Sub-Sahara

Mining & Industrial Journal

www.subsaharamining.com

January-March 2026 Edition

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mining Indaba 2026 once again underscores Sub-Saharan Africa's strategic importance to the global mining and industrial landscape. As demand for critical minerals, infrastructure development, and energy security accelerates, the discussions taking place at this year's Indaba reflect an industry focused on investment confidence, operational resilience, and long-term sustainability.

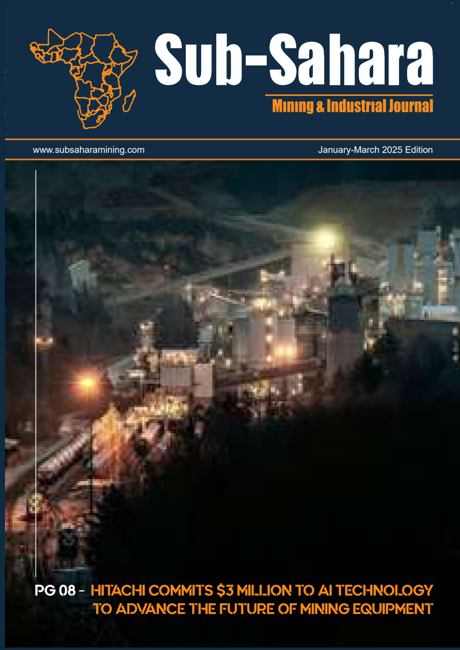
In this edition of Sub-Sahara Mining & Industrial Journal, we highlight companies that are actively supporting the region's mining and industrial growth. PFERD continues to deliver high-performance cutting, grinding, and surface finishing solutions that enhance productivity and safety in demanding operating environments. Bedeschi brings decades of engineering expertise in bulk material handling and heavy industrial equipment, supporting efficient material movement across ports, cement, and mining operations. KSB, a global leader in pumps and valves, remains essential to mining, water, and energy infrastructure, providing reliable solutions that improve process efficiency and operational continuity.

Together, these companies reflect the innovation and technical excellence required to support a modern, competitive mining sector. As Mining Indaba 2026 brings industry stakeholders together to shape the future of mining in Africa, we invite our readers to engage with the insights, technologies, and solutions featured in this issue.

Welcome to this edition, where we celebrate progress, strengthen partnerships, and explore the future of mining in Africa.

The Editor

CONTENTS



OUR TEAM

Editor
Brena Shumbamhini
editor@subsaharamining.com

Accounts & Admin
Tatenda Hungwe
admin@subsaharamining.com

Design & Layout
Kuda Keith Mgari
Kudakmgari@gmail.com

Sales
jack.archard@subsaharamining.com
nelson.moyo@subsaharamining.com
shalom.chishombi@subsaharamining.com
alouis.mazviyo@subsaharamining.com
marlvin.shumba@subsaharamining.com
nicholas.mayo@subsaharamining.com
william.museu@subsaharamining.com
david.brunn@subsaharamining.com

Contact Details
+2711 568 0710
info@subsaharamining.com
advertising@subsaharamining.com

Address
6976 Senegal Crescent
Northriding ,
2188,
Gauteng
South AfricaSouth Africa

ZAMBIA'S CRITICAL MINERALS RENAISSANCE: A NEW BLUEPRINT FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Zambia is experiencing a major exploration resurgence driven by global demand for copper, cobalt, lithium, graphite, and rare earth elements—minerals essential to electric vehicles and renewable energy systems. As the world accelerates its energy transition, Zambia's geological wealth has placed it at the centre of new global supply chain strategies.

Modern exploration in Zambia is increasingly powered by AI, high-resolution geophysics, and digital geological databases that reduce risk and speed up discovery. Government-backed geological data systems and nationwide airborne surveys have strengthened investor confidence and enabled companies like Ivanhoe Mines to commit significant capital, including a US$50 million copper exploration programme.

Investment models are also evolving. Public-private partnerships and joint ventures now allow junior explorers, mid-tier developers, and major mining houses to share risk and fast-track regional exploration across the Copperbelt. At the same time, the country is advancing a multi-commodity strategy that includes cobalt refining, graphite exploration, lithium assessments, and progress on rare earth development projects.

Technology is raising exploration efficiency through AI modelling, induced polarisation surveys, and digitally integrated mapping platforms. Companies such as Koryx Copper are applying these tools to large licence areas, combining historic data with modern geophysics to identify high-potential targets quickly and cost-effectively.

Infrastructure improvements—including enhanced rail links, power systems, and future mineral processing facilities—are creating strong economic spillover effects while supporting domestic value addition. New downstream capabilities such as cobalt sulfate refining aim to capture more value inside Zambia instead of exporting raw minerals.

International partnerships are helping transfer technical knowledge, improve mining safety standards, and build local institutional capacity. These collaborations ensure that technological progress directly supports Zambia's long-term economic development.

With growing capital inflows, expanding exploration programmes, and strengthened geological data frameworks, Zambia is positioning itself as a reliable and strategic supplier of critical minerals essential to the global clean energy transition. The country's exploration renaissance reflects a broader economic transformation built on technology, investment collaboration, and a shift toward integrated mineral value chains.

KAVANGO RESOURCES UNVEILS MAIDEN JORC GOLD RESOURCE AT NIGHTSHIFT, STRENGTHENING HILLSIDE PROJECT IN ZIMBABWE

LSE-listed Kavango Resources has announced a maiden JORC-compliant mineral resource estimate (MRE) for the Nightshift prospect, confirming the presence of an open-pit gold deposit within the Hillside gold project in Zimbabwe.

Released on October 20, the results exceeded expectations and validated the company's strategy to expand gold production through modern, mechanised mining and processing methods.

According to Kavango, the Nightshift deposit shows strong ore tonnage and high-grade potential per vertical metre—key factors for optimising project performance. In response, the company is evaluating a 50% increase in processing capacity at the nearby Bill's Luck gold mine, from 200 to 300 tonnes per day (t/d), to support Hillside's near-term production plans.

The maiden MRE outlines 20,000 ounces of gold at an average grade of 0.86 g/t, comprising 11,000 ounces indicated (0.78 g/t) and 9,000 ounces inferred (0.98 g/t). Extending over at least 700 metres of strike length and 200 metres in width, the deposit remains open at depth and along strike, with large unexplored areas still to be drilled. Kavango's 2024 drilling confirmed mineralised structures extending more than 200 metres below surface, indicating both open-pit and underground potential.

Resource drilling completed in early 2025 tested roughly 15% of the known strike and defined sufficient mineralisation for a minimum three-year mine life during the first production phase. Kavango plans to start shallow, selective open-pit mining at Nightshift in the first half of 2026, following additional grade-control drilling. Further exploration along strike and at depth is planned to assess underground extensions.

At Bill's Luck, the company is advancing resource definition drilling, with an initial MRE expected before the end of 2025 to refine the overall Hillside mine plan.

"This maiden JORC resource at Nightshift marks a key milestone for Kavango," said CEO Ben Turney. "It demonstrates that our gold development strategy in Zimbabwe is delivering results and that our focus on near-surface, fast-track production targets is working."

Turney added that initial drilling covered only 15% of the 700 m strike length yet delivered stronger-than-expected grades, reinforcing confidence in Nightshift's broader resource potential.

Kavango is assessing the feasibility of expanding Hillside's processing capacity to 300 t/d, supported by ongoing trenching and drilling to potentially extend the Nightshift strike length to 1,400 metres and evaluate deeper gold zones.

"With strong gold prices and continued momentum across our portfolio," Turney said, "we are confident in unlocking the full potential of our Hillside gold project in Zimbabwe."

HITACHI COMMITS $3 MILLION TO TO ADVANCE THE FUTURE OF MI

Modern mining operations are becoming increasingly complex, with vast equipment fleets generating enormous volumes of operational and sensor data. This shift has created new opportunities for advanced analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) to reshape maintenance management, productivity optimisation, and long-term capital planning. The integration of AI capabilities with traditional heavy-equipment engineering expertise marks a pivotal evolution in global mining technology strategy.

The industry's transformation is reflected through strategic partnerships bridging established manufacturers and specialised AI developers. Hitachi's US$3 million investment in Rithmik Solutions demonstrates how major equipment suppliers are pursuing targeted capital deployment to access sophisticated analytical capabilities while maintaining disciplined evaluation of emerging technologies. This approach enables manufacturers to modernise their digital offerings without taking on the full risk of early-stage innovation.

Mining companies face intensifying pressures—from escalating maintenance costs and environmental compliance requirements to labour shortages and aggressive production targets. With unplanned downtime costing the global mining sector an estimated US$20–25 billion annually and maintenance accounting for 25–35% of total operating costs, data-driven solutions offer a compelling pathway to operational resilience.

Advanced analytics platforms now continuously process real-time equipment data, allowing operators to compare actual machine performance against design specifications and identify inefficiencies that traditional maintenance schedules often overlook. Technologies such as the LANDCROS Connect Insight platform, launching in April 2025, collect near real-time machine data and pair it with AI tools to produce tailored operational insights far more precise than manufacturer benchmarks alone. Field trials conducted from August 2024 to July 2025 across fleets of dump trucks and hydraulic excavators further illustrate the value of AI in detecting anomalies early and preventing damage escalation.

AI-enabled systems have demonstrated significant operational improvements, including 35–45% reductions in downtime, 25–30% decreases in maintenance expenses, and the ability to predict equipment failures with up to 92% accuracy weeks in advance. Modern anomaly detection architectures integrate supervised learning trained on historical failure patterns with unsupervised models capable of identifying new anomalies, while time-series algorithms track degradation trends and multi-variable analysis links operational behaviours to emerging risks.

Strategic capital deployment models in mining technology now span minority equity stakes, joint development programmes, and full acquisitions. Minority investments ranging from US$1–5 million provide access to innovation while allowing manufacturers to evaluate technology alignment. Deeper co-development efforts in the US$5–15 million range target platform integration, while acquisitions above US$15 million aim for full control of market-shaping technologies. This mirrors broader sector trends, with venture funding into mining technology rising 42% between 2022 and 2024 to reach US$4.8 billion.

Open platform architectures are also becoming a competitive differentiator as mining companies increasingly operate diverse fleets of 8–12 equipment brands, including legacy machines that represent up to 60% of active assets. Operations that adopt standardised data formats across mixed fleets report 35–45% reductions in integration costs, while API-driven interoperability can cut third-party analytics integration timelines by more than 60%. This openness enhances flexibility, reduces vendor lock-in, and positions mining companies to adopt best-in-class technologies more readily.

