept of 'Ecoterms', draw up an initial list of terms requiring global definitions and propose a roadmap and timeline to publication.

Upon completion, which should be imminent, the ICC will invite broader participation in the working group to draft the 'Ecoterms' – it's time to keep an eye out.

● This economic and trade-focused column is prepared by Riaan de Lange – riaan@tariffandtrade.co.za. The views expressed in this column are the author's personal views

AFRICA BEAT

Martin Zhuwakinyu



The blessing of brief Presidencies

The relatively new African phenomenon of the one-term Presidency – the subject of a recent instalment of this column – is not letting up, with the continent's latest failed wannabe two-term head of State being Seychelles' **Wavel Ramkalawn**, who lost a runoff vote this month.

But is this democratic awakening, where voters are increasingly unwilling to tolerate incumbents who underperform, a boon or a bane?

The answer is a no-brainer – the defeat of an incumbent after only one term does countries a world of good. This is no conjecture but has been proved times without number by our friends from the academic world, who spend a good deal of their time studying these things.

Let's start with a panel survey conducted around Zambia's 2021 election, which dashed **Edgar Lungu's** hopes of extending his stay in office. He had first completed the term of his predecessor, who died in office in 2015, before serving a full five-year first term of his own. He died a bitter man in Pretoria in June, and his body has remained in a mortuary in the city ever since as a legal dispute rages between his family, who want his remains to be buried in South Africa, and the Zambian government, which is pushing for repatriation and burial at the official cemetery for serving and former heads of State in Lusaka.

But I digress. The Zambian study, published in the Public Opinion Quarterly journal last year, describes the country under Lungu as a competitive authoritarian regime – a multi-party system occupying the grey zone between autocracy and democracy. One of the herd instincts of competitive authoritarian regimes is to use State power to manipulate every aspect of elections in their favour.

In short, Lungu's defeat – which the study's authors called a "seismic event" – created perceptions of "electoral quality" among

supporters of both the opposition and the outgoing ruling party.

This finding underscores why a culture of single-term Presidencies can entrench democratic confidence. Each peaceful change of guard reminds citizens that leaders serve at their pleasure.

Given declining electoral participation in many countries, this is encouraging news, as confidence in electoral processes is likely to motivate citizens to exercise their vote. South Africa has not been immune to this apathy, with only 27.7-million of the 42.3-million registered voters, just 59% of those eligible, turning out on election day last year.

Each peaceful
change of guard
reminds citizens
that leaders serve
at their pleasure

Although Zambia was a competitive authoritarian regime during Lungu's time, it was by no means in the same league as countries such as Angola, Uganda or Zimbabwe. Still, the Zambia example suggests that the positive effect observed there could deliver outsized legitimacy dividends in autocratic States that nevertheless hold elections.

Although rather dated, having been

published in 2007, an Afrobarometer working paper found that, in many cases, when incumbents are voted out through peaceful, free and fair elections, the trust of their supporters in State institutions such as the police, the courts and body or bodies running elections does not significantly differ from that of winning party supporters, provided electoral integrity is high. In other words, credible leadership turnover can enhance legitimacy across the board – not just among the winners.

Yet another study, undertaken in the Netherlands and published in 2022, analysed the results of three Parliamentary elections held between 2007 and 2012, with the findings implying the desirability of one-term Presidencies, especially if incumbents from different parties alternate in leading the country.

The researchers note: "Trust in the institutions of democracy decreased by up to 7.1% among voters whose party lost two elections in a row when compared with those whose party lost once. On the other hand, there was no difference in how satisfied double losers were with democracy in general."

This is my reading of this finding: in countries with, say, two dominant parties, the one-term Presidency lowers the chances of a party suffering electoral defeat twice in a row, implying enduring trust in democratic institutions among supporters of all political parties.

Taken together, these studies show that leadership turnover – even after a single term – strengthens both the perception and practice of democracy. Far from destabilising nations, it institutionalises accountability and sends a clear signal to political leaders that public office is a temporary trust, not an entitlement to a decade in power, the average combined duration of two terms.

● Dr Zhuwakinyu, who holds a PhD in communication (media studies) from the University of South Africa, is Creamer Media senior deputy editor – martinz@engineeringnews.co.za

LIQUID BULK TERMINAL

Contracted Custodian

TNPA awards concession for Cape Town liquid bulk terminal to FFS Tank Terminals

SCHALK BURGER | CREAMER MEDIA SENIOR DEPUTY EDITOR

State-owned Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) has signed a terminal operator agreement with FFS Tank Terminals to operate and maintain a liquid bulk terminal at the Port of Cape Town for a 25-year concession period.

With an investment of R195.7-million over the first three years, the concession will lead to the refurbishment of terminal infrastructure and upgrades to improve operational efficiency and ensure security of supply to local industries.

Once operational, the terminal will double its current diesel storage capacity by 100% to 29 200 m³, enhancing diesel volume throughput at the port, while also boosting bitumen storage from 4 700 m³ to 6 900 m³, a total storage capacity increase of 47%.

The agreement with FFS Tank terminals, which is a terminal operator in the liquid bulk sector with more than 20 years of experience, will play a vital role in facilitating the import of liquid bulk products to ensure security of supply to local industries, contributing to the

region's economic stability.

FFS Tank Terminals' appointment forms part of TNPA's consolidation of terminal operations within the liquid bulk precinct, where two sites have been merged into a single operational area for improved commercial viability.

Further, the appointment brings the total number of licensed terminal operators at the Port of Cape Town to ten, eight of which are privately owned, demonstrating strong private sector participation in port activities.

TNPA appointed FFS Tank Terminals as the preferred bidder in December 2024, which demonstrates the effectiveness of the National Ports Act in promoting the country's national, strategic, and economic interests, TNPA says.

"The partnership with FFS Tank Terminals is crucial for enhancing the port's competitiveness and operational efficiency. It reinforces the Transnet Reinvent for Growth Strategy, which transitions the business from stabilisation to sustained growth for future readiness," says TNPA acting CE **Phyllis Difeto**.

"This agreement solidifies TNPA's



PHYLLIS DIFETO

This agreement is an important milestone in our diversification strategy

commitment to ensuring continued liquid bulk operations for the region, coupled with growing the port's capacity and cargo volume throughput," she says.

"The agreement is an important milestone in our diversification strategy that extends the FFS Group's technical and terminal experience to a relatively new entrant in the independent liquid bulk storage sector in South Africa, namely FFS Tank Terminals," says FFS Tank Terminals CEO **Andrew Canning**.

"TNPA took a constructive and professional approach to implement and facilitate growth and create employment opportunities in our economy," he says. ■

RECYCLING

Extrupet, partners open food-grade PET plastic recycling plant in Cape Town

FORESTRY, Fisheries and the Environment Minister Dr **Dion George** has cut the ribbon on Extrupet's new food-grade polyethylene terephthalate – PET – plastic recycling plant in Cape Town.

The facility was developed in partnership with Propet and Petco.

The Cape Town facility adds 15 000 t of recycled PET a year to 25-year-old Extrupet's total output, increasing it from 300 00 t to 45 000 t.

With Phase 2 in the works, national capacity could reach 60 000 t next year.

In 2009, Extrupet established its first bottle-to-bottle line at its Johannesburg plant, with the second and third following in 2014 and 2020 respectively.

The Cape Town addition should enhance the competitiveness of the Western Cape's agricultural producers, as new EU

regulations demand that export punnets destined for the European market contain at least 25% certified recycled PET.

Speaking at the official opening, George said he regarded the plant as a symbol of how South Africa can turn a crisis into an opportunity.

"It shows that with clear policy, vision and partnership, plastic waste can be transformed from a burden on our environment into a driver of jobs, innovation and inclusive growth."

George emphasised government's role in creating an enabling environment for recycling plants, through frameworks such as the National Development Plan, the National Waste Management Strategy, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations.

PET plastics, among the most visible and valuable materials in the waste stream,

support not only waste pickers financially, but also small, medium-sized and micro-enterprises (SMMEs), he added.

"Supply must meet demand," noted George. "Waste pickers and SMMEs are central to that supply. They are not on the margins of this story – they are at its heart."

"Our work with municipalities to integrate waste pickers into their formal systems will strengthen this value chain."

Under EPR regulations, producers must meet targets for both collection and recycling.

Petco, as the producer responsibility organisation, supports compliance with these regulations, resulting in what it says is the collection and recycling of more than 70% of PET beverage bottles placed on the market by its members.

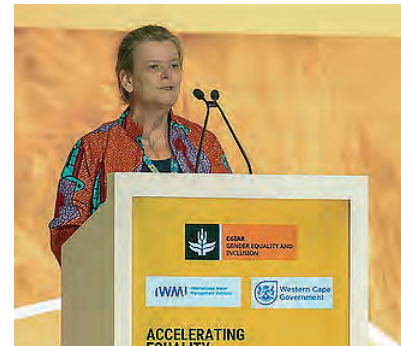
Petco CEO **Telly Chauke** said the organisation's primary function is to support the implementation of EPR legislation and to help its producer members meet their legislated targets for collection and recycling. ■

IRMA VENTER
SENIOR DEPUTY EDITOR

FIRE SERVICES PROVIDER Fidelity SecureFire officially launched South Africa's longest private fire service hydraulic platform truck, marking the debut with a record-breaking boardroom meeting 32 m above rush-hour N1 traffic. Fidelity Services Group CEO and former Springbok Wahl Bartmann (right) and former Springbok captain and SSG Holdings CEO John Smit (left) were hoisted into the air for an unfiltered conversation about leadership, risk and the future of South Africa's emergency services. The stunt highlighted the scale of Fidelity SecureFire's frontline capabilities and the strength of the new partnership between Fidelity and SSG. The event came just weeks after Fidelity Services Group acquired a majority shareholding in SSG Holdings.



GLOBAL COLLEGE- AND career-readiness programme Next Engineers celebrated the graduation of 43 learners from the Engineering Academy in Johannesburg, South Africa. The graduation ceremony, held at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), marked the programme's second graduating class and highlights its contribution towards bridging the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills gap in the country through exposing learners to hands-on engineering experiences and career pathways. The 43 learners, representing 15 high schools across Johannesburg, were joined by their families to celebrate their achievements. Launched in 2022, STEM nonprofit organisation PROTEC, Wits and children-focused nonprofit Kutitva Foundation are the educational partners for the local Next Engineers programme. Energy solutions provider GE Vernova engineers and employees play an active role by engaging with Engineering Academy participants through hands-on, skills-based volunteering. In the 2024 calendar year, its Johannesburg-based employees donated over 680 hours to these efforts.



GLOBAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research, or CGIAR, hosted its CGIAR Gender Conference 2025 between October 7 and 9 in Cape Town, boasting three days' worth of dialogues, collaboration and evidence sharing aimed at accelerating equality and inclusion across food, land and water systems. CGIAR Gender Equality and Inclusion director Dr Nicoline de Haan (pictured) opened with a call to move from insight to implementation while reminding delegates that gender is never a one-size-fits-all issue, but deeply shaped by local, cultural and contextual realities. Speakers throughout the conference stressed that without access to finance, innovation and productivity remain stifled — and the promise of more equitable, sustainable food systems remains out of reach.

PUSH PAUSE II

African proverb: A man who hangs around a beautiful girl without saying a word ends up fetching water at her wedding.

ON THE MOVE



WOJCIECH KULMA

BASF in South Africa announced the appointment of **Wojciech Kulma** as its new MD. Kulma brings over 25 years of experience within BASF, having held senior roles in sales, business management and finance across Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. His leadership has been instrumental in driving regional expansion and strategic investment projects.



KGOMOTSO LEBELE

Accenture in South Africa appointed **Kgomotso Lebele** as country managing director. He takes on the responsibility of driving Accenture's business across the country by advancing innovations in cloud, security, data and AI. With more than two decades of consulting experience, Lebele's career spans the public sector, mining, utilities and financial services.



THE 2025 ESKOM Expo International Science Fair (ISF) was held from October 6 to 10 and featured the brightest young scientists from South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Ireland, India and Russia. The 2025 Top Senior Scientist, Christopher May, from Otto du Plessis High School, won a R100 000 cash prize, for his research project, "Differential Geometric Modelling of Sound Signals and Ultrasound Imaging". Tyger Valley College student Khushi Lall's research project won the 2025 Top Junior Scientist award winning a R75 000 cash prize. Finally, Lethabo Kgwete also received R75 000. Pictured are Eskom Expo executive director Parthy Chetty, National Research Foundation MD Dr Mamoeletsi Mosia, May, Lall, Kgwete, Eskom chairperson Mteto Nyati, Eskom Expo for Young Scientists academic director Dr Krishnie Naidoo, Eskom senior manager Suretta Moolman and Eskom CFO Calib Cassim.

Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness hospital projects



Name of the Project

Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness hospital projects.

Location

Western Cape, South Africa.

Project Owner/s

Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness (DHW).

Project Description

The project entails the construction of three hospitals – two new builds and a redevelopment project. The Klipfontein and Belhar regional hospitals are planned as new builds, and will ease the pressure on existing facilities. Klipfontein will serve the Cape Town hubs of Athlone, Gugulethu, Hanover Park, Manenberg, Mitchell's Plain and Philippi and, based on 2024 planning, will provide care for between 3 500 and 4 000 people daily.

Klipfontein will be built in phases. Phase 1 will add 222 beds, Phase 2 will add 196 beds, and Phase 3 will involve the construction of additional wards, bringing the hospital to its maximum capacity of 640 beds.

The Belhar Regional Hospital will provide 642 beds and serve Cape Town's Tygerberg substructure, the Khayelitsha and Eastern substructures, and the Stellenbosch subdistrict. An estimated 3 500 to 4 000 people a day will use the hospital. The Tygerberg Central Hospital will be redeveloped through a public-private partnership, replacing the current Tygerberg Hospital with a modern tertiary and quaternary facility.

Potential Job Creation

Not stated.

Capital Expenditure

Not stated.

Planned Start/End Date

Completion is targeted for 2033.

Latest Developments

None stated.

Key Contracts, Suppliers and Consultants

Not disclosed.

Contact Details for Project Information

Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness spokesperson **Robyn Thomson**, email Robyn.Thomson@westerncape.gov.za

Zanaga iron-ore project



Name of the Project

Zanaga iron-ore project.

Location

The project is located 30 km west of Zanaga, a regional centre of the Lekoumou department of Congo-Brazzaville.

Project Owner/s

Iron-ore exploration and development company Zanaga Iron Ore Company (ZIOC).

Project Description

The project is a highly significant asset with a 6.9-billion-tonne resource and a 2.1-billion-tonne reserve, and a forecast production rate of 30-million tonnes a year of high-grade direct iron pellet feed and very low impurity levels.

A 2024 feasibility study confirmed its strong economic viability. The proposed project will be developed in stages.

Stage 1 involves development to an initial 12-million tonnes a year of high-quality iron-ore product. The Stage 2 optional expansion will entail an 18-million-tonne-a-year expansion to 30-million tonnes a year of total product.

The primary facilities will include:

- an openpit mining operation and associated process plant and mine infrastructure;
- a slurry pipeline to transport iron-ore concentrate from the mine to the port facilities and;
- port facilities and infrastructure – to dewater and handle iron-ore products for export to the global seaborne iron-ore market – located within a proposed third-party-built port facility.

Congo-Brazzaville's abundant gas and energy resources create favourable conditions for potentially pelletising its high-grade iron-ore products. The Pointe-Indienne Special Economic Zone – being developed by Arise, ZIOC's port development partner – is well positioned for industrial operations such as pellet production. It has access to surplus electricity from the nearby Centrale Électrique du Congo power station, with which ZIOC has signed a memorandum of understanding to explore power solutions.

ZIOC has noted growing interest from parties in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. On infrastructure development, ZIOC sees potential to build a buried pipeline with a 30-million-tonne-a-year capacity to support Stage 1 output. This would eliminate the need for a separate pipeline for the Stage 2 expansion, reducing capital costs by about \$700-million. It would also lower environmental impact, speed up implementation of Stage 2, and facilitate funding through Stage 1 cash flow. Regarding tailings management, while the base case includes a large wet tailings storage facility (TSF), ZIOC is exploring the use of thickened paste or filtered tailings to reduce water content. This could significantly lower long-term management costs and sustaining capital costs and allow for a smaller, simpler TSF that can be progressively rehabilitated. A feasibility study on this option has started.

Potential Job Creation

Not stated.

Net Present Value/Internal Rate of Return

The project has a net present value (NPV) of \$5.21-billion and internal rate of return of 26.7%. According to ZIOC, downstream pelletisation could boost the project's NPV by as much as \$1-billion.

Capital Expenditure

Stage 1 is estimated at \$1.94-billion and Stage 2 at \$1.87-billion.

Planned Start/End Date

Not stated.

Latest Developments

None stated.

Key Contracts, Suppliers and Consultants

DRA (process plant study); P&C (FDSO evaluation process); Centrale Électrique du Congo (technical, economic and legal aspects required for power generation and distribution for the project's Stage 1 operations); and Arise Integrated Industrial Platforms (advance the development of onshore and offshore port infrastructure for the project).

Contact Details for Project Information

ZIOC, email info@zanagairon.com.

Northern Lights CCS – Phase 2



Name of the Project

Northern Lights CCS – Phase 2.

Location

Øygarden, western Norway.

Project Owner/s

Northern Lights JV shared liability – a general partnership between Equinor, TotalEnergies and Shell. It is the first company to offer commercial carbon capture and storage (CCS) services.

Project Description

The first phase of Northern Lights is part of Longship, Norway's full-scale CCS project. Liquefied CO₂ from capture sites is shipped to an onshore receiving terminal in western Norway, and piped for permanent storage in a reservoir 2 600 m under the seabed. Phase 2 will use existing onshore and offshore infrastructure. This expansion includes new onshore storage tanks, pumps, a jetty, injection wells and transport vessels. It will increase transport and storage capacity from 1.5-million to more than 5-million tons of CO₂ a year from 2028.

Potential Job Creation

Not stated.

Capital Expenditure

Phase 2 is estimated at \$700-million.

Planned Start/End Date

Phase 2 startup is expected by the second half of 2028.

Latest Developments

The first CO₂ volumes were transported and injected into the seabed of the Norwegian North sea in August 2025. Northern Lights will transport and store CO₂ from Norway during the remainder of 2025, with CO₂ volumes from Denmark and the Netherlands expected to be added in 2026.

Key Contracts, Suppliers and Consultants

None stated.

Contact Details for Project Information

Northern Lights, email post@norlights.com.

NORI-D project

Name of the Project

NORI-D project.

Location

Clarion Clipperton Zone (CCZ) of the Pacific Ocean.

Project Owner/s

Canadian deep-sea mining exploration company The Metals Company (TMC).

TMC's major shareholder and strategic partner Allseas is expected to lead the offshore delivery of the project, overseeing engineering, procurement, fabrication, commissioning and operations of the nodule collection system.

Project Description

TMC has conducted a world-first prefeasibility study (PFS) for a polymetallic nodule project in the NORI-D area, a geological submarine fracture zone located in the Pacific Ocean between Mexico and Hawaii. The PFS technical report summary (TRS), published on August 4, 2025, marks a world-first declaration of mineral reserves for deep-sea polymetallic nodules, with 51-million tonnes of probable mineral reserves.

The PFS outlines a phased development plan for offshore collection and onshore processing of polymetallic nodules, targeting production ramp-

up to 12-million tonnes a year of wet nodules within the first five years. This production rate supports a projected 18-year mine life for the project. It also proposes steady-state production of 97 000 t/y of nickel, 2.4-million tonnes a year of manganese, 70 000 t/y of copper and 7 400 t/y of cobalt. Yearly production is estimated at 10.8-million tonnes at steady state (from 2031 to 2043) over the life-of-mine (LoM). Initial processing is assumed to rely on proven rotary kiln electric furnace infrastructure, in Japan and Indonesia, to produce nickel/cobalt/copper alloy and matte intermediates, with final refining at future US-based facilities to deliver battery-grade nickel and cobalt products. Alongside the August 2025 PFS, TMC announced the publication of an initial assessment for the remainder of its resource in the NORI and TOML blocks in the CCZ. This includes a measured and indicated mineral resource of 73-million tonnes of wet nodules grading 1.30% nickel, 0.20% cobalt, 1.2% copper and 30.2% manganese with an abundance of 12.8 kg/m². The inferred mineral resource is estimated at 1.21-billion tonnes of wet nodules grading 1.30% nickel, 0.20% cobalt, 1.1% copper and 28.7% manganese with an abundance of 11.6 kg/m². The initial assessment presents a development plan for the NORI and TOML polymetallic nodule projects, encompassing a 23-year mining operation using advanced second-generation offshore collection systems with remotely operated collector vehicles and production vessels. It projects the collection of about 670-million tonnes of wet polymetallic nodules across the NORI and TOML contract areas, with average grades of 1.3% nickel, 0.2% cobalt, 1.1% copper and 28.8% manganese.

Potential Job Creation

Not stated.

Net Present Value/Internal Rate of Return

The PFS estimates an after-tax net present value (NPV) of \$5.5-billion and an internal rate of return (IRR) of 27%, with a capital payback of seven years. The initial assessment on the NORI and TOML blocks supports an after-tax NPV of \$18.1-billion and after-tax IRR of 35.6%, with a capital payback of two years. The combined net present value of the proposed projects is estimated at \$23.6-billion.

Capital Expenditure

Offshore development capital expenditure (capex) is estimated at \$492-million. Onshore refinery development capex is estimated at \$4.4-billion. The initial assessment estimates capital expenditure for the NORI and TOML blocks at \$8.85-billion.

Planned Start/End Date

TMC expects to start commercial production in the fourth quarter of 2027.

Latest Developments

None stated.

Key Contracts, Suppliers and Consultants

None stated.

Contact Details for Project Information

TMC, email investors@metals.co or email media@metals.co.

Al Sadawi solar PV project



Name of the Project

Al Sadawi solar PV project.

Location

Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia.

Project Owner/s

Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company comprising global clean energy company Masdar, and consortium partners GD Power and Korea Electric Power Corporation.

Project Description

The project is set to be one of the world's biggest solar installations. It will be developed on a build, own and operate basis, with a 25-year power purchase agreement signed with the Saudi Power Procurement Company in 2024.

Potential Job Creation

Not disclosed.

Capital Expenditure

\$1.1-billion.

Planned Start/End Date

The project reached financial close in August 2025. The plant is expected to reach full capacity in early 2027, with commercial operation targeted for the same year.

Latest Developments

None stated.

Key Contracts, Suppliers and Consultants

Not disclosed.

Contact Details for Project Information

Masdar, tel +971 2 653 3333 or email press@masdar.ae.

Murcia solar PV plants



Name of the Project

Murcia solar PV plants.

Location

Luminora Solar Tres will be located in the municipalities of Murcia and Torre Pacheco, in Spain, and Fuente Álamo I and II in Murcia.

Project Owner/s

French integrated energy and petroleum group TotalEnergies and specialist in PV projects Soltec.