Projected environmental benefits of AI-driven optimisation are equally substantial: fuel consumption reductions of 30–40%, 20–25% decreases in component turnover, and 15–20% improvements in overall energy efficiency. Better equipment monitoring also supports sustainability reporting, resource planning, and long-term asset efficiency.

AI TECHNOLOGY
NING EQUIPMENT

Global market dynamics further influence AI adoption patterns. North America leads in AI software development, Asia in equipment manufacturing, Europe in regulatory frameworks, and Australia/Canada in field testing and operational validation. Meanwhile, emerging markets are accelerating adoption as mature AI systems demonstrate proven ROI and operational reliability.

Implementation challenges remain significant—including legacy system integration, sensor calibration, data quality management, industrial cybersecurity, and workforce readiness. Successful adoption requires clear data standards, robust communication protocols, secure IoT frameworks, and scalable architectures capable of supporting multi-site deployments. Human capital development is increasingly critical, as operations shift toward data-driven decision-making and AI-assisted workflows.

Technology roadmaps indicate that by 2030, mining operations will see expanded autonomous equipment coordination, advanced digital twin modelling for simulation and risk planning, and deeper integration into industrial IoT ecosystems. Beyond 2030, fully autonomous, smart mining environments are expected to emerge as AI systems mature and regulatory frameworks evolve.

The convergence of AI with established heavy equipment manufacturing offers mining companies unprecedented opportunities for productivity gains, cost optimisation, environmental improvement, and competitive advantage. Strategic partnerships between innovators and large OEMs will continue accelerating this evolution, providing the mining sector with practical pathways to adopt advanced analytics across global operations.

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE IN MINING: BEDESCHI SOLUTIONS FROM DESIGN TO SITE

Bedeschi, world leader in bulk material handling for more than a century, has extensive experience in delivering turnkey solutions for the mining industry.

The global mining sector requires solutions that are fast, reliable, and cost-effective. Bedeschi provides comprehensive machinery across the entire mining and handling process, spanning from quarry extraction to storage, including crushing units, apron feeders, stackers and reclaimers, combined bucket wheels, shiploaders/unloaders, train loaders/unloaders, belt and pipe conveyors, and transshipment applications.

For each project the company supports clients and EPC contractors in feasibility studies, Front-End Engineering Design (FEED), and facilitates tender documentation preparation, ensuring robust evaluation and accurate budget estimation through a tailor-made approach.

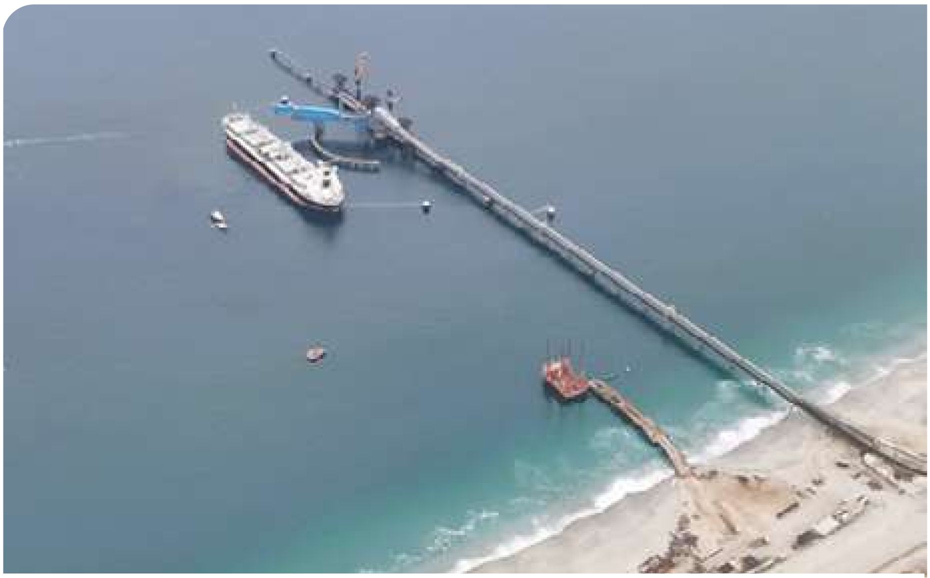
Beyond that, Bedeschi stands out for the ability to identify the most effective solution for each customer's specific needs, by working through multidisciplinary teams and delivering equipment that is both technologically advanced and sustainably designed.

Overland conveyor systems have become one of the most efficient and widely adopted solutions in the mining industry. Within this landscape, Bedeschi's overland conveyors are a leading example for efficiency and versatility. In fact, flexible conveyor routes with vertical and horizontal curves allow narrow transport corridors, and, as a result, earthworks such as excavations, tunnels, bridges, and other transfer point constructions are drastically reduced. This approach reduces lead times, installation costs and environmental impact.

The integration of low rolling resistance (LRR) conveyor belts with accurate roller alignment and high belt speeds reduces belt drag and lowers belt tensions and drive torque. In addition, the use of booster drives significantly decreases belt tensions in long conveyor systems with elevation changes.

By following this approach, Bedeschi completed an almost 5 km overland conveyor project in Morocco for Lafarge Holcim. The conveyor connects the cement plant to the quarry and spans a 470 m height difference: of the total length, in fact, 1.5 km of the conveyor passes through mountains, and even crosses an ancient river.

Bedeschi offers always the latest new technologies for mining conveyors, such as gearless drives, small- to medium-sized permanent magnet motors and large separately excited synchronous machines. These energy-efficient direct drives reduce maintenance costs and avoid environmental hazards, such as the spillage of gear lubricants.



Bedeschi conveyor systems deliver great performance in port operations as well. At the Terminal Graneles del Norte (TGN) Port, in the heart of Chile's mining region, the company provided a 1 km pipe conveyor to connect the storage yard to the shiploader. Pipe conveyors eliminate any material spillage, and in this case they guarantee the handling of copper concentrate from storage to ship without any dispersion in the surroundings, meeting anti-pollution regulations for marine environments, and avoiding transfer towers installation.

Bedeschi's tailor-made approach and strong technical know-how make a real difference when it comes to boosting plant efficiency and productivity. By focusing on solutions built around each project's needs, the company helps operations achieve meaningful, long-lasting improvements.

The Takoradi Bulk Jetty Terminal in Ghana has significantly increased its handling capacity thanks to Bedeschi's equipment. The company furnished two A-frame shiploaders, 3 kilometers of enclosed belt conveyors, one eco-hopper, and an innovative computerized control system. Thanks to this equipment, the terminal's overall capacity has increased by 25%, enabling the loading of vessels up to 150,000 DWT of bauxite and manganese, and the off-loading of various other materials such as clinker, fertilizers, etc. After this initial refurbishment, the customer later requested additional Bedeschi eco-hoppers to enhance the plant efficiency and sustainability even more.

Bedeschi's machines enable such a boost in productivity thanks to the high capacities they can be engineered for as well. For Port of Taman, the company provided a turnkey plant that satisfied all the client's needs: a fully automated coal export terminal with a total aggregated capacity of more than 48,000 t/h on 6 different loading lines. The supply included 4 combined bucket wheels stacker-reclaimer that reach a capacity of 8,000 t/h each, and 16 total kilometers of belt conveyors that deliver the material to the 4 shiploaders, which have been delivered already fully erected at the terminal jetty.

In addition to designing brand-new turnkey plants, Bedeschi also offers excellent after-sales service and "just in time" technical support, with a wide variety of spare parts and field inspections by highly qualified technicians. Moreover, whether new materials are to be handled, new ships are to be loaded, or service life is to be extended, Bedeschi has the expertise to deliver the best technical and cost-effective revamping solution tailored to the client's equipment.

INTERSTATE-MCBEE: ENGINE KITS & REPLACEMENT DIESEL PARTS FOR THE MINING INDUSTRY

Interstate-McBee® takes pride in maintaining a finely tuned and carefully curated product catalog that includes engine kits and replacement diesel parts used throughout the mining industry. From small and mid-sized equipment to the heavy-duty workhorses that keep operations moving, our parts are trusted to deliver performance, reliability and value. With the launch of our new eCommerce website, customers can now order parts anytime—day or night, weekends or holidays.

What to Buy

In the mining industry, where uptime is critical, Interstate-McBee replacement parts give your operations the durability and longevity needed to succeed. Alongside major diesel OEMs like John Deere®, Detroit Diesel® and Volvo®, we also manufacture replacement parts for Caterpillar® and Cummins®. Our coverage includes some of the most widely used engine applications:

• Cummins: ISX / QSX, QSL, QSK, B-Series

• Caterpillar: C7 / C9, C13, C15 / 3406E, C18 / C27 / C32, 3500 Series

With decades of experience serving the mining industry, we offer one of the most diverse parts catalogs available. Our offerings include fuel injectors, installation kits and complete engine kits with cylinder kits, gasket sets, O-rings and bearings. Beyond essentials, we stock specialty items such as fuel and oil pumps, sensors, thermostats, seals and repair kits. Every new part is backed by a one to two-year warranty for peace of mind.

What Sets Us Apart

We believe that quality, efficiency and cost-consciousness should not be compromised. Our custom gasket sets are built from the highest-quality materials, with sub-kits carefully assembled and shipped complete with a full printed list of gaskets and O-rings affixed to the gasket set box. This ensures that no missing O-ring or gasket delays your project or pushes it over budget.

Flexibility is another cornerstone of our approach. Our fuel injectors are available both new and remanufactured. Unlike competitors who often utilize only used and questionable components, our reman injectors undergo a rigorous process that includes complete teardown, deep restoration through our in-house processes such as black oxide treatment, hours of testing and months of field validation. Each injector is assigned a unique trim code, which delivers measurable benefits such as improved fuel economy, lower emissions and longer engine life. All reman injectors are also backed by a comprehensive one-year warranty.

Order Parts on Your Time, Not Ours

In the fast-paced mining industry, downtime isn't an option. With teams often operating across time zones, from North America to sub-Saharan Africa, finding the right part at the right time can be difficult. Our eCommerce platform, launched in 2025, was designed to solve that challenge. Customers can browse, quote and order from our extensive catalog whenever they need to, whether at a mine site at sunrise or in an office after hours.