Project Description

The project entails building three new PV plants with a total capacity of 116 MWp – sufficient clean energy to supply 30 500 homes and avoid the emission of about 4 500 t/y of CO₂. Luminora Solar Tres, with a capacity of 95 MWp, will feature a substation and a 5 km overhead line to transport the generated energy. It will comprise an estimated 150 000 state-of-the-art bifacial tracking solar panels and reduce CO₂ emissions by 3 700 t/y. The Fuente Álamo I and II plants will have a combined capacity of 21 MWp and an 8 km medium-voltage line. The facilities will avoid the emission of 800 t/y of CO₂.

Potential Job Creation

Construction and operation of the solar facilities will create about 350 direct jobs and promote high-efficiency technologies.

Capital Expenditure

Not stated.

Planned Start/End Date

The projects are expected to be completed in the second half of 2026.

Latest Developments

None stated.

Key Contracts, Suppliers and Consultants

Ferrovial (PV plants).

Contact Details for Project Information

Soltec, tel +34 968 603 153 or email info@soltec.com.

COMING UP

- Gold producer DRDGOLD, a specialist in the recovery of the metal from the retreatment of surface tailings, has moved its Daggafontein tailings storage facility (TSF), in South Africa's town of Springs, in Gauteng, out of the company's reserves to resume the TSF as a deposition facility to supplement its Brakpan TSF.

- A definitive feasibility study on ASX-listed exploration and development company Canyon Resources' Minim Martap bauxite project, in Cameroon, has confirmed the project's strong economics and has outlined a pathway for the phased development of what is planned to be a major new bauxite producer.

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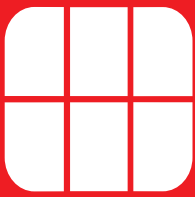
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African openpit mines lift miner's production profile

DONNA SLATER | CREAMER MEDIA DEPUTY EDITOR AND CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

FEKOLA COMPLEX

B2Gold's Fekola Complex comprises the Fekola mine, with its Fekola and Cardinal openpits; Fekola Regional; and the Dandoko permit

Gold miner B2Gold's two African operations – namely the Fekola openpit mine in Mali, and Otjikoto open pit mine in Namibia – have both continued with strong operational performance into the third quarter of 2025, the miner reports in a mid-September operational update.

With openpit mining activities at Otjikoto scheduled to have been concluded in the third quarter of this year, B2Gold notes that the mine has continued to outperform expectations – with ore tonnes and the average gold grade mined exceeding expectations, providing more robust ore stockpiles than previously anticipated – as it nears the end of its openpit life.

As a result of the positive ore tonne and grade reconciliations, B2Gold is increasing its 2025 gold production guidance for Otjikoto to range between 185 000 oz and 205 000 oz, which is up from the original guidance range of between 165 000 oz and 185 000 oz.

Nonetheless, with the Otjikoto openpit operation drawing to a close, B2Gold has approved a development decision on the Antelope underground deposit at Otjikoto.

Subsequent to the February 4 release of the preliminary economic assessment results for the Antelope deposit, the company has completed further optimisation work on a small-scale, low-cost underground gold mine at Antelope.

B2Gold believes that the estimated pre-pro-

duction capital cost for Antelope can be reduced from \$129-million to \$105-million, with the majority of pre-production capital forecasted to be spent during 2026 and 2027.

Production from Antelope has the potential to increase Otjikoto's gold production to about 110 000 oz/y over the life of the underground mine.

Fekola Update

B2Gold also reports that its Fekola complex, which includes the Fekola and Cardinal openpits, has continued, into the third quarter of 2025, the strong operational performance it exhibited in the first half of the year.

As of early September, the gold production

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Mining technology for a sustainable future

Venetia achieves 13m fatality-free shifts

DONNA SLATER | CREAMER MEDIA SENIOR DEPUTY EDITOR FEATURES

Diamond miner De Beers Group's Limpopo-based Venetia mine has reached a landmark achievement of 13-million fatality-free shifts, demonstrating world-class safety performance.

The accomplishment reflects the unwavering commitment of employees, contractors and leadership to creating and sustaining a safe and caring work environment.

It places Venetia mine among a small group of mining operations in Southern Africa that have reached this level of sustained safety performance.

"Achieving 13-million fatality-free shifts is a testament to the unwavering commitment of every person on our mine. It reflects not just a milestone, but a culture of care, accountability and continuous improvement," says Venetia senior GM **Ntokozo Ngema**.

Venetia mine has implemented a range of proactive safety initiatives over the years, with a focus on embedding a culture of shared responsibility and vigilance. One such initiative is the Safe Sentry programme, where team members nominate a sentry for each shift to observe, record and communicate safety behaviours and poten-



ZERO HARM TARGETED

Venetia mine's achievement of 13-million fatality-free shifts is a testament to realising the zero harm target

While this is an industry-leading performance, we will continue to demand more of ourselves to ensure we remain safe and that every diamond we produce represents our care for, and commitment to, one another

Ntokozo Ngema

tial hazards in real time.

"At Venetia mine, we believe that zero harm is possible, and this achievement brings us closer to making that belief a reality. I'm incredibly proud of our teams for living our values every day, and setting a benchmark for what safe, responsible mining looks like.

"While this is an industry-leading performance, we will continue to demand more of ourselves to

ensure we remain safe and that every diamond we produce represents our care for, and commitment to, one another".

Further, in recognition of its commitment to safety excellence, the mine received two awards at the Southern Africa Institute of Mining and Metallurgy's MineSafe Industry Awards, held in November 2024. 

COUPON ON PAGE 21 E707174



SAFETY FOCUS

Venetia's safety record reflects the commitment toward safety of employees, contractors and leadership to creating and sustaining a safe and caring work environment





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Smart Mining = Safe Operations



Innovation at the core of XCMG Green Summit 2025

The XCMG Green Summit 2025, held in Xuzhou and Hulunbuir, in China, brought together mining industry leaders from across the world to experience first-hand how innovation and sustainability are shaping the future of mining. Over the three-day event, XCMG demonstrated its commitment to delivering green technologies and smart solutions that directly respond to the global challenges of decarbonisation, efficiency and cost competitiveness.

Zero-Carbon Mining in Practice

One of the key highlights of the summit was the visit to the Hulunbuir mine, where 100 fully autonomous trucks are already in daily operation. This is currently the world's largest commercial deployment of driverless mining trucks, supported by integrated charging and intelligent control systems. Delegates were able to observe how large-scale autonomy is no longer a concept, but a reality that is improving both safety and productivity.

The summit programme also included a tour of the Yimin open-pit mine, where XCMG

has implemented a full-chain zero-carbon mining solution. This approach covers all the core stages of mining, including drilling, excavation, haulage, crushing and auxiliary services. By integrating renewable power generation, energy storage and electrified fleets, the site has become a living example of how net-zero mining can be achieved in practice.

Breakthrough Equipment on Display

XCMG used the platform to showcase its latest generation of green mining equipment. The company introduced the ZNK95 pure-electric unmanned mining truck, which is already in commercial operation. It also unveiled a fully electric 130-t truck, designed for medium-capacity open-pit operations, and a 240-t hybrid truck. The hybrid truck reduces fuel consumption by about 17% compared with conventional diesel models, offering a practical step toward decarbonisation while maintaining endurance and productivity.

Other innovations included battery-swap systems that cut charging delays, collaborative platforms that allow loaders,

graders and auxiliary fleets to work in coordination, and life-cycle remanufacturing services that extend the useful life of equipment while reducing waste. Altogether, nearly 80 units and systems were displayed and demonstrated in operational settings.

Strengthening Global Collaboration

The summit concluded with the release of the Joint Declaration on Global Zero-Carbon Smart Mining, which was signed by 107 companies from 26 countries. The declaration establishes a framework for advancing electrification, automation, net-zero practices and circular economy models through international cooperation.

A South African delegation of 15 representatives participated in the summit, highlighting South Africa's growing interest in sustainable mining technologies and its alignment with global efforts to decarbonise the mining industry.

Opportunities for Africa

For Africa's mining sector, XCMG's solutions provide a clear pathway to address several pressing challenges. Fully

electric and hybrid fleets can reduce dependency on diesel, lower exposure to volatile fuel prices, and support compliance with ESG standards demanded by regulators and investors. At the same time, autonomous technologies can improve safety and deliver consistent operational performance.

By adopting these technologies, African mines have an opportunity to enhance competitiveness, secure long-term sustainability and position themselves at the forefront of green mining innovation.

The XCMG Green Summit 2025 demonstrated that the future of mining is not only innovative but also sustainable. With its portfolio of fully electric, hybrid and autonomous solutions, XCMG is redefining what is possible for mining operations worldwide.

Mines interested in learning more — or in conducting site trials of XCMG's green mining solutions — are invited to contact admin@xcmgmining.co.za.



Email: admin@xcmgmining.co.za

New gen ADTs eyed by opencast miners

DONNA SLATER | CREAMER MEDIA DEPUTY EDITOR AND CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Following African equipment supplier Babcock Africa's mid-year launch of new generation Volvo articulated dump trucks (ADTs) and excavators, opencast contract mining services company JCI Mining has taken delivery of the region's first A50 ADT.

Based on lifecycle costing, JCI MD **Matthew Abraham** says the A50 hits "a sweet spot" with unmatched cost-per-tonne prospects.

JCI Mining – headquartered next door to Babcock's Middleburg-based sales, parts and service dealership – became the first customer to receive an A50, quickly following with an order for ten more. Babcock's Middleburg facility was also the location of the new equipment launch, which included the A40, A45 and the all-new A50-series of ADTs as well as a new range of excavators in the 21 t to 30 t class.

The A50 joins JCI's existing fleet of A30, A40, A45 and A60 ADT units, with Abraham confirming that the machines will be deployed for overburden and coal

hauling, with the decision driven by lifecycle cost analysis.

"On paper, the A50 offers the best cost-per-tonne and overall lifecycle costing," he adds.

Babcock is the sole Volvo Construction Equipment (Volvo CE) distributor in Southern Africa, with Volvo CE reporting that the A50 delivers 10% more productivity and 8% greater fuel efficiency than the A45G FS, while service costs drop by up to 6% over 12 000 hours.

"This is the most significant update to our articulated hauler range in over 20 years," says Babcock equipment

On paper, the A50 offers the best cost-per-tonne and overall lifecycle costing

Matthew Abraham

division MD **David Vaughan**.

In addition, a key selling point of the A50 ADT is its full hydraulic suspension – the only machine of its size class with this feature. This system improves cycle times, boosts production and reduces vibration and maintenance costs.

Abraham highlights operator comfort as another major factor: "A comfortable operator ensures increased productivity and efficiency."

Meanwhile, with heavy equipment, aftermarket service is critical. In this vein, Abraham praises Babcock's reliability, saying that "downtime is the enemy,

and service is everything".

Service contracts are increasingly tailored to give customers maximum uptime and peace of mind, adds Vaughan.

More Opencast Applicability

For bulk earthworks, bulk materials handling and opencast mining services provider Zizwe Opencast Mining, one brand of ADT has been pivotal to its operational success – Volvo.

The Mpumalanga-based contractor, with operations in coal, chrome and platinum across South Africa's Eastern and Western Bushveld regions, runs a 100% Volvo ADT fleet, supplied and supported by Babcock. This partnership has been formed over years of collaboration, with shared commitment to reliable equipment, efficient operations and responsive service.

Zizwe's leadership team attended the mid-year ADT and excavator launch, with CEO **Kobie Pruus** saying the updated models align strongly with Zizwe's operational priorities.

"The A50, in particular, hits a sweet spot for our operations. These trucks are designed to work harder, use less fuel and adapt to the future. That's exactly what our industry needs," he states.

Technology such as Volvo Co-Pilot and Terrain Memory gives machinery operators the

• To page 41

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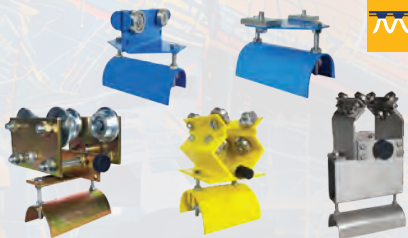
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Hydrogen peroxide emulsions rolled out to SADC markets

DONNA SLATER | CREAMER MEDIA SENIOR DEPUTY EDITOR
FEATURES

Explosives and blasting company BME and Sweden-based explosives company Hypex Bio Explosives Technology (Hypex Bio) have advanced their partnership beyond Canada by initiating an infrastructure and product development programme for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) market.

BME is a subsidiary of diversified chemicals group Omnia Holdings.

BME and Hypex Bio will gradually introduce what they are calling the world's first commercially available hydrogen peroxide explosives in the SADC mining market for various blasting applications over time, including opencast mining operations.

This marks a significant step forward, underpinned by Hypex

Bio's ongoing progress in rolling out hydrogen peroxide products tailored to the SADC climate and its challenging mining environment.

The development also builds on the established partnership between BME and Hypex Bio to enhance the ongoing development and introduction of hydrogen peroxide emulsions in key markets, while providing Omnia Holdings – a minority equity stakeholder in Hypex Bio – with access to modern technology.

This development, says BME MD **Ralf Hennecke**, is in line with BME's focus on supporting customers with future-fit solutions, which provide a safe, sustainable and efficient alternative to ammonium nitrate-based explosives.

Providing customers with



EXPLOSIVE PARTNERSHIP

The BME and Hypex Bio partnership will play a significant role in the shift to more sustainable mining in the Southern African Development Community

access to hydrogen peroxide emulsion products is a "clear testament to BME's ongoing commitment to innovation and customer value", he adds.

"The SADC mining industry is facing increasing pressure to reduce carbon emissions due to international trade policies, climate change commitments as well as environmental, social and governance [ESG] imperatives.

"Therefore, through this partnership between BME and Hypex Bio, we will continue to respond to our customers' challenges," says Hennecke.

Meeting Regional Challenges

While the region's abundant mineral resources position SADC as a key player in shaping the future of clean energy and sustainable development, the mining of these critical minerals presents multifaceted challenges, including environmental dimensions.

Hennecke says that hydrogen peroxide products complement BME's comprehensive product portfolio and enhance its standing in the supply of sustainable bulk emulsions.

"Packaged emulsion cartridges and bulk emulsion products will evolve from this infrastructure and product development programme," he notes, adding that the technology has the potential to change the explosives supply industry by reducing the total greenhouse gas emissions footprint by up to 90%, where

implemented.

Considering that hydrogen peroxide-based explosives decompose into water and oxygen, pollutants, such as nitrates, are eliminated. This, in turn, reduces the need for costly water-treatment and ventilation, while also facilitating faster blast cycles and increased efficiency.

Manufacturing these emulsions is also less energy intensive than the process involved in producing ammonium nitrate-based emulsions, further reducing the carbon footprint of the mining value chain.

Additionally, testing has shown that hydrogen peroxide emulsions perform similar to nitrate-based types, going so far as to outperform them in some instances.

Hydrogen peroxide explosives represent a "paradigm shift" in blasting operations and a critical step in mining, quarrying and construction, says Hypex Bio CEO **Thomas Gustavsson**.

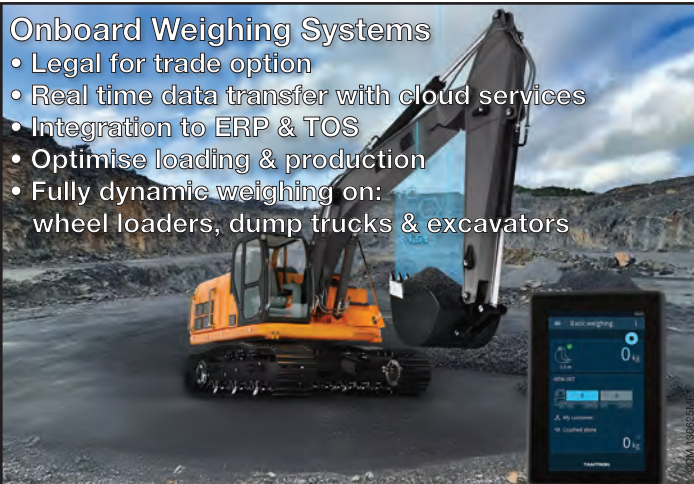
"The partnership between Hypex Bio and BME will play a significant role in the shift to more sustainable mining in SADC, while also establishing the standard for next generation blasting in the region – essential for the sustainable industries and societies of the future.

"Environment-friendly explosives are a natural way to extract and build, driving improved supply chains for raw materials and infrastructure," concludes Gustavsson. ■

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Fekola History

B2Gold acquired the Fekola project through a merger with gold explorer and developer Papillon Resources in October 2014.

Led by core members of B2Gold's construction team, early work activities at B2Gold's third and largest mine started in February 2015.

On September 25, 2017, B2Gold had completed construction of the Fekola mill and started ore processing, more than three months ahead of the original construction schedule and on budget.

The first gold pour at Fekola took place on October 7, 2017.

Within only 60 days from start-up, the mine achieved commercial production on November 30, 2017 – one month ahead of the revised schedule and four months ahead of the original schedule.

The Fekola mine produced its four-millionth ounce of gold in July 2025, seven years and ten months from construction completion.

The Fekola plant uses a conventional flowsheet, consisting of single-stage primary crushing; a semi-autogenous primary grinding mill with pebble crushing and a secondary ball mill. Further processing involves leach feed thickening with thickener overflow treated through a carbon in column circuit; agitated leaching followed by carbon-in-pulp adsorption; elution, electrowinning and gold recovery to doré; and cyanide destruction, tailings thickening and disposal circuits.

• From page 34

from the Fekola Complex remains ahead of budgeted levels for the year-to-date, thereby leading the company to reiterate its 2025 gold production guidance of 515 000 oz to 550 000 oz.

Mining activities at the Fekola and Cardinal openpits are anticipated to contribute between 485 000 oz and 510 000 oz of gold production in 2025, up from the original guidance range of 470 000 oz to 490 000 oz.

However, B2Gold is also looking to further capitalise on other deposits at the Fekola Complex by expanding operations underground.

In this regard, on July 30, the State of Mali granted approval for B2Gold to start underground

operations, including stope ore production at the Fekola mine, with underground performance exceeding expectations since receipt of the underground approval.

Subsequent to receipt of the underground mining approval, the company started processing Fekola underground volumes through the Fekola mill.

B2Gold also notes that initial underground gold grade reconciliations have been positive compared to the resource model.

As such, Fekola underground is anticipated to contribute between 30 000 oz and 40 000 oz of gold production this year, which is up from the original guidance range of 25 000 oz to 35 000 oz. 

COUPON ON PAGE 21 E707260



EFFICIENCY CHAMP

Volvo reports that the A50 delivers 10% more productivity and 8% greater fuel efficiency than the A45G FS, while service costs drop by up to 6% over 12 000 hours

• From page 38

tools to work smarter and protect machine life, while a newly designed cabin enhances comfort, safety and productivity during long shifts.

Efficiency is more than just an operational metric, notes Pruis, adding that it is a business imperative that reduces fuel use, cuts costs, lowers carbon emissions and supports sustainability targets.

"Efficiency is paramount for us and for the mining industry as a whole," he notes.

Behind the equipment is Babcock's dedicated support net-

work – a key part of the equation for Zizwe.

"Downtime is not an option in our industry. Babcock's quick response, professional support and efficient logistics make all the difference," says Pruis.

While the new generation ADTs are not yet part of Zizwe's fleet, their performance potential has caught the company's attention. With a proven history of delivering with Volvo equipment and Babcock's service backing, Zizwe continues to look for ways to strengthen its capabilities for the decade ahead. 

COUPON ON PAGE 21 E707256



OTJIKOTO

Despite openpit mining activities at Otjikoto coming to an end, the mine has continued to outperform expectations




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Colliery Training College: Forging South Africa's future – A 60-year legacy

The year 2025 marks 60 years of excellence in skills development for the Colliery Training College (CTC). Over the past six decades, CTC has undergone a powerful transformation from a coal mining training centre into a premier, accredited institution delivering cutting-edge engineering and mining training. It serves as a vital bridge connecting industry demand with skilled artisans, mining professionals, and technicians who drive safety, innovation, and growth across multiple sectors.

Our journey over the past 60 years reflects the dynamic evolution of the South African industry itself. CTC has consistently adapted its curriculum, transitioning from legacy qualifications to becoming an industry leader in occupational qualifications, skills programmes, and specialised short courses. This unwavering commitment to relevance ensures that every graduate, past and present, leaves with globally competitive skills that drive both individual career success and industry advancement.

Comprehensive and Industry-Responsive Training

CTC's long-standing legacy is built on a curriculum that constantly adapts to meet the industry's changing needs. We provide a comprehensive range of expert artisan training across essential mechanical and electrical trades, including: Electrician, Instrument Mechanician, Automotive Electrician, Mechanical Fitter, Fitter and Turner, Metal Machinist, Millwright, Boilermaker, Welder, Diesel Mechanic, and Earthmoving Mechanic. We also offer specialised qualifications in Underground Mining Blasting, Surface Excavation,

and Mineral Processing. All programmes blend knowledge with intensive practical development in our state-of-the-art workshops and real workplace environments.

To further support industry needs, CTC offers a range of registered skills programmes and specialised, customer-aligned short courses. These include artisan aide programmes, medium voltage (switching), flameproofing maintenance, mining skills programmes, blasting assistant, and fall-of-ground competent A and B (underground coal).

We have also introduced critical safety and compliance short courses essential to modern industry:

- Working at Heights
- Scaffold Erection, Dismantling, Inspection, and Safety
- Wireman's Licence preparation, enabling electricians to issue Certificates of Compliance
- Automotive Air Conditioning

These courses are designed to upskill workers in high-risk and compliance-intensive areas, ensuring CTC graduates meet the stringent safety and regulatory requirements across multiple sectors.





Embracing the Fourth Industrial Revolution

CTC has pioneered the Artisan 4.0 initiative, preparing students to integrate traditional artisan skills with the digital technologies essential for Industry 4.0. Graduates gain competence in mechanics and electricity, along with expertise in Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), networking, cloud computing, and data interpretation for preventive and predictive maintenance. Strategic collaborations with original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and technology research organisations ensure CTC's training remains aligned with the latest industry innovations, boosting operational efficiency and safety across multiple sectors.

Modern Facilities and Realistic Training Environments

Demonstrating its commitment to providing truly immersive practical learning, CTC launched the Khutala Underground Training Facility in 2025. This is not a simulated underground mine; it is an active, producing section of the mine that simultaneously serves as a training site. This real-world operational environment equips learners with vital safety and operational experience in an authentic setting, significantly enhancing their workplace readiness.

Accredited, Industry-Aligned Excellence

CTC's long-standing reputation for quality is validated by comprehensive accreditation and compliance. As an accredited Skills Development Provider and Trade Test Centre, our programmes meet the rigorous standards set by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations, the Mining Qualifications Authority, the Department of Higher Education and Training, and the National Artisan Moderation Body. Our quality assurance is further enhanced by our ISO 9001 and ISO 45001 certifications, as well as our status as a Level 1 B-BBEE Contributor. This formal oversight, combined with close industry collaboration, guarantees that our training continually meets the latest safety regulations, technological advancements, and operational standards.