Closing the Gap Between Reliability and Accessibility

At Interstate-McBee, we don't just supply parts. We supply confidence. By combining an extensive product catalog with uncompromising quality standards and the convenience of 24/7 online ordering, we help mining operations reduce downtime, control costs and stay competitive in one of the world's toughest industries. Whether you're maintaining a single engine or managing an entire fleet, Interstate-McBee is your trusted partner in keeping mining moving.

Learn more about Interstate-McBee, as well as access our eCommerce site, at www.interstate-mcbee.com.

®All manufacturs' names, numbers and descriptions are registered trademarks of the respective corporation or entity and do not imply that the item/s are a product of said manufacturer.

SUB-SAHARA MINING AND INDUSTRIAL JOURNAL ISSUE

AFC SIGNS $753 MILLION FINANCING DEAL TO ADVANCE LOBITO ATLANTIC RAILWAY CORRIDOR IN ANGOLA

Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) has confirmed the signing of major financing agreements for the Lobito Atlantic Railway Project in Angola, marking a significant milestone in the development of one of Southern Africa's most important regional transport corridors.

AFC, in partnership with Eaglestone, served as Co-Financial Adviser to Lobito Atlantic Railway S.A. (LAR), the concessionaire tasked with the rehabilitation, modernisation, and operation of the 1,300-kilometre railway linking the Port of Lobito on Angola's Atlantic coast to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) border.

The project is backed by a robust consortium of international sponsors—Mota-Engil, Trafigura, and Vecturis—bringing together expertise in engineering, commodities logistics, and rail operations to support the railway's long-term sustainability.

Total financing for the project amounts to US$753 million, including US$553 million from the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and US$200 million from the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). The funding will be directed towards upgrading rail infrastructure, enhancing regional trade connectivity, and improving access to global markets.

Upon completion, the Lobito Atlantic Railway is expected to boost annual transport capacity tenfold to approximately 4.6 million metric tonnes and cut transportation costs for critical minerals by around 30 percent.

Beyond logistics improvements, the project is anticipated to create jobs, raise safety standards, strengthen skills development, and deliver lasting economic benefits to communities along the corridor.

AFC President and Chief Executive Officer Samaila Zubairu said the agreement highlights AFC's capability to structure and deliver complex cross-border infrastructure projects with significant regional impact.

"This project advances the development of a transformative transport corridor connecting Angola, the DRC, and the broader Southern African region," he said. "It reinforces the importance of integrated rail and port infrastructure in driving trade, industrialisation, and supply-chain resilience."

Zubairu added that the Lobito Corridor is strategically important for Angola—an AFC member state and shareholder—reflecting AFC's continued commitment to supporting the country's infrastructure and economic development priorities.

Eaglestone Founding Partner Nuno Gil described the transaction as a landmark deal that will stimulate trade and economic growth along the Lobito Corridor.

Mota-Engil Deputy Chief Executive Manuel Mota, speaking on behalf of the sponsors, said the agreement would expand transport capacity, reduce transit costs, and improve access to mineral-rich regions in the DRC and Zambia, while strengthening investor confidence in Angola's infrastructure sector.

Trafigura Chief Executive Richard Holtum noted that the railway will serve as a critical national and regional asset, enabling the efficient export of strategic minerals to global markets and supporting broader economic development.

AFC's role in the Lobito Atlantic Railway further strengthens its growing partnership with Angola, which became an AFC member state in 2022 and a shareholder in 2025. The institution continues to expand its advisory and investment activities in Angola across infrastructure, energy, and industrial development.

MMG APPROVES US$900 MILLION EXPANSION OF KHOEMACAU COPPER MINE IN BOTSWANA

MMG Limited has announced that its Board of Directors has approved the feasibility study and given the green light for a major expansion of the Khoemacau Copper Mine in Botswana.

The approved project will lift annual copper production capacity to approximately 130,000 tonnes in concentrate, alongside silver output expected to exceed 4 million ounces per year.

The expansion will extend mining activities into the Zone 5 North, Mango, and Zeta North-East deposits, while a new processing plant with a capacity of 4.5 million tonnes per annum will be constructed. Once completed, total milling capacity at Khoemacau will increase to more than 8.0 million tonnes per annum.

Capital expenditure for the expansion is estimated at around US$900 million, inclusive of pre-2026 investment. First copper concentrate from the expanded operations is targeted for the first half of 2028.

The project is expected to deliver meaningful cost efficiencies, with life-of-mine average C1 costs projected to decline to below US$1.60 per pound, compared with an actual C1 cost of US$2.05 per pound recorded in the six months ended 30 June 2025.

This expansion forms a key part of MMG's strategy to grow the scale, competitiveness, and long-term value of its copper portfolio. Beyond the current project, Khoemacau has identified additional expansion potential of up to 200,000 tonnes of copper per annum, underpinned by ongoing exploration. A pre-feasibility study for this next phase is expected to commence in 2026.

KEFI SECURES US$340 MILLION TO LAUNCH ETHIOPIA'S LARGEST MODERN GOLD MINE

Ethiopia has taken a major step towards repositioning itself from a minor gold producer to a more prominent player in Africa's mining sector, after securing approximately US$340 million in financing for the long-delayed Tulu Kapi gold project—the country's largest modern mining development.

The financing breakthrough paves the way for construction to commence on one of Ethiopia's most strategic mining assets. The funding package includes about US$240 million in long-term debt from African development finance institutions and roughly US$100 million in equity, providing project developer KEFI Gold and Copper with the capital required to advance the project into full construction.

KEFI Executive Chairman Harry Anagnostaras-Adams confirmed that the debt facility for Tulu Kapi has now been formally executed by all parties, marking a critical milestone in the project's development.

He said the signing has triggered renewed on-site activity as Tulu Kapi transitions into the construction phase, with outstanding equity commitments nearing completion through local and specialist investors.

"With gold prices at record levels, the timing is highly favourable for launching the Tulu Kapi project," Anagnostaras-Adams said.

Early works are already underway, including the development of housing, power connections, and access roads, as preparations accelerate ahead of the main construction phase.

Situated roughly 360 kilometres west of Addis Ababa, the Tulu Kapi mine is expected to produce approximately 164,000 ounces of gold per year during its first seven years of operation, with commercial production targeted for 2027.

At this production level, the project is set to become one of Ethiopia's largest gold operations and a significant source of foreign exchange earnings.

The mine is being developed in partnership with the Ethiopian government, which holds a carried interest and has committed to an equity stake—underscoring Addis Ababa's broader strategy to position mining as a key driver of economic growth and foreign currency generation.

After years of underinvestment, Ethiopia has been working to modernise its mining sector, with gold emerging as an increasingly important contributor to export revenues.

Designed initially as an open-pit operation with potential for underground expansion, Tulu Kapi offers scope to extend mine life beyond the current development plan.

Government officials regard the project as a flagship investment capable of attracting further foreign capital into Ethiopia's largely underexplored mineral endowment.

The timing is particularly significant as African governments seek to maximise value from natural resources amid currency pressures and global economic uncertainty. For Ethiopia, the advancement of Tulu Kapi represents a potential turning point—offering a rare opportunity to convert mineral wealth into employment, infrastructure development, and much-needed hard-currency inflows at a critical juncture for the national economy.

SYNERGY UNDERCARRIAGE COMPONENTS: ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE FOR MINING'S TOUGHEST CHALLENGES

In the demanding world of mining, where equipment faces relentless wear and tear, the integrity of undercarriage components can make or break operational efficiency. Enter Synergy Undercarriage Components, a Western Australian company that has carved a niche as a trusted supplier of premium undercarriage solutions for mining-sized hydraulic excavators and electric rope shovels.

A Legacy of Expertise

Synergy's strength lies in its exclusive, deep-rooted partnership with Yoonsteel, a global leader in steel castings with over 88 years of experience. This collaboration ensures that every product—from crawler shoes to pins and bushes—is manufactured to the highest standards of precision and durability. Yoonsteel's three world-class foundries employ cutting-edge modelling software, advanced moulding media, and induction melting furnaces, guaranteeing consistency and quality at every stage of production.

Innovation Meets Application

Mining environments are anything but uniform. From hard rock copper and gold to thermal coal and iron ore, each site presents unique challenges. Synergy understands this variability and offers application-specific solutions rather than one-size-fits-all designs. Their modified high-strength alloy steels, heat-treated for superior tensile and impact properties, are tailored for both hot and cold operating conditions. This commitment to customization translates into longer component life and reduced downtime for clients.

Technology-Driven Reliability

Synergy's facilities in Perth and Malaysia boast over 1.5 MW of induction hardening power, supporting multi-axis hardening machines designed for precision. This technological edge ensures total process control, delivering components that withstand the harshest mining conditions. With more than 400 Yoonsteel-manufactured track sets deployed globally, Synergy backs its products with what customers regard as industry-best warranties, reflecting confidence born of experience.

Commitment to Quality

Quality assurance is not a slogan at Synergy—it's a mandate. The company pledges to meet or exceed customer expectations and comply with all statutory and regulatory requirements. From design conception to completion, Synergy operates as a single-source supplier, proudly disclosing the origins of its products—a transparency that sets it apart in a competitive market.

Global Reach, Local Expertise

Headquartered in Malaga, Western Australia, Synergy serves clients across Australia, the Asia-Pacific region, South America and Africa. Its strategic partnerships with leading mining contractors have enabled the development of cost-effective, differentiated solutions that thrive under extreme conditions. This global footprint, combined with local responsiveness, positions Synergy as a formidable player in the mining supply chain.

In an industry where reliability is non-negotiable, Synergy Undercarriage Components stands as a beacon of engineering excellence, innovation, and integrity. By marrying decades of metallurgical expertise with cutting-edge technology, Synergy ensures that mining operations worldwide keep moving—efficiently and confidently.

AFRICA'S EMERGING LNG CORRIDOR UNLOCKS $375 BILLION INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Africa's emerging LNG corridor is reshaping global energy markets as vast untapped gas reserves, regulatory reforms, and major infrastructure investments shift the continent from a marginal supplier to a future growth engine for natural gas. While North Africa has historically dominated production, Sub-Saharan Africa holds around 70% of recoverable gas reserves and is now driving the next wave of LNG development. Exports from the region are projected to rise sharply from about 36 bcm in 2024 to nearly 100 bcm by the mid-2030s, reflecting a structural rebalancing rather than a short-term market cycle.

Natural gas underpins this transformation as the only fossil fuel with a growing global market share, supported by lower carbon intensity than coal and its flexibility in balancing renewable power. Demand is being pulled largely by Asia, where electrification, industrial fuel switching, and grid stability requirements are accelerating LNG imports. Africa's geographic proximity to Asian markets further strengthens its competitiveness compared with longer shipping routes from North America or Australia.

Progress has been unlocked by policy reforms and coordinated infrastructure development. Nigeria's Petroleum Industry Act has triggered billions of dollars in new gas investments, Mozambique is advancing multi-billion-dollar LNG projects despite security challenges, and Tanzania's offshore resources position it for entry into the global LNG market once fiscal agreements are finalised. Cross-border projects such as Greater Tortue Ahmeyim between Senegal and Mauritania highlight how regional cooperation can accelerate development and attract international capital.

Despite this momentum, Africa faces a substantial financing and execution challenge, with hundreds of billions of dollars required to convert reserves into production. Governments must balance export revenue ambitions with domestic energy needs, manage security and geopolitical risks, and remain competitive in an increasingly crowded global LNG market. If successfully navigated, the LNG corridor could mark a decisive economic pivot for the continent, translating natural gas wealth into industrial growth, foreign exchange earnings, and deeper integration into global energy trade.

SANDVIK CH865I UNLOCKS MAJOR PRODUCTION GAINS AT GHANA GOLD MINE

Production at a gold mine in Ghana was recently ramped up with the help of the advanced Sandvik CH865i cone crusher, following close collaboration with the Sandvik Rock Processing team in Ghana to identify the optimal solution for the site's specific conditions.

The need to raise throughput levels at the mine had become pressing, with the mine's stockpile quickly depleting due to the strategic demand for more ore. According to Michael Okunola, Service Manager for Sandvik Rock Processing West Africa, the solution also had to account for space limitations within the plant.

"The mine was considering adding another cone crusher to the existing lineup of three crushers in the plant but with limited space available, we began exploring other options," says Okunola. "Ultimately, the team was guided by the fact that the second of the three tertiary crushers was handling the bulk of the throughput, and we realised we could make a significant impact by addressing the capacity opportunities at that point in the circuit."
The mine was already operating three Sandvik CH660 cone crushers in the tertiary circuit and turned to Sandvik Rock Processing for a solution that would deliver the same exceptional performance and reliability, he says.

"Under the mine's previous production regime, the Sandvik CH660s comfortably met the required capacity," he explains. "However, with the new production targets, a crusher with higher throughput capacity was needed."

In this application, the Sandvik CH865i is capable of delivering up to 400 tph – nearly double the previous throughput – significantly boosting the mine's overall production.

"The optimal solution was achieved by replacing the second – or middle – CH660 cone crusher in the mine's tertiary circuit with a Sandvik CH865i model," says Okunola. Once the new unit's components arrived on site, Sandvik Rock Processing's technical team collaborated closely with the mine's team to implement the necessary adjustments within the plant.

These modifications included installing a new locally manufactured hopper to accommodate the taller dimensions of the Sandvik CH865i crusher. The installation had to be carried out while the plant remained operational, requiring special measures to manage dust and maintain a safe working environment.

"We worked with the mine to decommission the existing unit and implement the necessary concrete, steelwork and other critical infrastructure for the new crusher," he explains. "The Sandvik Rock Processing team then assembled the Sandvik CH865i on site using the delivered components – including the sub-frame assembly, top shell, bottom shell and main shaft assembly – all in line with our strict OEM standards."

"Following successful commissioning, the increase in output delivered a rapid return on investment for the customer confirming that the decision was the correct one," says Okunola. To further support ongoing performance, the mine also entered into a service level agreement with Sandvik Rock Processing, ensuring that a dedicated engineer is based on site to maintain and optimise equipment efficiency.

"Our team is on hand to closely monitor the condition and operation of our crushers, and to ensure that maintenance such as liner replacement and lubrication are regularly performed," he says. "Our OEM procedures and attention to detail give the customer peace of mind that the new crusher is delivering as expected, with no unplanned downtime to disrupt production."

Among the benefits that the Sandvik CH865i cone crusher brings is its ease of operation and maintenance, he adds. For instance, it does not need the application of casting compound when replacing liners which also represents a significant cost saving.

Equipped with the hydraulic Hydroset™ system for safety and setting-adjustment functions, the unit is also intelligent – ready to be connected to Sandvik's Automation & Connectivity System (ACS). This automatically adapts the crusher to varying feed conditions ensuring the best performance constantly.

"The value of ACS lies in its ability to monitor key aspects of the crushing process including the electric motor's power draw, hydrostatic pressure, closed-side setting and oil temperature," says Okunola. "It also tracks the performance of individual components such as the lubrication pump and the Hydroset™ pump as well as rotation speeds and feed rates. All of this enhances operational transparency by flagging any deviations from normal performance."

He highlights that, after the commissioning of the new Sandvik CH865i unit, Sandvik Rock Processing conducted on-site training for the mine's team, on both operation and maintenance.

"Our training also emphasises the safety aspects of working with our equipment, as our strong safety focus supports the mining sector's drive towards zero harm," Okunola concludes.

VEGA's approach — precision, reliability, and intelligent integration — offers a path forward. With instruments built for endurance and systems designed for insight, VEGA empowers African mines to operate not only more productively but more sustainably. In a continent defined by potential, VEGA continues to prove that progress isn't just about what we extract — it's about how precisely, safely, and responsibly we do it.

MINING PROGRESS WITH PRECISION: VEGA POWERING AFRICA'S SUSTAINABLE MINING FUTURE

At the 2026 Mining Indaba in Cape Town, one theme rises above all others — progress through precision. As Africa positions itself at the heart of the global transition to cleaner energy and advanced manufacturing, reliable measurement technology has become essential. From copper and cobalt to lithium and gold, every ton of ore extracted depends on accurate, real-time data to drive efficiency, reduce waste, and protect the environment.

For VEGA, a global leader in process instrumentation, this mission aligns perfectly with its core purpose: turning measurement into meaningful progress.

Built for Africa's Realities

Mining across Africa is defined by extremes: scorching heat, dense humidity, corrosive dust, and remote locations where technical assistance can be days away. In these conditions, unreliable instruments can bring entire operations to a standstill, costing millions in lost productivity.

VEGA's range of level, pressure, and density measurement solutions is designed with these challenges in mind. With engineering rooted in durability and precision, they combine rugged construction with intuitive operation and long service life. Whether it's controlling slurry flow, managing tailings dams, or ensuring process consistency in flotation, VEGA sensors deliver the reliability that modern mining demands.

The One Radar for Every Measurement

Accurate level measurement is the foundation of every successful mining process. Stockpiles, silos, tanks, and sumps all depend on dependable monitoring, and the VEGAPULS 6X brings that capability in a single, adaptable package. Representing the next generation of non-contact radar technology, the VEGAPULS 6X combines all radar frequencies into one intelligent sensor. It automatically adjusts to its environment, ensuring consistent readings in the presence of dust, steam, foam, or condensation, conditions that would defeat conventional instruments.

Its focused radar beam provides excellent signal separation from structural elements, preventing false echoes and allowing operators to detect material build-up before it becomes a problem. The result? Greater uptime, fewer maintenance interventions, and more predictable production cycles. With its maintenance-free design and universal compatibility, the VEGAPULS 6X reduces the need for multiple sensor types across an operation: simplifying procurement, installation, and long-term support. It's radar, redefined for the realities of African mining.

Pressure Measurement That Puts Safety First

Mining environments rely on accurate pressure control to keep processes safe and efficient. From monitoring slurry pipelines and filtration systems to managing high-pressure vessels. VEGA's VEGABAR 80 and VEGADIF 85 pressure transmitters provide dependable solutions for these demanding applications.

The VEGABAR 80 series uses VEGA's proprietary CERTEC® ceramic and metallic measuring cells to deliver unmatched stability and resistance to chemical and mechanical stress. Capable of operating from -1 to 1,000 bar and at temperatures ranging from -90 to +400°C, these transmitters perform flawlessly in the toughest mining environments. More than just robust, they're smart. Built-in self-diagnostics continuously assess sensor health, supporting predictive maintenance and preventing unexpected downtime.

The VEGADIF 85, designed for differential pressure applications, brings exceptional control to critical flotation and separation processes. Its compact design, rugged construction, and reliable performance under fluctuating conditions make it ideal for managing process differentials that directly impact recovery rates and throughput.

Together, these instruments ensure that pressure — one of mining's most volatile variables — remains predictable, measurable, and safe.

Precision Without Contact: Density Measurement Reinvented

In the heart of every mineral processing plant lies one of the most difficult challenges: controlling slurry density. If density drops too low, valuable minerals are lost; too high, and pumps strain, pipelines clog, and costs skyrocket.

VEGA's SOLITRAC 31 (i.e. Protrac series) solves this problem elegantly through radiometric, non-contact density measurement. Using gamma radiation, it delivers real-time data on slurry composition without touching the medium. This eliminates abrasion, reduces wear, and ensures continuous operation. No maintenance shutdowns, no recalibration interruptions. By providing precise density values, the Protrac series helps operators fine-tune separation processes, reduce reagent consumption, and maximise yield. It's a technology that not only improves productivity but also supports sustainability by cutting waste and energy use.

From Measurement to Intelligence: The Digital Mine in Motion

As digitalisation reshapes the global mining landscape, VEGA is helping African operators harness the power of data to make faster, smarter decisions. The VEGA Inventory System turns raw measurement data into actionable insight, enabling remote monitoring, predictive control, and automated reporting.

Accessible via secure cloud platforms, the system allows mine managers to oversee multiple sites in real time — tracking inventory levels, process trends, and equipment performance from any location. This remote visibility enhances supply-chain coordination, reduces manual checks, and supports proactive maintenance planning.

Supporting Sustainable Progress Across the Continent

From the platinum belt of South Africa to Zambia's copper mines, Ghana's goldfields, and the DRC's cobalt corridors, VEGA's instrumentation supports Africa's mining ambitions. By delivering precision where it matters most, VEGA helps operators reduce water and energy consumption, prevent spills, and extend equipment life — all vital to meeting sustainability targets and ESG standards.

VEGA's solutions are increasingly used in the circular economy side of mining, from tailings reprocessing, water treatment, through to resource recovery, reinforcing its role as both a technology leader and a sustainability enabler.

A Trusted Partner for Africa's Next Chapter

Africa's mining sector stands at the intersection of opportunity and responsibility. As global demand for critical minerals grows, the challenge will be to scale production without compromising environmental integrity or worker safety.