Socio-Economic Impact and Commitment to Progress

More than a training provider, CTC acts as a catalyst for socio-economic upliftment by empowering individuals and communities through employment readiness and career advancement. The institution fosters a culture of accountability, innovation, and excellence. Its comprehensive learner support includes accommodation and recreational facilities, promoting the holistic development and well-being of students.



Looking Ahead

As it celebrates its 60th anniversary, CTC embraces a refreshed identity and a bold vision to lead skills development into the future. By expanding its programmes and integrating digital training technologies, CTC aims to continue shaping a resilient, adaptive, and highly skilled workforce. CTC aims to position itself at the forefront of green energy training, equipping learners with the competencies required for emerging sectors such as renewable power generation, energy efficiency, and sustainable mining practices. This focus on sustainable skills development reflects CTC's commitment to driving South Africa's transition toward a low-carbon economy. Current and new industry partnerships will play a pivotal role in this evolution and will ensure access to the latest technologies, training equipment, and global best practices—bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world application. In parallel, the introduction of smart skills and Industry 4.0 training will prepare artisans and technicians for the rapidly advancing world of smart mining and manufacturing. These developments mark CTC's transformation from a traditional training provider into a future-focused innovation hub that integrates technology, sustainability, and industry collaboration.

CTC at 60:
**Celebrating a legacy,
shaping the future**





PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Maternity PPE provides full protection

LYNNE DAVIES | CREAMER MEDIA FEATURES WRITER



EXTENDING GARMENT LIFE

The design of the maternity PPE combines sustainability with durability, through the use of reusable designs, including the Velcro-adjustable shirts and maternity jeans that can adapt across trimesters to extend garment life and reduce waste.

Engineered to provide full protection and comfort throughout pregnancy, iron-ore miner Kumba Iron Ore's maternity personal protective equipment (PPE) initiative combines safety compliance with ergonomic fit.

Included in the range are custom two-tone shirts with Velcro-adjustable panels, as well as maternity jeans that can expand as needed to address long-standing issues of ill-fitting, male-cut PPE.

The range has been constructed from breathable, fire-retardant fabrics with back vents for airflow, in addition to featuring adjustable closures to ensure a secure yet flexible fit.

"The design replaces one-piece, male-cut overalls with adjustable, two-piece garments that improve mobility and allow for quicker, more discreet hygiene breaks, while post-partum provisions support a smoother return to work," explains Kumba transformation head and women in mining integration lead **Kutlwano Takadi**.

Combining sustainability and durability, the reusable and adjustable designs can be adapted across trimesters to extend garment life and reduce waste.

Additionally, the same "human-centred" principles of stretch panels, gussets and adaptable fasteners can inspire other inclusive ranges, such as plus-size workwear and culturally appropriate garments, while upholding critical safety standards such as high-visibility compliance.

This also aligns with global trends in ergonomics and green manufacturing, where washable, long-lasting textiles are enhanced with flame-retardant and anti-microbial finishes.

Takadi notes that this programme is anchored in the South African National Standards (SANS), South African Bureau of Standards, and the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources' mandatory code of practice (MCOP), supported by regulatory oversight from National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications to combat noncompliance.

Kumba further ensures that its maternity PPE is safety-compliant and site-ready by partnering with certified suppliers, conducting independent quality-assurance checks, and aligning with international benchmarks by the International Organisation for Standardisation, as well as with SANS.

Kumba's in-house safety specialists and employee representatives have validated the PPE's compliance and comfort through user trials, thereby guaranteeing that every garment is protective and ergonomically fit for purpose.

Workplace Inclusivity

"This initiative removes everyday barriers – such as discomfort and limited facilities – by providing pregnancy-appropriate, tailored PPE and support structures, including lactation rooms, enabling women to work safely and confidently while normalising female participation across mining roles," Takadi highlights.

She explains that, on site, the maternity range mirrors the mine's two-tone shirts and denims, so that pregnant employees – although they are not working in hazardous areas – remain "dressed like the team", reinforcing a sense of belonging.

This approach further aligns with the Mine Health and Safety Council guidance, as well as the MCOP's emphasis on comfort and appropriate facilities, targeting the daily frictions in equipment, clothing and amenities that can limit progress, thereby helping

to turn increased female participation into sustained inclusion and performance.

It also aligns with mining industry employers association Minerals Council South Africa's inclusion agenda.

Takadi says the initiative shows how inclusive design can drive broader innovation, even as pregnant employees are reassigned to low-risk roles for added safety.

South Africa is well positioned to lead gender-inclusive PPE design, owing to clear regulations, such as the MCOP, strong SANS-compliant manufacturing capacity and growing regional demand, she emphasises.

Further, with the technical textiles market expanding and global research driving sustainable, high-performance fabrics, conditions favour local and relevant innovation.

As such, local sourcing was a key priority for this initiative. The pilot batch of Kumba's maternity PPE and its full rollout was achieved within South Africa's PPE manufacturing ecosystem, leveraging SANS-compliant producers to ensure product quality, and enable faster replenishment and skills retention, Takadi elaborates.

The programme prioritises local manufacturers, meeting broad-based black economic-empowerment requirements, consequently helping to build long-term capacity in the PPE sector.



BREAKING BARRIERS

The maternity PPE initiative aims to remove everyday barriers such as discomfort, poor fit and limited facilities by providing pregnancy-appropriate, tailored PPE and support structures which includes lactation rooms

Kumba's maternity PPE initiative demonstrates that safety and dignity must go "hand in hand" to move beyond simply accommodating pregnancy to actively representing it in operational environments, she adds. "This initiative

represents a clear cultural shift in mining, from basic compliance to genuine inclusion, by acknowledging and valuing women's lived experiences," Takadi concludes. 

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Voice amplifiers reduce respirator removal

LYNNE DAVIES | CREAMER MEDIA FEATURES WRITER

Safety equipment supplier Dromex has launched its voice amplification respiratory protection to address the challenge of standard

respirators hindering communication. Respirators muffle speech, thereby making it difficult for a user to be heard or understood.



RESPIRATOR COMPLIANCE

Being able to communicate effectively is not recognised as key to workers' duties, despite communication often being key to worker safety

The company states that compliance is one of the biggest challenges that the industry faces, with a particular area of concern being communication difficulties on the shop floor.

Many employees often compromise their personal safety by lifting, removing, pulling or dropping their respirator so that they can be heard, leaving them exposed to toxic airborne substances in a respirator-zoned area.

The removal of respirator protection is a safety violation that can lead to illness, chronic health issues and potentially death, depending on the duration of exposure to the polluted air.

Consequently, Dromex developed a voice amplification respirator and, while such communication devices exist, many of them were designed for first responders, fire fighters, special police or military units to use as self-contained breathing apparatus that uses radio communication and a full-face respirator.

In military and emergency response environments, effective communication is regarded as inherent to effectively executing the tasks at hand, with measures to facilitate free-flowing, audible and reliable communication adopted as minimum standards, explains Dromex marketing and brand strategy head **Andrew Mysell**.

However, very few devices are available for ambient applications that cater for large workforces to communicate effectively and daily on the shop floor.

Effective communication is, therefore, not always possible despite communication – such as audible warnings or the conveyance of key safety considerations – often being critical to worker safety.

“The main technical challenge was designing a compact unit that was light enough for the employees to wear comfortably while amplifying [their]... voices in a natural and recognisable way,” Mysell states.

Dromex began an iterative design process to progressively optimise the size and weight of the unit while facilitating the natural delivery of users' speech.

This was followed by 19 months of design work, with the company successfully creating a prototype and conducting further testing and development, which resulted in a patent being awarded in 2019.

The amplification device was designed to seamlessly integrate with respirators to clearly project a user's voice, but it had to be refined for commercial production on a large scale. This required further technical adjustments and investment before it could be successfully brought to market.

The new amplification technology eliminates the need to remove respirator masks to communicate and, in so doing, eliminates the risk of users inhaling anything that could harm their health, Mysell states.

Dromex's team of technical respiratory product experts will conduct on-site training – which will also include printed and video-support material – for end-users.

Mysell adds that the mask and voice amplification will encourage compliance and consistent use.

“The best strategy in improving compliance is information, awareness and training. Informing workers of the risks associated with their specific environments, awareness of the impact that these risks could have on their health and training them on which products and process they need to adopt to help mitigate these risks is the key to changing worker behaviour around personal protective equipment compliance,” he concludes. 

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PARTNER CONTENT

PPE, the forgotten armour that silently protects and engenders safety culture

While most people fail to think about personal protective equipment (PPE) until they have to, until someone gets hurt, it is more than gloves, goggles, or steel-toed boots. It is the frontline between routine and regret – the silent shield standing between “I’m fine” and “I wish I’d been more careful”, says Boksburg PPE supplier Halsted & Co CEO **Mandy Gold**.

“In today’s world, we celebrate innovation, speed and productivity, but safety rarely makes the highlight reel. Maybe that’s because PPE doesn’t sparkle. It doesn’t trend. It doesn’t get a standing ovation when everyone makes it home safely. Yet that’s precisely when it’s doing its best work.”

The truth is, the most powerful things in life are invisible when they are working – airbags, firewalls, trust. PPE belongs on that list, emphasises Gold.

The Evolution of Everyday Armour

Once viewed as cumbersome or inconvenient, PPE has quietly evolved into something

far more intelligent and far more personal. The new generation of protective gear is smarter, lighter and designed with the worker in mind.

“Smart helmets can now detect fatigue before it becomes a hazard. Gloves monitor vibration exposure and help reduce the risk of long-term injury. Breathable fabrics keep workers cool in extreme conditions. And, for the first time, PPE designed for women is being created with real anatomical consideration – not just being resized from men’s patterns,” elaborates Gold.

She adds that this progress reflects a shift in thinking, with PPE no longer a box to tick or a rule to follow.

“It is a badge of intelligence, self-respect and care for a company’s workforce. The real power of PPE does not lie in the material it is made from but in the safety mindset it engenders. When you put it on, you’re not just following policy, you’re saying that you take responsibility for your safety and that of your fellow employees. That’s not compliance. That’s leadership.”

The truth is, the most powerful things in life are invisible when they are working

Mandy Gold

Protecting South Africa’s Workforce

Halsted & Co has been upholding that promise of safety since 1952. Over more than 70 years, the company has grown into one of South Africa’s largest PPE suppliers, with 16 branches nationwide. Its footprint ensures that no matter where the work takes place – whether a remote forestry operation or an urban construction site – workers have access to the equipment they need, when they need it.

“We’re proud to serve the industries that keep South Africa’s economy alive: mining, manufacturing, forestry, agriculture, logistics, hospitality and construction. Each sector has its own challenges, operating environments and hazards – and our job is to understand those realities entirely,” states Gold.

That is why Halsted & Co maintains a comprehensive range of stock for immediate collection, backed by knowledgeable staff who not only understand what equipment to sell, but why it matters. From on-site advice to tailored solutions, the company’s goal is simple – to help companies protect what matters most, their people.

More than Products, a Promise

“At Halsted & Co, we know that safety is more than a product line; it is a culture. PPE is a physical expression of that culture – a daily reminder that protection and pride can coexist,” advances Gold.

The company believes that the future of PPE lies not just in technology, but in attitude. In recognising that wearing the right gear is an act of empowerment, not obligation. In valuing the worker who suits up every morning with diligence and discipline, because they know that getting home safely is the real success story of any day’s work.

“For us, safety isn’t just what we do. It is who we are,” concludes Gold. 



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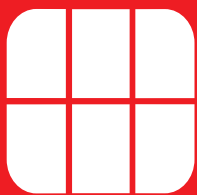


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SHARPENED FOCUS

Khumbul'ekhaya 2.0 sharpens the focus several key initiatives



The renewed Khumbul'ekhaya 2.0 safety and health strategy has been rolled out for the South African mining sector to eliminate fatalities, reduce life-changing injuries and embed a proactive safety culture across all local mines, says Minerals Council South Africa head of safety **Dushendra Naidoo**.

Khumbul'ekhaya 2.0, led by himself and his team at the Minerals Council's Safety & Modernisation Department, reflects a broader commitment to operational excellence, human-centred risk management and sustainable mining practices, he tells *Mining Weekly*.

Building on the foundation of the original Khumbul'ekhaya initiative, the second iteration introduces a sharper and more focused framework for implementation, and differs from the first version in its emphasis on five key execution pillars.

Khumbul'ekhaya 2.0 also sharpens the focus on CEO-led visible-felt leadership, disciplined critical control management, data 4.0 for proactive decision-making, mental health and fatigue management, as well as faster innovation and shared learning.

"The outcomes we're driving are fewer life-changing injuries and sustained fatality elimination through verified critical controls," he adds.

This year is a mobilisation year for the new

initiative, with leadership already present on site through cross-company visible-felt leadership visits and forums to embed the new strategic intent.

"This version 2.0 was conceptualised by myself and went through a rigorous development process to encompass all the key components. The comprehensive safety milestone analysis undertaken by our safety and modernisation team, and the outcomes of our CEO Heartfelt Conversation in November 2024 were critical items that fed into the innovation of version 2.0," explains Naidoo.

As part of this renewed focus, the Minerals Council South Africa has focused on the primary safety challenges confronting the mining industry.

Naidoo says falls of ground (FoG), transport and machinery (T&M), and general incidents, such as being struck by objects or slips and falls, remain dominant safety concerns.

"To address these, we have implemented initiatives, including the FoG Action Plan, an industry-aligned T&M project, and 'bowties' for other critical hazards, which provide structured guidance for operational safety.

"We have built industry-level bowties for FoG, T&M, and noise and dust hazards through a structured process that captured inputs from mining safety experts.

Companies are encouraged to reference these bowties when reviewing their respective safety controls."

Connecting safety with measurable impact, the updated strategy ties directly into the Minerals Council's #MakingMiningMatter focus by converting strategic intent into actionable behaviours. Such content includes leaders on the ground, verified controls for high-risk work, proactive data and visible attention to wellness.

"It's a 2025-2027 implementation programme endorsed for industry roll-out and supported by transparent performance communication," he adds.

Initiatives

Several initiatives are in motion under Khumbul'ekhaya 2.0 to track serious incidents and control failures, and also include a strategy-monitoring tool to oversee safety milestones, including women-in-mining occupational health and safety goals, outlines Naidoo.

Recognising that safety must extend beyond major mining houses, he emphasises the inclusion of smaller, junior and midtier operations, which enables safety insights to be disseminated through the Minerals Council

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Industry needs more clarity on transformation framework

DEVINA HARIPERSAD | CREAMER MEDIA REPORTER

South Africa's mining industry continues to grapple with questions of regulatory certainty regarding transformation. Industry association and advocacy body Minerals Council South Africa stresses that clear, workable rules are critical not only for compliance and investment growth but also to limit cases of "fronting", says Minerals Council public affairs and transformation senior executive **Tebello Chabana**.

The Minerals Council's long-held position is that the Mining Charter is a policy instrument, rather than a binding law, and conceived as a negotiated framework, since its inception in the early 2000s, he adds. This, however, did not hold the industry back in embarking on its transformation journey, with the mining industry in fact being the "transformation pioneer", says Chabana.

The High Court confirmed this interpretation in 2021, clarifying that Mining Charter III cannot override the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), but that the Minister of the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) retains powers to introduce binding regulations on transformation.

Chabana also states that, while the charter serves as a guiding framework, binding transformation obligations already exist elsewhere, with social and labour plans (SLPs), which cover mine community development, human resource development, procurement and other legally enforceable obligations, reviewable every five years.

No Lack of Law

Section 9(2) of the Constitution mandates broad-based empowerment measures, while the MPRDA prescribes specific transformation obligations within the mining industry.

"Mining companies report annually on their performance against their rights, SLPs and charter commitments. These are submitted to the DMPR, which audits the documentation and even does mine site-level inspections and audits, often involving stakeholders such as communities and empowerment partners," adds Chabana.

Our goal is to make mining matter – for employees, for host communities and for the country. That requires a clear and competitive regulatory environment and continued industry commitment

Tebello Chabana

While the framework is sufficient to make obligations enforceable, he strongly believes that the State could do more to clamp down on "fronting", which is the practice of misrepresenting a company's ownership, management or operations to appear compliant with transformation requirements, without delivering real empowerment.

Despite thousands of related complaints to the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) Commission from various sectors of the economy, prosecutions remain few and far between.

A 2018 High Court ruling also settled the "once empowered, always empowered" debate, ensuring that mining companies which concluded empowerment deals would retain credit for those transactions, even if black shareholders subsequently sold their stakes, for the duration of the mining right, says Chabana.

"That judgment provided important certainty by recognising the continuing consequences of concluded deals. Our members simply adhere to the law as it now stands."

Transformation Data

While the Minerals Council South Africa does not conduct member audits, Chabana



TEBELLO CHABANA

The current legal framework that governs mining companies is sufficient to make obligations enforceable, but not enough is being done to clamp down on practices such as fronting

confirms that it does collect industry-wide transformation data.

"Recent studies have highlighted substantial procurement and enterprise development contributions. Our 2024 inclusive procurement study showed that members spent R138-billion with historically disadvantaged South African- (HDSA-) owned companies, over R44-billion with women- and youth-owned businesses, and R175-billion with BEE-compliant suppliers."

He says that Minerals Council South Africa members contributed R1.8-billion towards the growth of emerging enterprises in 2023, including R1.6-billion on supplier development initiatives. These supported more than 2 200 small-, medium-sized and microenterprises, with 30% of beneficiaries being women-owned and controlled and 18% youth-owned and controlled businesses.

Chabana acknowledges, however, that while spending levels are significant, measuring the impact on host communities remains a challenge: "We are trying to move beyond reporting inputs to assessing real outcomes, but as a voluntary association, we do not have capacity for deep audits."

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MINING MATTERS

Mining is so much more than just digging minerals out of the ground

The Minerals Council South Africa's members account for 90% of our country's mineral production. Collectively we believe the growth of the mining industry and the transformation of the economy are not mutually exclusive. We need a stable, predictable regulatory environment that promotes both.

A mining industry that attracts local and international capital for the development of new mines and the expansion of existing operations will create more employment opportunities and attract new entrants.

The mining industry employs 470,000 people in relatively well-paid jobs. These jobs come with a high economic multiplier effect. The industry spends about R7 billion a year on training and skills development. Our programmes provide transferable skills.

Mining is so much more than just digging minerals out of the ground. Companies have extensive Social and Labour Plans, amounting to R3 billion annually, which uplift communities through enterprise and supplier development programmes, as well as large investments in infrastructure, schools and health-care facilities. In many cases, mining operations take place in remote parts of the country and mining companies step in to provide services and infrastructure that failing municipal governments are not delivering.

Mining accounts for 6% of GDP and R800 billion worth of exported mineral products representing 45% of total exports.

Corporate tax payments amounted to 14% of total corpo-

rate tax collection.

Mining companies make up 32% of the JSE Top 40 by market capitalisation. "Mining matters" is not just a slogan, it is a fact!

It is critical for mining companies and investors, throughout the value chain, to have a pragmatic, stable regulatory environment that attracts investment.

It is our considered view that the proposed Mineral Resources Development Bill does not encourage or sustain the growth and investment that the mining industry needs.

The Minerals Council has submitted a detailed document outlining our concerns and we remain constructively engaged during this consultation phase. We do, however, expect somewhat of a protracted period before a redraft emerges, potentially extending into the new year.

The mining industry's significant contributions to transformation to address historical injustices were made despite the industry facing the a difficult operating and regulatory environment.

Minister Gwede Mantashe has often said on public platforms that the mining industry is the most transformed sector in our economy, and we agree.

Our 2019 study reviewed progress made on Mining Charter 2010. The respondents represented about 70% of total sector production and achieved 39% HDSA shareholding against the 26% target. Ownership was broad-based – employees owned a total weighted average of 7.5%, community members owned 9.4% and HDSA entrepreneurs owned 22.3%.

An Employment Equity study undertaken in 2023, of members

representing about half of the industry's workforce, showed that in many occupational levels, targets were met and exceeded and that, overall, the industry was close to achieving most targets.

Women now comprise about a fifth of employees, which is heartening considering that before 1994 women were legislated out of the underground work force.

Given the contribution that mining makes to the national economy, to employees and communities, it is not difficult to understand why the Minerals Council is so emphatic about the need for a regulatory and operating environment that attracts investment.

It costs R20 billion and 10 years to build a decent sized mine. Very few mining companies have that type of money lying around on the balance sheet. Companies need to operate in an environment that allows them to attract capital in the form of debt or equity to fund projects. Providers of capital will not put their money into risky environments where their returns are threatened by regulatory uncertainty, crime and corruption and failing infrastructure. At the very least, the cost of capital increases significantly rendering projects unviable that otherwise would proceed.

This is the fundamental starting point of all our discussions with Minister Mantashe and his colleagues, as well as other government departments. The mining industry has been severely constrained during the past three decades by regulatory uncertainty, weak administrative processes, unnecessary delays in licensing authorisations, as well as the severe repercussions that state

capture has had on electricity supply and costs, and rail and port disruptions.

The mining industry has enormous untapped potential in the minerals we already mine and minerals of the future. The Minerals Council will not relent in lobbying and advocating for the best possible regulatory and operating environment to realise this potential for the benefit of our shareholders, employees, communities and the broader economy.

The Minerals Council is fully engaged with government on the legislative issues at hand including the proposed amendment bill and the proposed chrome export tax issue. It is important for both investment and job creation that rational outcomes prevail, and not inappropriate policy responses to misdiagnosed problems.

Can we achieve growth and transformation at the same time? Of course we can, but we must ensure an enabling policy framework that attracts and retains capital.

Mining is a very people-centric industry and we are deeply connected to the fabric of society. It is important that we succeed!



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Climate goals weighed against economic realities

DEVINA HARIPERSAD | CREAMER MEDIA REPORTER

South Africa's mining industry is being positioned as a contributor to and an enabler of, the country's climate transition, while its role in sustaining economic growth and jobs is also being highlighted, according to representatives from mining industry association and advocacy body Minerals Council South Africa.

Speaking to *Mining Weekly*, Minerals Council South Africa executives emphasise that decarbonisation is a priority that must be pursued in a way that reflects national realities such as energy insecurity, unemployment and inequality.

The mining industry is making considerable investments in decarbonisation measures ranging from energy efficiency to large-scale renewable-energy deployment, says Minerals Council South Africa climate change senior executive **Shamini Harrington**.

Mining companies are also testing technologies that could unlock low-carbon opportunities across the economy, including green hydrogen and biofuels.

"Many of our members, from Sasol to Anglo American and De Beers, are running proof-of-concept projects in this space. These innovations could also enable employees from the coal sector to transition into new industries in future," she says.

Harrington adds that the Minerals Council South Africa supports a diversified energy mix

that includes coal, gas, renewables and other low-carbon sources: "We must recognise our resources and utilise them to fund the transition. Excluding any one energy source, especially now, is impractical".

The Minerals Council South Africa has a climate change position statement that commits members to reducing Scope 1 and 2 emissions, developing climate response strategies and improving transparency in reporting, says environment head **Stephinah Mudau**.

Members are also urged to adopt climate adaptation measures and ensure that the transition is just.

Mining is central to providing the raw materials needed for the global energy transition, with minerals such as copper, lithium and rare earths being critical for manufacturing low-carbon technologies.