VEGA's approach — precision, reliability, and intelligent integration — offers a path forward. With instruments built for endurance and systems designed for insight, VEGA empowers African mines to operate not only more productively but more sustainably. In a continent defined by potential, VEGA continues to prove that progress isn't just about what we extract — it's about how precisely, safely, and responsibly we do it.

Boilerplate:

VEGA is known for its long history of innovation and is recognised as a global leader in measurement technology. VEGA is dedicated to precision and reliability, and its customised solutions have positively impacted businesses worldwide, improving processes, efficiency, and quality standards. VEGA's sensors and instruments are known for setting new benchmarks in accuracy, durability, and performance, driven by a commitment to excellence.

"Africa's mining sector stands at the intersection of opportunity and responsibility. As global demand for critical minerals grows, the challenge will be to scale production without compromising environmental integrity or worker safety."

LIBERIA WINS GEF APPROVAL FOR A MERCURY-REDUCTION PROJECT IN GOLD MINING, SUPPORTED BY THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP.

The project, with US$7.67 million in GEF financing and an additional US$24.57 million in indicative co-financing from the Bank Group, will help build a safer, cleaner, and more sustainable gold mining sector in Liberia.

The initiative marks Liberia's entry into the planetGOLD programme, a global effort supported by the GEF that has already assisted more than 20 countries in reducing mercury use while improving environmental health and livelihoods. The project advances planetGOLD's global strategy, which focuses on strengthening policy and regulatory frameworks, expanding financial inclusion, promoting mercury-free technologies, and cultivating partnerships across government, communities, and the private sector.

It also builds on the African Development Bank's Institutional Support for Enhanced Domestic Revenue Mobilisation and Reform Implementation Project, which is helping to improve transparency and governance in Liberia's mining sector.

"This is a powerful example of programmatic incrementality," says Anthony Nyong, Bank Group Director for Climate Change and Green Growth. "The foundations established through the African Development Bank's institutional support are now being expanded into a full-scale environmental and socio-economic transformation of Liberia's mining sector. It proves that development and environmental protection can go hand-in-hand."

"The approval of this project marks a significant milestone in our efforts to reduce mercury pollution worldwide," says Carlos Manuel Rodr[illegible]guez, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility. "By supporting a comprehensive approach that combines policy reform, technology, and community engagement, we are helping Liberia lead the way toward a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable gold mining sector."

"This approval is a major victory for the people and environment of Liberia," said Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo, Executive Director of Liberia's EPA of Liberia. "By tackling mercury pollution at its source, we are protecting our miners, safeguarding our rivers and forests, and building a cleaner and more prosperous gold mining sector. This project moves Liberia closer to a future where economic growth and environmental protection go hand in hand in fulfillment of our NDC 3.0."

Mercury contamination from gold mining poses severe risks to human health, water sources, soil, and ecosystems across Liberia. The largely informal nature of artisanal mining has also contributed to deforestation, biodiversity loss, and economic instability, leaving miners with limited access to formal markets and sustainable practices.

The project will deliver tangible benefits, including:

- Reduction of 50 t of mercury over five years.
- Restoration of 10 000 hectares of degraded land.
- Avoidance of 148 000 t of CO_2 emissions.
- Safer working conditions and improved livelihoods for 20 000 people, including 12 000 women.

Through formalisation, access to finance, clean technologies, and community engagement, this project positions Liberia to fulfill its commitments under the Minamata Convention on Mercury and contribute to Sustainable Development Goals on climate, health, biodiversity, and decent work.

As part of the broader planetGOLD+ initiative, Liberia will gain from regional and global collaboration, including peer learning opportunities and access to a proven network of innovative practices from other GEF-supported countries. This collective approach not only strengthens the scalability and sustainability of national efforts but also accelerates global progress toward eliminating mercury from gold supply chains. Fully aligned with Liberia's commitments under the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the project marks a pivotal step toward building a mercury-free gold sector that balances environmental stewardship with inclusive and sustainable economic development.

TRANSALLOYS FACES POSSIBLE CLOSURE AMID RISING ELECTRICITY COSTS

Transalloys, operator of South Africa's last working manganese smelter, may be forced to shut down and cut hundreds of jobs unless electricity costs are reduced, its CEO warned.

CEO Konstantin Sadovnik said the company has been unprofitable for about three years, with power expenses—nearly 40% of total costs—driving losses. The firm plans to cut around 600 direct jobs, potentially affecting up to 7,000 livelihoods in the eMalahleni municipality.

Sadovnik noted the plant could be temporarily mothballed or closed permanently depending on whether manganese smelters are included in a proposed electricity pricing framework under discussion by the government and the ferrochrome industry.

South Africa, the world's largest manganese producer, exports most of its output as ore due to limited smelting capacity. The energy regulator Nersa is reviewing interim power tariff adjustments for struggling smelters, while longer-term support mechanisms are being considered to improve competitiveness.

"Energy is our biggest cost driver," Sadovnik said, highlighting that South African smelters face electricity prices roughly double those of international competitors. The company hopes for a resolution within the next two months, with restructuring planned around February if no solution is reached.

SCHURCO SLURRY
50
Est. 1975

DE-WATERING WITHOUT COMPROMISE

From high-head applications to heavy solids, Schurco Slurry has you covered

DW-SERIES

Built for tough dewatering where solids are present, delivering reliable performance at extreme discharge pressures.

P-SERIES

Designed for medium to low-pressure chemical processes.

Whether it's demanding mine dewatering or plant water management, Schurco Slurry pumps keep your operation moving.

RUGGED. RELIABLE. READY FOR MINING.

Scan the QR code to interact with our 3D AR Pumps and Seal Assemblies

+27 86 100 5386

sales.africa@schurco.com
schurcoslurry.co.za

RAINBOW RARE EARTHS SHARES FALL AMID TRUMP-RAMAPHOSA G20 DISPUTE AND PROJECT DELAY

Rainbow Rare Earths says its share price has come under pressure amid worsening diplomatic relations between South Africa and the United States, compounded by delays at its flagship Phalaborwa project.

Chief executive George Bennett said political tensions—particularly the public dispute between US President Donald Trump and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa around the G20—have unsettled offshore investors. The UK-listed company's shares have fallen 5.7% over the past 30 days.

Relations between the two countries have deteriorated since accusations during the Biden administration that South Africa supplied arms to Russia, and have further strained following Trump's criticism of Ramaphosa and his decision to boycott the G20 meeting in Johannesburg. The US has since barred South Africa from the next G20 summit.

Bennett also pointed to delays at the Phalaborwa rare earths project in Limpopo, after the company revised its mineral separation process to solvent extraction, pushing the definitive feasibility study to 2026. Despite this, first production remains targeted for 2028, with capital costs unchanged at $270m–$300m.

A $50m commitment linked to the US International Development Finance Corporation via TechMet remains intact, Bennett said, although public perceptions have weighed on sentiment. He added that higher prices for rare earths such as yttrium and the adoption of solvent extraction could significantly lift Phalaborwa's future revenues and earnings.

ORANO FLAGS SAFETY RISKS IN NIGER URANIUM TRANSPORT

French nuclear fuel company Orano has raised serious safety and security concerns after a uranium shipment from its nationalised SOMAIR mine in northern Niger, citing risks of radioactive material diversion and violations of international transport rules.

Orano said it had no involvement in the shipment and lacks details on the quantity, destination, or buyer. A security source reported that roughly 1,050 tons of uranium were shipped, though the recipient remains unknown.

Niger's state media announced that the country would assert its "legitimate right" to sell SOMAIR uranium commercially. President Abdourahamane Tiani, speaking at the mine, vowed to end decades of French oversight.

The shipment appears to violate a ruling by the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, which barred Niger from moving SOMAIR uranium in breach of Orano's rights. Orano said it may pursue further legal remedies, including criminal action against third parties.

The incident highlights rising resource nationalism in Niger, which seized SOMAIR and nationalised its operations, removing Orano from operational control. Orano had previously held a 63.4% stake, with the remainder owned by Niger.

Niger is the world's seventh-largest uranium producer and had supplied 15% of Orano's uranium needs.

CATERPILLAR

TO SPOTLIGHT AI, AUTONOMY AND FUTURE COLLABORATIONS AT CES 2026

Caterpillar will launch its next 100 years at CES 2026, the most powerful tech event in the world. The company will be announcing new innovations, partnerships, and investments during the show January 6-9, 2026, in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

Caterpillar CEO Joe Creed will be a keynote speaker, unveiling the company's latest developments in AI, machine learning and autonomous functionality. Joe will deliver his keynote at 9:00AM (PT) on Wednesday, January 7, in the Palazzo Ballroom at the Venetian Hotel, 3355 Las Vegas Blvd South.

Details on the keynote are available here. For those not attending CES in person, a link to the live broadcast will be provided in the near future.

Later on Wednesday, January 7, Caterpillar Group President, Bob De Lange, will host "Caterpillar and WM Tech Talk" at the Caterpillar exhibit at 2:00PM (PT) located in the West Hall of the Las Vegas Convention Center, booth 5019. Bob and WM President and Chief Operating Officer John Morris will discuss how the two companies are working together to bring autonomy to landfills with technology designed to enhance safety and performance.

Hand protection for mining hazards

GOLD AND URANIUM REVENUES SURPASS DIAMONDS IN NAMIBIA FOR THE FIRST TIME

Namibia's mining revenue landscape is shifting, with earnings from non-diamond minerals now surpassing diamond revenues for the first time, the Chamber of Mines of Namibia reports. Strong gold prices and rising uranium production have helped offset the impact of weak diamond markets.

Diamonds have long been central to Namibia's export earnings, historically contributing around 30% of total revenues. However, the sector has struggled due to falling prices driven in part by the growing popularity of lab-grown diamonds. Tax revenue from diamonds has dropped sharply, while non-diamond minerals have seen robust growth.

The Chamber of Mines noted that this marks a structural shift toward a more diversified and resilient mining revenue base. Tax receipts from non-diamond minerals—mainly uranium and gold—rose to N$2.87 billion (US$171 million) in the last financial year, nearly double budget forecasts, with further growth expected to N$3.54 billion in the current year. Royalty income from these minerals also exceeded expectations, climbing to N$1.03 billion from a budgeted N$747.8 million.

Gold operations, including the Navachab and B2Gold's Otjikoto mines, have benefited from a rally in bullion prices, which reached highs of US$4,380 per ounce. Uranium production, another key driver, grew by 22% year on year, reinforcing Namibia's position as the world's third-largest uranium producer and highlighting the sector's growing strategic importance to the national economy.