"The sector may contribute emissions today, but it also provides the resources essential for decarbonisation worldwide," she adds.

Despite these advances, Harrington cautions that the transition has to be carefully paced, as the sector faces major challenges of time and capital: South Africa's fragile economy, together with depressed production and retrenchments, make large-scale investment difficult.

"An unstable mining industry will not have the capital to invest in costly low-carbon technologies," she warns. Mudau agrees, adding

that commodity prices are set internationally, which means miners cannot pass the cost of decarbonisation on to consumers.

Policy incoherence adds to the strain, as carbon budgets, carbon taxes and excess emissions penalties do not align; consequently miners face more penalties than incentives.

"What we need are policies that encourage investment in low-carbon opportunities and in turn help tackle poverty, unemployment and inequality," adds Harrington.

The balance between supplying critical minerals and decarbonising operations remains a pressing issue, and although reserves exist and demand is strong, investment is constrained by regulatory uncertainty and high operating costs.

"An investment-friendly environment is essential for South Africa to play a global role in supplying future critical minerals," she adds.

Mudau notes that mining-related emissions may rise in the short term if mining activity is to increase to meet global demand for critical minerals to support the global 1.5 °C climate goal, with future energy transition solutions being manufactured as the result of more critical minerals being available.

Investment in Renewable Energy, Research

Minerals Council South Africa members are actively investing in renewable energy and research, says deputy head **Peter Mohasoa**.

"Collectively, members have installed about 7.5 GW of renewable power and are investing in technologies such as hydrogen-powered haul trucks. These initiatives show commitment to decarbonisation while preparing to meet critical mineral demand," he says.

Harrington adds that renewable-energy integration brings both business and environmental benefits, improving supply reliability and reducing costs. 

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South Africa's Mining Leadership Forum, and regional tripartite forums with the Mine Health & Safety Council.

"We also host communities of practice for adoption meetings and provide webinars and workshops that are open to all mining stakeholders," he adds.

Technology and innovation also serve as the backbone of the new strategy, particularly under its data 4.0 pillar, whereby this digital layer aims to consolidate leading indicators across the industry.

"Technology enables earlier warnings, targeted interventions and faster learning across companies. Our health- and safety-driven innovation pillar also covers adoption of

leading practices, gender inclusion and women in mining – all designed to generate measurable outcomes for safer operations."

Beyond technology, Khumbul'ekhaya 2.0 balances immediate risk reduction with long-term cultural transformation, adds Naidoo.

"We run a dual track: a 'stop-the-bleeding' package with heartfelt leadership, isolation and ground-support integrity, as well as scheduled maintenance, competent supervision and fatigue controls, while building a longer-term culture through just culture, transparent reporting and shared learning. The strategy shifts the industry from reactive to proactive safety management."

The revised approach integrates safety with broader sustainability and social priorities,

with mental health, fatigue management and transparent reporting contributing to not only workplace safety but also the protection of human rights and environmental stewardship.

Naidoo adds that safety and health priorities strengthen community trust and investor confidence, with version 2.0 "explicitly" elevating mental health and fatigue management, addressing the evolving workplace realities after Covid-19.

To ensure accountability and transparency, engagement with mine-affected communities remains a cornerstone of the programme: "We publish progress, share learning and ensure community expectations are incorporated through these platforms," he concludes. 

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Company gears up for framework launch

HALIMA FROST | CREAMER MEDIA SENIOR WRITER

PREDICTABLE POWER

In anticipation of the new South African Wholesale Electricity Market and the Balance Responsible Party framework, Enerweb has been proactively gearing its clients for compliance

In anticipation of the formal launch of the South African Wholesale Electricity Market (SAWEM) and the Balance Responsible Party (BRP) framework, engineering business and IT enabler for the electricity sector Enerweb has been actively preparing its clients for BRP requirements.

Set to launch in April 2026, SAWEM is being established to replace State-owned power utility Eskom's single-buyer monopoly model with a multi-buyer, multi-seller system, aiming for cost-efficiency and price transparency.

"A BRP is an entity responsible for ensuring that its contracted positions for generation and load are balanced against actual physical delivery," says Enerweb CEO **Santego Govender**.

This includes forecasting accurately, scheduling precisely and managing deviations accordingly.

Introducing BRPs is critical to maintaining system stability and market integrity, and "... if a BRP is consistently out of balance – for example, over- or underdelivering against its schedules – it could face imbalance charges and settlement penalties, creating financial and reputational risks", Govender adds.

Therefore, Enerweb is supporting clients with forecasting tools, system optimisation and risk analytics so that, by the time SAWEM goes live, they are ready to manage their portfolios confidently and minimise exposure to imbalance risk.

The BRP requirement applies across the local power sector, affecting all traders and

independent power producers (IPPs) that will participate in the SAWEM.

"From April 2026, all IPPs and traders with contracts above the 10 MW threshold will need to register and perform as BRPs," and their effectively managing balancing positions will become crucial for sustained success once the SAWEM is operational, he says.

Important Power Implementation

The launch of SAWEM and its related BRP requirements signifies a fundamental transformation in South Africa's electricity wheeling landscape, says Govender.

Enerweb's customised electricity trading and wheeling solutions streamline the management of increasingly intricate energy portfolios.

These tools empower traders, IPPs, municipalities and large consumers to efficiently plan, trade and settle electricity flows within a market environment characterised by variable renewable energy and evolving regulatory landscapes.

The company's flagship energy trading and risk management system offers comprehensive capabilities across the trading life cycle – from long-term purchase planning and short-term scheduling to meter data integration, contract settlements, billing and reporting.

Complemented by advanced optimisation and forecasting features – such as trade optimisation, risk management, data integration and visualisation – these modules ensure efficient and informed decision-making.

The trade optimiser dynamically distributes power among customers and generators using linear optimisation to minimise excess supply and reduce costs while analysing tariffs, rebates and municipal wheeling frameworks.

Meanwhile, the risk manager supports traders in assessing and mitigating portfolio risks through scenario analysis, Monte Carlo simulations and multi-objective resource optimisation encompassing renewables, storage and grid limitations. Monte Carlo simulations help users to estimate the probability of various outcomes in complex, unpredictable processes.

Enerweb's market forecaster employs machine learning and statistical models to generate highly accurate demand, price and generation forecasts for day-ahead planning and long-term strategy.

The integration of metering and market data is facilitated by the data integrator and visualiser, which has user-friendly dashboards, enabling traders and analysts to interpret and act on complex information in real time.

Strategy Unpacked

Enerweb's strategy is focused on two key areas.

"First, we are equipping clients with the tools and processes needed to forecast accurately, optimise schedules and manage imbalance risks," Govender adds.

Secondly, the company is strengthening its in-house capabilities and systems to support the evolving needs of traders in this new environment.

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Virtual wheeling PPA a first in Africa

HALIMA FROST | CREAMER MEDIA SENIOR WRITER

Although the virtual wheeling power purchase agreement (PPA) between telecommunications company Vodacom and renewable-energy company SOLA Group draws inspiration from international corporate PPA models, it is uniquely South African in design, says SOLA Group commercial MD **Jonathan Skeen**.

He explains that although the virtual wheeling PPA reflects global best practice, it has been tailored to the realities of State-owned power utility Eskom's grid and regulatory framework, creating a first-of-its-kind solution in an African country.

The power will be sourced from the 195 MW solar PV Springbok Solar Power Project, in Virginia, in the Free State, which is Africa's first multi-buyer, flexible energy wheeling facility, and SOLA Group's "most significant" project to date.

"We are proud to have announced the successful and early commercial operations date for Springbok Solar Power Project, earlier this month," Skeen adds.

For Vodacom, virtual wheeling offers access to renewable electricity at scale, thereby reducing carbon emissions, supporting the realisation of its net-zero target for 2035, and mitigating exposure to escalating tariffs.

Significantly, it also enables Vodacom to power operations in municipalities where access to renewable energy was previously unfeasible.

For SOLA, the advantage lies in pioneering a multi-buyer model that consolidates large and geographically dispersed clients into a single, bankable project. This approach facilitates the financing of utility-scale renewable-energy initiatives while providing corporate partici-

pants with flexibility through a combination of long-term and short-term PPAs.

Collectively, these two organisations exemplify how collaboration can serve to expedite South Africa's transition to clean energy.

Multi-Buyer Blueprint

Skeen expresses that Eskom's virtual wheeling framework and SOLA's Springbok multi-buyer solar facility represent blueprints for future renewable procurement, demonstrating that corporates need not be constrained by geography or single offtake structures, and that renewables can be delivered reliably, flexibly, and at scale.

"Springbok Solar Power Project breaks new ground by introducing a model that combines long-term anchor contracts with buyers, including multinational technology company Amazon and mining major Sibanye-Stillwater," states Skeen.

He adds that the collaboration with Amazon has been "instrumental" in enabling South Africa's first wheeling project in 2020, and subsequently Springbok.

"As part of our commitment to achieving net-zero carbon by 2040, Amazon Web Services (AWS) is proud to support innovative renewable-energy projects like Springbok Solar Power Project," says AWS South Africa country manager **James Hickman**.

Hickman adds the collaboration not only advances AWS's sustainability goals but also helps develop new models for corporate renewable-energy procurement in Africa.

"The multi-buyer approach demonstrates how cloud and sustainability can work together to create scalable solutions for businesses of all sizes," Hickman avers.

"Achieving commercial operation of the Springbok Solar Power Project is another milestone in our journey to energy independence and decarbonisation," adds Sibanye-Stillwater's CEO **Richard Stewart**.

He says this is the second project to achieve commercial operation in Sibanye-Stillwater's 407 MW portfolio of contracted renewable-energy projects, contributing to its goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2040.

Stewart thanks SOLA Group for effectively managing the construction and start-up, securing Sibanye-Stillwater's offtake.

Included in the PPA are shorter-term, flexible agreements with a further six companies.

These additional buyers include diversified miner Rio Tinto, property developer Redefine Properties, integrated financial service provider Old Mutual, chemicals and petrochemicals company Sasol, construction materials company Afrimat, and meat product developer Barbeque Rib Manufacturers, or BRM Brands, among others.

"Together they represent a cross-section of South Africa's most prominent companies," Skeen says.

Project Details

At full capacity, the SOLA Group's Springbok Solar Power Project is expected to produce about 430 GWh/y – enough to supply power to 150 000 homes; it will also offset about 399 000 t of CO₂ a year – comparable to planting 6.5-million trees.

Further, over R375-million has been invested in nearby communities, and all of the project's workforce was sourced locally, with 49% being youths.

"SOLA's community investment initiatives aim to create lasting positive impacts," says Skeen.

"Springbok Solar Power Project cements our role as South Africa's pioneering, wheeling independent power producer," adds Skeen, concluding that the company enables increased client optionality, depending on their business outlook. 

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This includes ongoing development in forecasting, settlement modelling and scenario analysis, ensuring that solutions remain closely aligned with regulatory and market changes.

In this way, Enerweb and its clients are prepared for the medium- to long-term opportunities associated with the introduction of the SAWEM.

Further, the company's trading and wheeling solutions have been adopted by some of the major utilities and electricity traders in the Southern Africa market. It states that

traders consistently highlight that "it is virtually impossible" to manage wheeling/trading portfolios comprising renewable generators on one side and diverse customer contracts on the other without the advanced optimisation, risk management and forecasting capabilities that Enerweb's tools provide.

According to clients, its solutions have proven "particularly effective" in balancing variable solar and wind generation with customer load obligations, as well as reducing oversupply and cost through precision wheeling allocations.

Clients laud the company's ability to support compliance with emerging market and municipal wheeling rules while enhancing profitability by aligning portfolio strategies with market opportunities.

"Enerweb's suite of products has become an indispensable toolkit for navigating the transition to renewables-driven electricity markets, giving traders the confidence to manage risk, optimise value and ensure reliable delivery to their customers," concludes Govender. 

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When it Comes to Energy Wheeling, Industry Leaders Choose SOLA.

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- **Proven Delivery:** Project Springbok (195 MW) delivered ahead of schedule
- **Award Winning:** SOLA won the SAPVIA IPP / Developer of the Year Award for 2025
- **Available:** 65 MW capacity from 2026 (selling quickly)



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SOLA

Namibia's first solar wheeling project commissioned

The 10 MW Maxwell solar plant, which represents a “ground-breaking step” in Namibia’s transition to renewable energy and “serves as a model for future public-private power partnerships”, has been commissioned, says solar asset management company Sustainable Power Solutions (SPS).

The company, in partnership with gold mining company B2Gold Namibia, Maxwell farm owner, the Oelofse family, and local property developer Fortitude, has successfully commissioned Namibia’s first solar wheeling project under electric power utility NamPower’s modified single buyer (MSB) programme.

NamPower’s MSB programme allows independent power producers (IPPs) to sell electricity directly to large customers using the national grid. This supports energy

security, independent power generation and demonstrates the potential of wheeling in driving the country’s transition to clean renewable energy.

The Maxwell solar plant will deliver, renewable energy to B2Gold’s Otjikoto mine, which is situated 20 km away.

“The Maxwell solar plant is a big step forward in opening up access to Namibia’s grid,” says SPS director and co-founder **Francois van Themaat**. He adds it proves that wheeling under the MSB programme works and shows how private producers and corporate offtakers can collaborate with NamPower to accelerate renewable-energy deployment.

Van Themaat says the project reflects the combined efforts of multiple stakeholders.

B2Gold, Namibia’s largest gold producer, has steadily increased its use of renewable

energy since 2015, when it relied entirely on heavy fuel oil. Its 7 MW on-site solar plant, commissioned in 2018, previously supplied 13% of the mine’s power needs.

With the addition of the Maxwell plant, renewable energy will now supply a meaningful portion of the Otjikoto mine’s power needs.

“B2Gold’s ambition is to be Namibia’s leader in renewables-powered mining, while supporting our global target to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions by 30% by 2030,” says B2Gold Namibia country manager **John Roos**.

He explains that partnering with SPS under the MSB framework gives B2Gold a cost-effective, low-carbon energy supply and demonstrates what is possible for the sector.

The project was initiated before the MSB framework was finalised, requiring close collaboration with NamPower and the Electricity Control Board to shape a workable model.

Van Themaat stresses that SPS took on a unique risk with a shorter power purchase agreement (PPA) of eight years, aligned with the Otjikoto mine’s approved life-of-mine. “It was ambitious, but we believe in Namibia’s renewable future,” he says, while lauding the engineering, finance, legal, and asset management teams, as well as the project shareholders, all of whom “pulled together” over four years to aid the realisation of this project. 

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A Global Pledge. A Promise To Africa.

On the Global Citizen stage, Pele Energy Group pledged to **build 10GW of renewable energy across Africa over the next decade**. This commitment will power millions of households, create opportunities for young people, and drive equitable growth — ensuring the benefits of clean energy reach the communities that need them most.

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PARTNER CONTENT

Pele Energy Group champions inclusive energy transition at global citizen summit

Pele Energy Group reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive and sustainable energy development during the Global Citizen NOW: Impact Sessions held in New York. Representing South Africa and the African private sector, Pele Energy Group CEO **Gqi Raoleka** joined European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** and Global Citizen CEO **Hugh Evans** in a landmark discussion on the role of the private sector in accelerating Africa's just energy transition.

Raoleka underscored that achieving universal energy access demands collaboration, innovation and investment across borders. His participation highlighted Pele Energy Group's belief that Africa's transition to clean energy must not only expand renewable capacity but also empower communities through education, skills

development and sustainable enterprise.

Echoing Von der Leyen's call that "2025 must be a turning point for climate action and solidarity," Raoleka emphasised the importance of partnerships that combine purpose with progress.

"At Pele, we've always believed that transformation is not a solo act, it's built on partnership," he said.

"Everything we've achieved has been through collaboration: with government, with business and with communities. The energy transition demands that same spirit of working together to power possibility. Our mission is not only to generate clean energy but to build opportunity, skills and sustainable livelihoods. Because when we partner with purpose, we don't just build projects, we build progress."

Pele's participation at the Global Citizen

Summit forms part of a strategic collaboration between Pele Energy Group and Global Citizen, united by a shared mission to advance Africa's just energy transition and drive social impact through scalable solutions. As part of this partnership, Pele will reveal a set of commitments and initiatives in the months ahead that align with Global Citizen's objectives of climate action, scaling up renewables in Africa, poverty eradication and equitable growth.

Within the next 12 to 24 months, Pele Energy Group will publish a roadmap outlining progress against these commitments, tracking project milestones, community impact metrics, and local supplier development initiatives. The company will also pursue partnerships with African and international institutions aligned with sustainability, infrastructure and climate finance and social equity, to amplify the impact of its work.

Pele's engagement at the summit reflects a broader narrative of African private sector leadership in global sustainability, proving that purpose and profit can coexist through responsible investment and inclusive growth. As a proudly South African company with a continental outlook, Pele continues to demonstrate how business can be a catalyst for transformation, equity and lasting impact. 



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Kgomotso Lebele

Accenture

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Full Name: Kgomotso Lebele

Position and Company Name: Country MD of Accenture since October 1, 2025

Main Activity of the Company:

Accenture helps the world's leading businesses, governments and other organisations build their digital core, optimise their operations, accelerate revenue growth, and enhance citizen services – creating tangible value at speed and scale. It is a talent- and innovation-led company with about 779 000 people serving clients in more than 120 countries

Date and Place of Birth: I was born and bred in Diepkloof, Soweto

Schools and Tertiary Education:

Matric, Ngaka Maseko High School; degree in biochemistry, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits); master's degree in information technology, University of Pretoria; executive development programme, Wits Business School; certificate in disruptive technology, Harvard Business School (HBX)

First Job: I held various internships before joining Accenture's internship programme

Size of First Pay Packet: About R900 a month

Career Path to Date: I have spent 21 years at Accenture, during which time I

have risen through the ranks to my current role

Number of People under Your Leadership: 1 449 employees

Management Style:

I pursue an inclusive management style

Personal Best Achievement: Offering 50 students jobs at Accenture following the introduction of a learn-to-earn programme in 2021

Person Who Has Had the Biggest Influence on Your Life: My mother and grandmother

Person Who Has Had the Biggest Influence on Your Career: My brother

Person You Would Most Like to Meet: American professional golfer Tiger Woods, who has 15 major championships and 82 PGA Tour wins to his name

Businessperson Who Has Impressed You Most: South African business leader Mike Teke, who currently serves as CEO of Seriti Resources and is the chairperson and controlling shareholder of Masimong Group

Philosophy of Life: Show up and be kind

Biggest Ever Opportunity: Joining Accenture

Biggest Ever Disappointment: I registered a company with friends in 2005 but it never got off the ground and remains dormant to this day

Hope for the Future: Equitable opportunities for all in South Africa

Favourite Reading: Leadership/self-help and tech-related books



Favourite Food/Drink: South African traditional food and the occasional whisky

Favourite Music: Various genres, guided by my mood at a given time

Favourite Sport: Golf

Hobbies: Football, golf and reading

Car: BMW

Pets: None

Miscellaneous Dislikes: Cauliflower and broccoli

Married: To Grace Itumeleng

Children: Letlhogonolo, 14; Tshegofatso, 8; Tsholofelo, 4

Clubs: Kaizer Chief and Manchester United football clubs



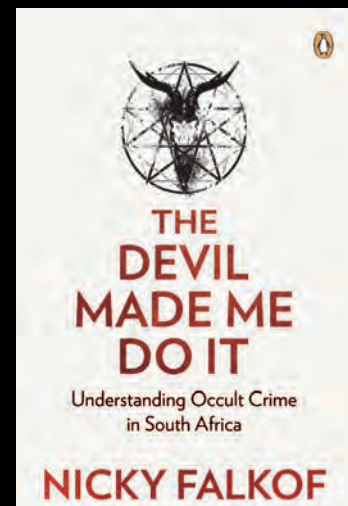
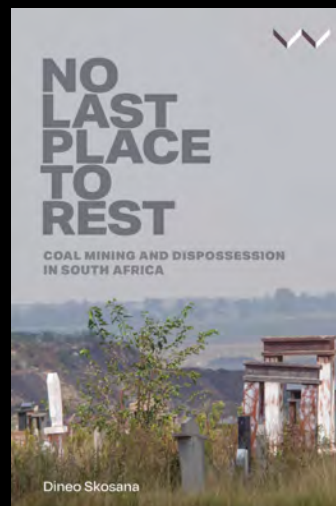
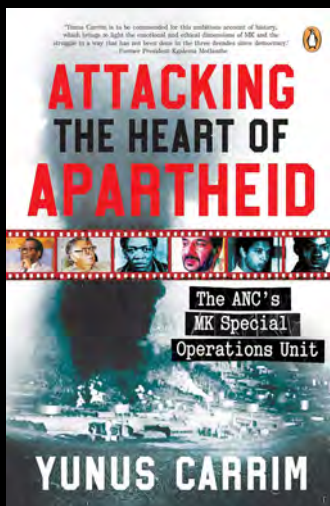
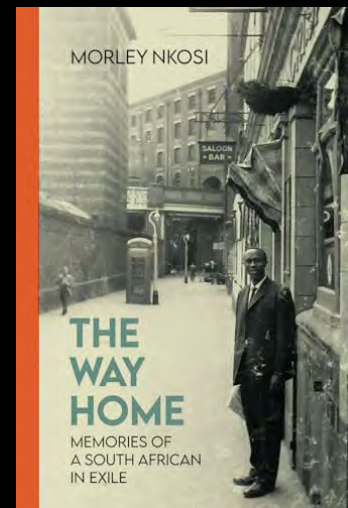
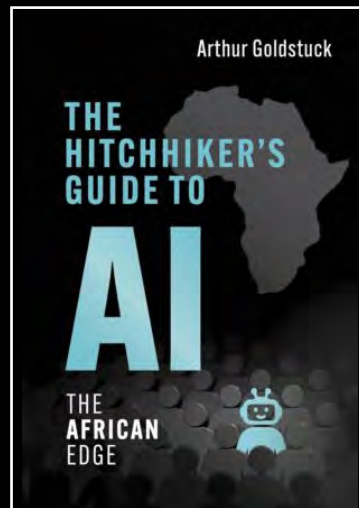
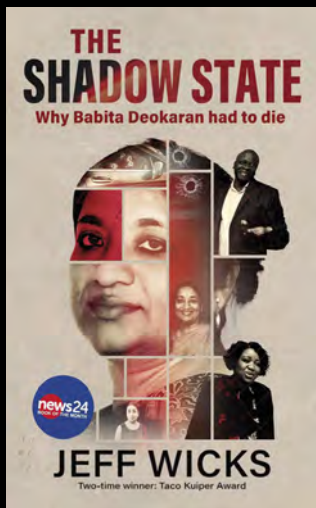
Tiger Woods

Source: Wikipedia

My philosophy of life is to show up and be kind



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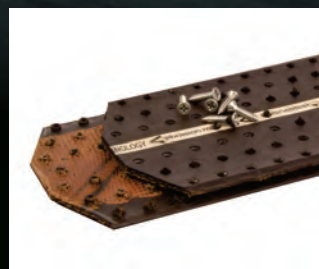


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