MALI RESTORES LOULO-GOUNKOTO GOLD MINE TO BARRICK FOLLOWING TWO-YEAR DISPUTE

Mali has returned operational control of the Loulo-Gounkoto gold mine to Barrick Mining and ordered the restitution of three tons of gold, ending a dispute that lasted nearly two years.

Barrick's legal representative confirmed that the process has been authorized, with the physical return of the gold and formal handover of the mine to follow once remaining legal procedures are completed. The gold had been confiscated earlier this year during a suspension of mining operations.

The move comes after an agreement last month resolving the standoff between Barrick and the Malian government, which had forced the shutdown of one of Barrick's largest gold-producing assets. Under the settlement, Barrick will pay 244 billion CFA francs (around US$437 million), regain full control of the Loulo-Gounkoto complex, and withdraw all arbitration claims against Mali.
In return, the Malian government agreed to drop all charges, and four Barrick employees detained during the dispute were released, signaling a return to normal operations and improved relations between the company and the state.

GHANA REIMPOSES BAN ON MINING IN FOREST RESERVES TO PROTECT WATER AND FORESTS

Ghana has reinstated a full ban on mining in forest reserves to safeguard water bodies, curb deforestation, and bolster climate resilience, the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology announced.

The policy responds to rising unregulated small-scale mining that has damaged cocoa farms, degraded forests and rivers, and sparked public concern over sustainability. Industrial miners—including Gold Fields, AngloGold Ashanti, Newmont, and Asante Gold—have reported repeated illegal incursions and have invested heavily in security, drones, and community engagement to protect their operations.

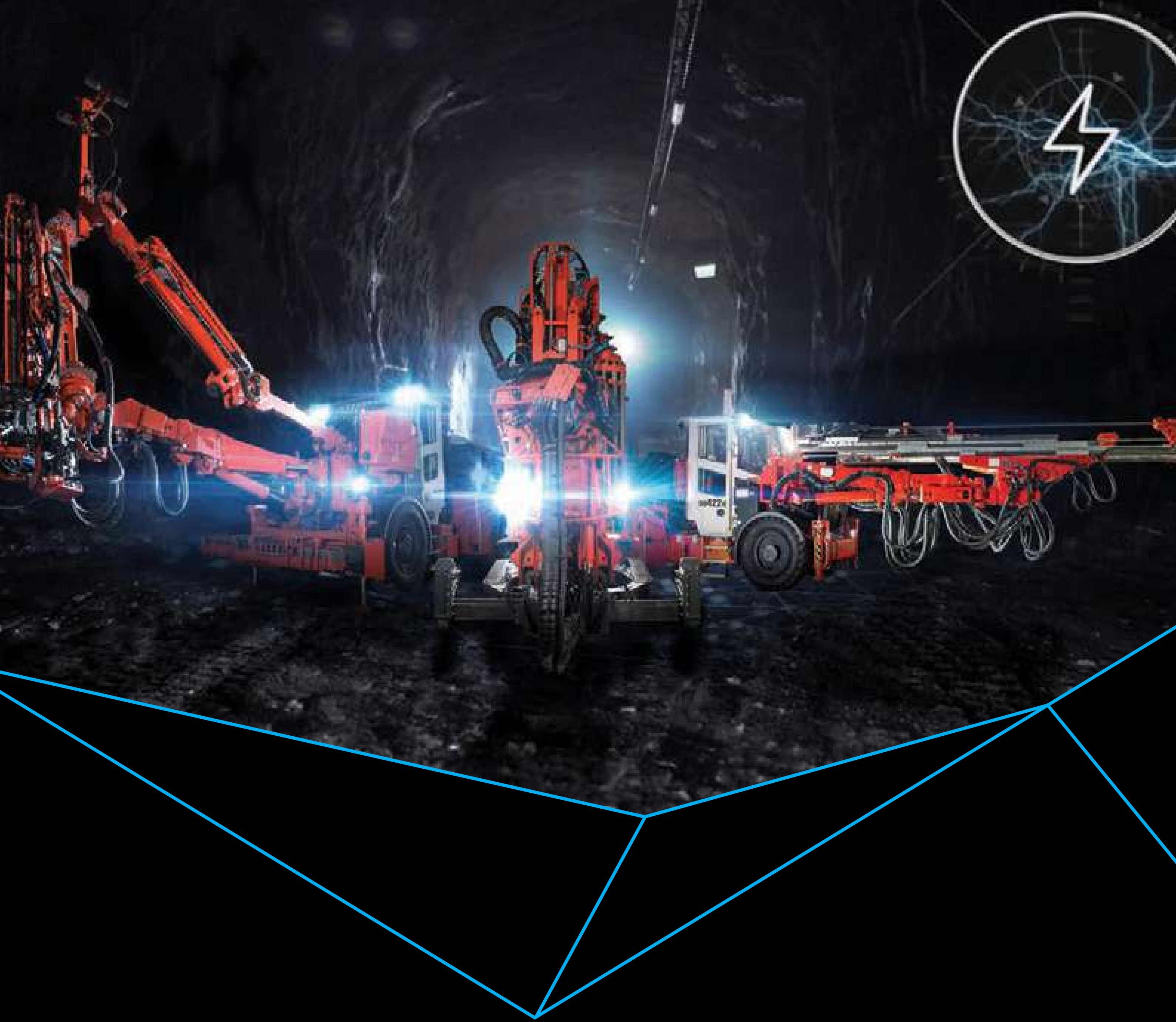
Illegal mining now affects 13 of Ghana's 16 regions, including key cocoa-growing areas in Ashanti, Western, and Eastern regions. Past efforts to regulate the sector included licensing artisanal miners, establishing community mining schemes, and deploying security personnel to combat illegal mining and gold trading.

The ban reverses the 2022 Environmental Protection Regulations that had allowed controlled mining in forest reserves. The repeal, now in effect after a constitutionally required 21-day period, strengthens legal protections for forests, water sources, and agricultural land.

"Healthy forests bring rainfall, protect our farms, and give life to our communities. Clean rivers secure our drinking water and our future," said Acting Environment Minister Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah.

Environmental groups welcomed the move as a major policy shift. Daryl Mensah-Bonsu of Da Rocha Ghana called it "an important restoration of protections" but emphasized the need for a national forest development programme to address encroachment from logging and farming.

The government said the strengthened protections will support long-term environmental stewardship, reduce ecosystem degradation, and safeguard the natural resources relied on by millions of Ghanaians.



ZIMBABWE INTRODUCES TOUGHER ENFORCEMENT MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Zimbabwe is moving to enforce one of its most stringent regulatory regimes for the mining sector, with companies now at risk of losing their licences if they fail to meet mandatory environmental standards.

The government has launched Part 2 of the Responsible Mining Initiative, a strengthened enforcement phase announced by Mines and Mining Development Minister Winston Chitando. The updated framework introduces legally binding penalties for operators who neglect land rehabilitation, violate ecological regulations, or leave environmental damage unaddressed.

Chitando stressed that the new measures are meant to bring long-overdue accountability to the sector, noting that the initiative "will tackle issues relating to environmental harm, which will include the potential loss of mining titles."

The crackdown follows rising public anger over pollution, deforestation, and unsafe mining practices—issues that have long affected communities across regions such as Manicaland, Midlands, and Mashonaland West. Despite being Zimbabwe's top export earner—accounting for over 60% of foreign currency through gold, platinum, and lithium—mining has often operated with weak oversight. This has resulted in contaminated waterways, abandoned pits, and widespread land degradation by both small-scale and large industrial miners.

Communities and civil society groups have repeatedly highlighted toxic waste leaks, unsafe conditions, and a lack of accountability, with some operators accused of acting with political protection and impunity.

Under the new rules, government will move away from voluntary compliance to strict, monitored enforcement. The initiative will strengthen collaboration with the Environmental Management Agency and require all mining companies to submit detailed rehabilitation and mine-closure plans before extraction begins.

Authorities say the reforms aim to safeguard ecosystems and ensure that mining supports sustainable national development—rather than contributing to long-term environmental harm.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP APPROVES $76.3 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL FINANCING TO ADVANCE TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group has approved $76.37 million in additional financing for the Road Infrastructure Programme in Somalia, a key component of the Horn of Africa corridor project linking Somalia, Djibouti and Ethiopia.

The new funding package comprises $49.16 million from the African Development Fund, the Bank Group's concessional lending window, and $27.21 million from the Transition Support Facility, which supports countries experiencing fragility and conflict.

The Programme aims to improve transport connectivity within Somalia, and between the country and its neighbours in the Horn of Africa. It is designed to stimulate cross-border trade, strengthen regional integration and reduce fragility within the region.

Mike Salawou, the Bank Group's Director of Infrastructure and Urban Development, noted that the request for additional financing stems from an expansion of the project's initial scope. "The Programme has evolved from minimal interventions to full road upgrades, enabled by improved designs and the integration of new components, including bridges, additional road sections, and trade facilitation measures, social infrastructure to maximize the benefit for the local community" he said.

The financing will primarily upgrade two strategic road sections: a 15-kilometre stretch connecting Zeila to Asha Addo in Somaliland, and a 22-kilometre section from Beled Weyne to Kalabeyr in Hirshabelle State.

In addition to road works, the project includes targeted community development and resilience initiatives. These will improve access to essential services through the construction of boreholes, the refurbishment of classrooms to serve as skills development centres, the construction of markets and storage facilities, and the rehabilitation of health centres.

To further support economic activity, the Programme will facilitate cross-border trade, strengthen support for small traders, and enhance institutional capacities in customs and trade management. Key interventions include establishing a simplified trade regime between Somalia and Ethiopia for small-scale operators and expanding Somalia's automated customs system to streamline and modernise customs procedures.

GRINDING TECHNIQUES - PRECISION TO THE POINT WITH TUNGSTEN CARBIDE BURRS

When your application requires a precision cutting and or milling process, turn to Grinding Techniques for high quality Tungsten Carbide Burrs that will effortlessly shape, cut, grind, or remove burrs, sharp edges and excess material from your workpiece, castings, and forgings. Tungsten Carbide Burrs also known in the industry as either rotary files or die grinder bits, are considered precision tools commonly used in industries like Foundries, Shipbuilding, Aviation, Automotive and Metal fabrication shops. Due to their versatility, they are suitable for a variety of materials ranging from Steel, Stainless Steels, Aluminium, Cast Iron, Plastics and Wood.

With so many cut styles available in the market, it is important to choose the correct configuration for your specific application. Some of the configurations available includes Single cut, Chip-Breaker and the premium Double cut burr.

A single cut burr typically has a single flute which causes the chip removed from the material to be sharp and long, this burr is known as a general-purpose design suited to Cast Iron, Steel, and other Ferrous metals.

The Chip-Breaker cut makes use of the same single flute design, but with the inclusion of a spiral cut in the opposite direction to break the single flute and produce smaller swarf pieces and improve operator control during application.

Double cut burrs on the other hand have flutes cut in a cross-cut direction which enables a double cut during every rotation of the burr, which not only minimizes the time it takes to remove the excess material, but also ensures that the swarf removed, is being cut into very small pieces. The Andor Speedline range of Double Cut burrs also has the added advantageous of ensuring the swarf removed is blunt and won't penetrate the skin to further support operator safety. The Double cut is known as the most versatile of the range.

Due to the smaller swarf being produced, the Double cut burrs also produce a smoother finish compared to that of a Single cut or Chip-Breaker cut burr.

Along with the different configurations one also need to choose the correct shape for your application.

The shape will depend on the profile or cut that will be required on the workpiece. Ball shaped burrs are perfect to create concave cuts or to hollow out an area. When you need to round off edges, a tree-shaped burr will be best suited. Parts where a V-cut is required or where the rear side needs to be chamfered will need a burr with an inverted cone.

When using a tungsten carbide burr, it is important to remember due to the flute design, they are manufactured to be used with die grinders or pneumatic rotary tools and not with normal drills. Their optimal performance speed rating is ranging from 17,898 rpm to 39,773 rpm, (dependent on the size of the head of the burr), if used in a drilling machine running at around 2,000 to 3,000rpm, which is significantly less than a die grinder or pneumatic rotary tool, cutting effectiveness will be hindered, the burr could chip and clog up, and excess heat will be generated that could lead to the premature failing of the shank of the burr potentially causing detachment from the shank.

Always ensure your burr runs at optimal speed, a general guideline to remember, is, the smaller the dimension of the burr the faster the optimal speed of the burr, and the bigger the dimension of the burr, the slower the burr needs to run at.

When using a tungsten carbide burr it is important to allow the tool to do the cutting work and not to apply too much pressure, as excessive force will cause the burr's cutting edge of the flutes to chip away or turn blunt too quickly which will instantly reduce the longevity of the burr.

To avoid the burr to dig and grab into material, it is important to move it around during application and not hold it in one section for too long.

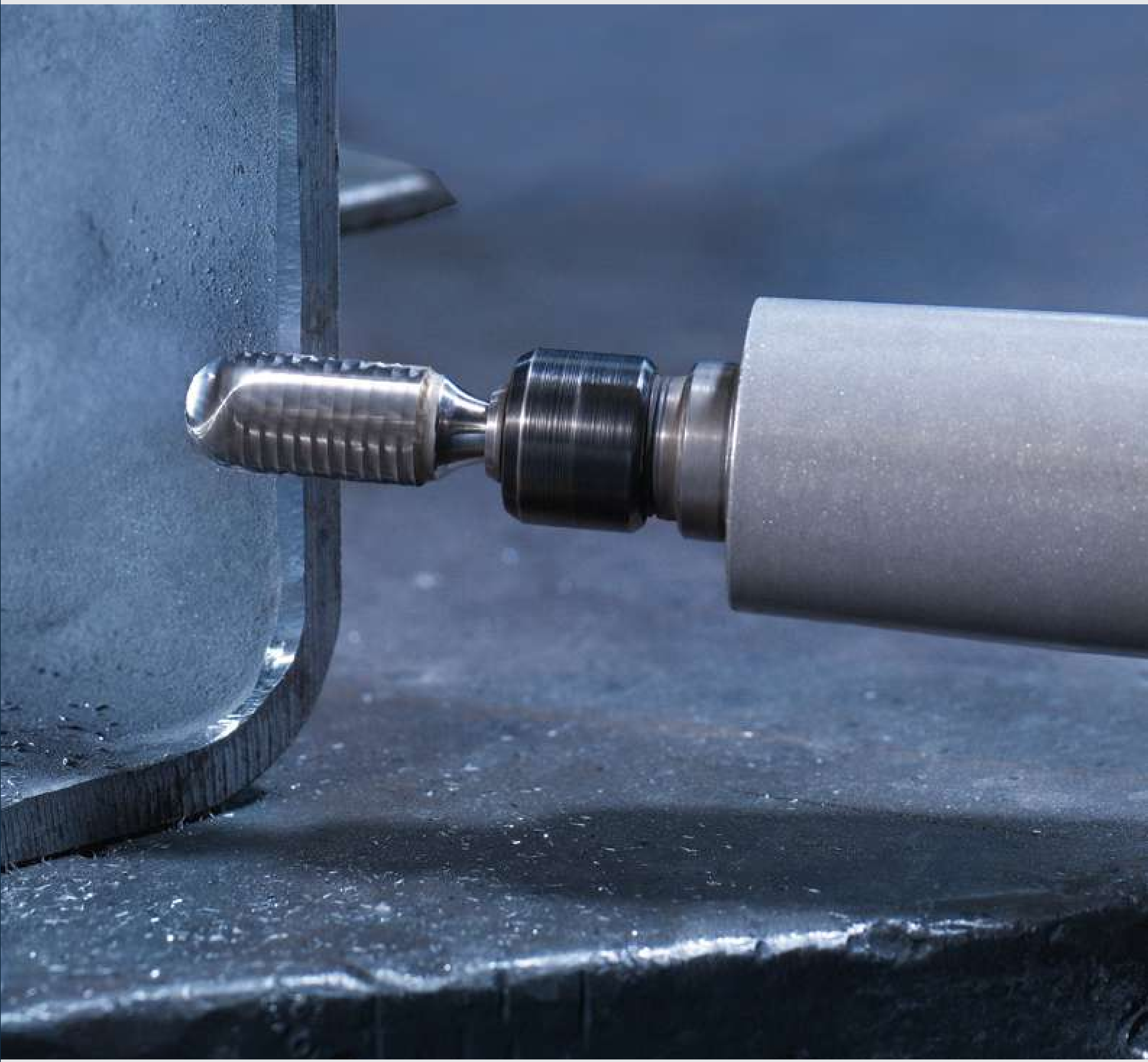
Due to the extreme hardness of Tungsten Carbide Burrs, they can be used on more demanding jobs tolerating higher temperatures than that of HSS burrs, which are prone to soften under higher working temperatures.

Whatever your requirement when it comes to Precision tools, we have a customised solution to your application.

Contact our Business Development team today for a customised solution to your application

+27 11 271 6400 | info@grindtech.com | www.grindtech.com

super|flex® - Tungsten Carbide Burrs



Precision to the point

Tel: +27 11 271 6400 | info@grindtech.com

A Company of the Tyrolit Group

www.grindtech.com

Grinding Techniques

NIGERIA ADVANCES AS AFRICA'S PREMIER MINERAL PROCESSING HUB

Nigeria is transforming its approach to mineral resource development with a comprehensive strategy aimed at establishing itself as Africa's leading mineral processing center. Through aggressive policy reforms, major infrastructure investments, and strategic international partnerships, the country seeks to move beyond traditional extractive models and capture maximum value from its geological resources.

Significant investments from Chinese companies—including Canmax Technologies, Jiuling Lithium, Avatar New Energy Nigeria, and Asba Group—totaling over $1.3 billion in lithium processing infrastructure, signal concrete progress in building operational capacity rather than speculative commitments.

A central feature of Nigeria's approach is the "no mineral leaves unprocessed" mandate, which ensures full value-chain development within national borders. This includes processing facilities for bulk minerals, lapidary and jewelry centers, battery-grade mineral plants, and integrated transport corridors supported by green energy infrastructure. The Nigeria Solid Minerals Company (NSMC) drives this transformation as an active sovereign investment partner, sharing development risk with private investors to enhance project viability.

Key minerals targeted under this strategy include lithium, cobalt, nickel, tin, and gold. Lithium processing plants are under construction across multiple states, while battery metals and gold are integrated into downstream manufacturing and value-addition facilities. Geological mapping covering over 80% of the country provides precision data to guide exploration and investment, reducing development risk and accelerating project timelines.

Nigeria's infrastructure strategy focuses on integrated transport corridors, power reliability, and green energy supply to support processing hubs in Nasarawa, Kogi, Kwara, and Ebonyi States. Cluster development enables economies of scale, reduces logistics costs, and creates industrial ecosystems that foster long-term sector competitiveness.

International partnerships with China, the EU, the US, and Saudi Arabia provide technology transfer, financing, market access, and ESG compliance guidance. Nigeria also leads continental efforts through the Africa Minerals Strategy Group, promoting harmonized policies and intra-African beneficiation.

The country's digital Mining Cadastre Office ensures transparent licensing and regulatory oversight, while geological data supports informed investment decisions. Combined, these measures aim to create sustainable economic growth, job creation, and increased GDP contribution from mining while strengthening Nigeria's position in global mineral supply chains.

Challenges remain, including infrastructure gaps, security concerns, and regulatory capacity development. Addressing these issues is critical for ensuring the hub's success and maintaining investor confidence.

Overall, Nigeria's mining hub strategy represents a shift from raw material export toward comprehensive domestic beneficiation, positioning the country as a key player in global critical mineral supply chains and setting a model for value-driven mineral development in Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA GRANTS MINING RIGHT FOR URU METALS' ZEB NICKEL PROJECT

South Africa's Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources has granted and executed a mining right for Uru Metals' Zeb nickel project on the Northern Limb of the Bushveld complex in South Africa.

The Zeb Nickel mining right has been issued to project company Lesego Platinum Uitloop (LPU) and covers a 30-year term through 2055.

The newly granted mining right encompasses an area of more than 4,703 hectares, spanning parts of the Bloemhof 4KS, Uitloop 3KS, Amatava 41KS and Piet Potgietersrust Town & Townlands 44KS farms within the Mogalakwena local municipality in Limpopo province.

According to Uru Metals, post-execution formalities are currently in progress, with the mining right being prepared for registration at the Mineral and Petroleum Titles Registration Office in Pretoria.

The company will provide an update to the market once the registration process is confirmed.

The company is also proceeding with scheduled ground gravity and frequency-domain electromagnetic (EM) surveys, which are set to begin over two priority targets at the Zeb nickel project, as announced on 16 October 2025.

IVECO T-WAY: ENGINEERED FOR THE TOUGHEST MISSIONS, TRUSTED BY INDUSTRY LEADERS

The IVECO T-Way's proven performance in extreme conditions is backed by industry testimonials, highlighting its robustness, versatility, and reliability. This is the vehicle you want for the toughest missions!

Engineered to excel in even the most challenging environments, the IVECO T-Way builds on IVECO's decades-long expertise and reputation in high-performing transport solutions. This powerful vehicle is designed for the most arduous off-road applications, offering a unique combination of high payload capacity, robust construction, and advanced technology. The IVECO T-Way is part of IVECO's heavy off-road range and comes in 4x4, 6x4, 6x6, 8x4 and 8x8. configurations, making IVECO well-positioned to provide the right vehicle solution for a variety of tough conditions.

Robustly Reliable

One of the elements that set the IVECO T-Way apart is the robustness of its high-resistance steel chassis. Constructed with a frame of up to 10mm in thickness, the IVECO T-Way's chassis is resilient enough to handle extreme loads and withstand rough terrain. The redesign of several components contributes to a kerb weight optimization of up to 500kg, ultimately increasing its payload capacity. In addition, the IVECO T-Way is equipped with an advanced tandem axle configuration for extra adaptability, allowing you to select the level of reduction based on terrain requirements.

Tailored to Meet Your Requirements

With its customizable axle layouts, varying wheelbases, and suspension options, the IVECO T-Way can be configured to meet your specific operational needs. Industry leaders confirm its reliability, superior maneuverability, safety features, and weight optimization – making it the go-to option for heavy-duty operations. This adaptability is one of the many reasons why the IVECO T-Way is a popular choice in industries requiring tailored solutions for different environments.

Dewald Thuynsma, Engineering Manager at BME (Bulk Mining Explosives), highlights how IVECO's product versatility has helped them meet diverse mining requirements locally and across borders. He explains, "At BME, it's important for us to understand mining conditions and the requirements from our clients. Partnering with IVECO allows us to select different chassis with different applications. For instance, in Lesotho, we use the 6x6 whereas in local applications, we use the 8x4s. It's important for us to select the correct chassis for the specific mining environment."

The IVECO T-Way integrates advanced features such as ESP, LDWS, and disc brakes for improved stability and lower maintenance costs. Options are available in manual or automated gearboxes, ensuring optimal comfort and performance across different terrains.

IVECO's Focus on Driver Well-Being

Although its exterior and performance capabilities are suited to rugged terrain, the IVECO T-Way's interior is designed with the driver's comfort and efficiency in mind. IVECO understands the demands placed on drivers working long hours in strenuous conditions, which is why the IVECO T-Way is fitted with ergonomic seating, intuitive controls, and a digital interface that provides critical vehicle information in real time.

According to IVECO AME region's Heavy Product Manager, Michele Scardellino "As with all IVECO vehicles, the cab is really built around the driver; in particular, the ergonomic wraparound dash to bring everything within easy reach."

By integrating smart technology, IVECO ensures that the IVECO T-Way is as efficient on the road as it is on challenging terrains.

"At IVECO, we believe that driver comfort is crucial for safety. That is why all of our vehicles, even the off-road vehicles, come standard with air-conditioning," Michele adds.

Enhanced Control with HI-TRONIX

The IVECO T-Way's HI-TRONIX transmission system facilitates efficiency and ease of operation, particularly for off-road applications. The 16-speed automated gearbox is designed for heavy-duty performance, enabling smooth gear shifts that maximize both fuel economy and driving comfort. HI-TRONIX adjusts to different driving conditions, allowing drivers to tackle steep inclines and challenging terrains without hesitation. The system's automatic shifting is also vital for reducing driver fatigue.

HI-TRONIX allows the IVECO T-Way to handle the toughest environments with ease and reliability, giving drivers the confidence to manage diverse and extreme conditions.

Proven Reliability in Real-World Applications

The IVECO T-Way has earned acclaim not just in South Africa but across the globe as well. Testimonials from BME and other operators highlight how IVECO has proven to be a trusted vehicle supplier time and time again. Corrie Barnard, CEO of the ETTC Group, leads six IVECO dealerships and has been a key partner with BME for 25 years. Their long-standing collaboration is reflective of a shared goal of delivering innovative, reliable solutions in the mining and transport industries.

With IVECO's extensive dealer network, supported by a strong international presence, the partnership between the two ensures customers have access to expert advice, service, and tailored vehicle solutions around the clock. The IVECO network plays a vital role in providing localized support to enhance customer experience and drive continued success among IVECO and its stakeholders.

For businesses that value resilience, efficiency, and adaptability, the IVECO T-Way is a clear investment that can deliver long-term results. Visit an IVECO dealership for comprehensive details on the IVECO T-Way's specifications and configurations, and to add this high-productivity vehicle to your fleet:

Website: www.iveco.com


IVECO 50
1975 2025
IVECO
Drive the road of change
IVECO
Born for the extreme.
IVECO T-WAY
The IVECO T-WAY is designed to tackle the toughest mining terrains.
Its rugged construction, fuel-efficient engine, modern PTO control,
and ergonomic cab ensure maximum productivity, safety, and driver satisfaction.
Born and built around you.

TRU-TRAC LEVERAGES AI TO BRING REAL-TIME ACCURACY TO CONVEYOR BELT SCALES

As the industrial sector undergoes rapid digital transformation, conveyor systems – once regarded as passive infrastructure – are emerging as intelligent data sources. Shaun Blumberg, COO of Tru-Trac, notes that at the centre of this shift is the belt scale.

"This technology was historically focused on weighing material flow but is now transforming into a strategic tool for real-time production visibility, process optimisation and predictive analytics," he says.

Tru-Trac's AccuTrac™ AI-enabled Belt Scale platform represents the leading edge of this evolution. Rather than being a retrofit of outdated hardware, it has been designed around the principle that mass flow measurement should be dynamic, contextual and adaptive – not static and reactive. Developed in partnership with Germany-based SHG, the system fundamentally changes the way material flow is measured and managed in industrial environments. Blumberg explains that conventional belt scales rely on assumptions such as constant belt speed, consistent loading geometry and stable mechanical conditions. In reality, these factors vary: belts stretch, rollers wear unevenly and bulk density fluctuates. This leads to drift in measurement accuracy, frequent recalibrations and reduced confidence in the data.

"The Tru-Trac AccuTrac AI Belt Scale does not rely on static assumptions. Instead, it continuously learns from the conveyor's operating behaviour and compensates for factors such as drift, vibration and anomalies in the load profile in real time," Blumberg says.

At the core of the system is a fusion engine that processes inputs including belt speed, load cell output, vibration patterns and environmental conditions. Adaptive algorithms then generate a normalised computational mass flow that more accurately reflects true material movement in demanding environments.
The intelligence is embedded at the edge rather than in a remote server, allowing the system to respond immediately without relying on constant connectivity. This provides operations teams with real-time information and alerts such as early indications of belt tension changes, density fluctuations or idler failures.

"Unlike traditional systems that provide delayed or averaged readings, the Tru-Trac AccuTrac AI Belt Scale delivers contextual data that can be acted upon immediately," Blumberg adds.

Beyond mass flow measurement, the scale also performs diagnostic functions. It can identify belt slip or stretch, uneven loading, mechanical wear and systemic inconsistencies. By combining these roles into one device, the system reduces the need for additional sensors and infrastructure, simplifying installation and maintenance while lowering potential points of failure.

Calibration, often a challenge with conventional belt scales, is managed through intelligent auto-calibration. The Tru-Trac AccuTrac™ AI Belt Scale system references historical data, production baselines and throughput values to optimise its internal models, improving accuracy with use rather than degrading over time.

The platform is also designed for integration with plant control systems using standard protocols. This allows belt scale data to feed into wider process control loops, such as adjusting feed rates based on downstream capacity or modifying loading geometry in response to live conditions. In this way, the system moves the belt scale from a static measurement device to an embedded intelligence platform, delivering operational insights across industries such as mining, cement and ports.

"Our AccuTrac AI Belt Scale is designed to adapt continuously to real operating conditions. By embedding machine learning into the system, we can deliver reliable mass flow measurement and diagnostics that support more accurate, efficient and responsive operations," Blumberg concludes.

CHINESE MINING COMPANIES IN ZAMBIA START PAYING TAXES IN YUAN

Chinese mine operators in Zambia started paying royalties and taxes in yuan in Africa's second-biggest copper producer, the latest sign of the growing acceptance of the currency on the continent.

Payments using the Chinese unit began in October, the Bank of Zambia said in reply to emailed questions on Wednesday. The Zambian authorities are the first in Africa to confirm they are accepting mining-tax payments in renminbi.

Africa is emerging as a key arena in Beijing's efforts to internationalize the yuan, especially in nations that are heavily indebted to it. Kenya this year converted dollar loans it owed to China into yuan-denominated debt, Ethiopia began talks to do the same, and Zambia said it would consider following suit.

"A large portion of copper exports go to China and the Chinese mining firms already receive some, if not all, of their payments for their exports to China in renminbi," the central bank said. "The Bank of Zambia has the diversification and building-up of its reserves as a key objective, and purchasing renminbi enables the bank to actualize this objective."

Holding a portion of foreign-currency reserves in renminbi will also enable Zambia to service its debts to China in a more cost-effective manner, according to the central bank.

The bank first introduced rules in 2018 that require mining companies to sell dollars to it to pay royalties. It expanded the regulations in 2020 to cover all mining-tax payments, part of efforts to bolster the government's dollar reserves as it struggled with a rapidly rising external-debt burden.

Mine operators can now choose to sell either dollars or renminbi to the Bank of Zambia in order to make tax payments. The central bank last month began publishing the official renminbi-kwacha exchange rate to facilitate the change.

"The practical acceptance of renminbi will depend on the Bank of Zambia's reserve-management policy, pricing mechanisms and operational guidance to the market," Joseph Jalasi, senior partner at Dentons' local unit, told Bloomberg.

Canadian mining companies First Quantum Minerals Ltd. and Barrick Mining Corp. accounted for about two-thirds of Zambia's copper output in 2024. But China Nonferrous Mining Corp. Ltd. and other Chinese operators are spending billions of dollars to boost production of the metal, just as it posts its biggest annual price gain since 2009.

ADVERTISOR'S INDEX