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EDITOR'S NOTE

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In this edition of Africa Mining and Construction Magazine, we shine a spotlight on Mining Indaba 2026, a pivotal platform shaping the future of Africa's mining and construction sectors. Once again, the Indaba brings together industry leaders, innovators, and decision-makers to advance dialogue around sustainable growth, investment, and technological progress.

This year's event highlights Africa's evolving mining landscape—where efficiency, innovation, and responsible resource development are no longer optional, but essential. We feature key contributors driving this transformation, including Volvo, showcasing advanced equipment that boosts productivity while lowering environmental impact; SEEPEX GmbH, delivering reliable pumping and material-handling solutions; and Roxia Oy, whose mineral processing expertise supports improved recovery and operational efficiency.

We also recognise the important role of AusIMM in promoting professional excellence, skills development, and ethical leadership across the global mining industry, with growing influence in Africa.

As Africa continues to play a central role in the global resource economy, Mining Indaba 2026 reinforces the power of collaboration in building a resilient and sustainable mining future.

— The Editor

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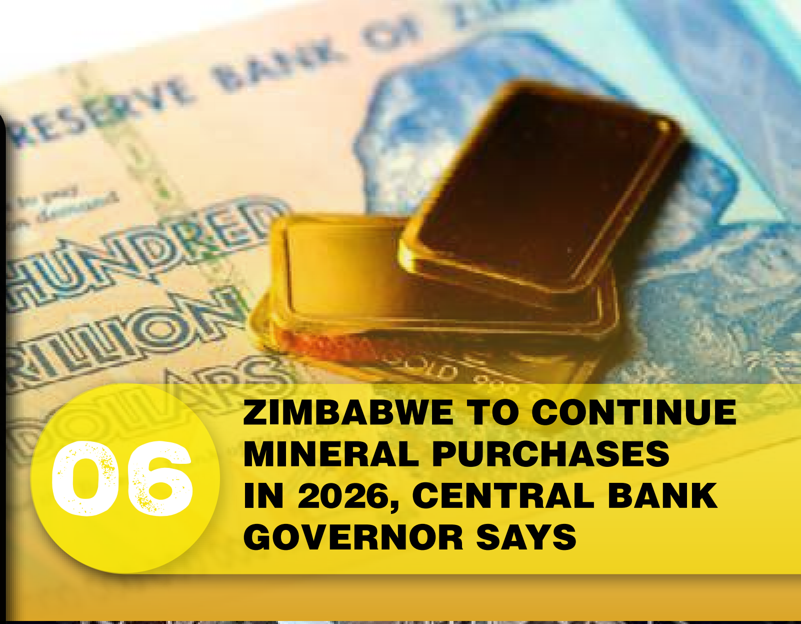

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ZIMBABWE TO CONTINUE MINERAL PURCHASES IN 2026, CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR SAYS

Zimbabwe will continue to make strategic mineral purchases in 2026 in order to build its foreign currency reserves, as it pushes ahead with plans to adopt the ZiG as its sole currency by 2030, central bank governor John Mushayavanhu said on Sunday.

In an opinion article published in the state-run Sunday Mail, Mushayavanhu said the central bank will next year "continue and entrench the current trend of foreign currency reserves accumulation" with the aim of eventually attaining the desired optimal reserves of three to six months import cover.

"The Reserve Bank strongly believes that maintaining the current trend of foreign currency reserves build up would enable it to meet the desired target in the near to medium term, for the smooth transition to mono currency," he wrote.

"This will be achieved via sustained export surrender enforcement, strategic mineral purchases and our robust external sector. A growing reserve chest will further entrench ZiG stability and external shock resilience," he added.

He said foreign currency reserves – comprising gold, other precious minerals, foreign deposits, and cash – rose to $1.1 billion as of December from $276 million in April, representing about 1.2 months import cover.

Zimbabwe has tried for almost two decades to re-establish a viable national currency after a series of failed attempts triggered hyperinflation and wiped out savings, forcing the economy to dollarize in 2009. Its latest effort is the ZiG, which was introduced in April 2024 and now accounts for about 40% of daily transactions.

The central bank has aggressively pursued a foreign currency accumulation strategy through mandatory mining royalties, outright gold purchases and leveraging on the rally in gold and platinum metal prices, he said.

Under Zimbabwean laws, mining and other exporting companies are allowed to retain 70% of their earnings in dollars, with the remainder paid in local currency.

Since October 2022, the country has required mining entities to pay half their royalties in the form of commodities to the central bank and the rest in cash.

CONGO HALTS ARTISANAL COPPER AND COBALT PROCESSING AMID CORRUPTION CRACKDOWN

The Democratic Republic of Congo has suspended artisanal copper and cobalt mineral processing as part of efforts to improve transparency and curb illegal exports, according to a government decree.

Signed on 19 December by Mines Minister Louis Watum Kabamba, the decree requires all entities involved in the processing and marketing of artisanal copper and cobalt to halt operations while certifying the origin of their minerals. A dedicated commission will be established to verify the traceability and legality of supplies and oversee compliance.

The DRC is the world's largest cobalt producer, accounting for around 70% of global supply, but has long struggled with illegal artisanal mining that diverts revenue away from the state. Authorities say the suspension will help identify mineral flows and volumes processed by artisanal operators, though the overall impact on illegal exports remains unclear.

Civil society groups have raised concerns that some operators obtained permits through bribery to bypass mining regulations. While artisanal mining supports between 1.5 million and 2 million workers and indirectly sustains more than 10 million people, unregulated production remains difficult to trace and undermines efforts to align cobalt supply with international environmental, social, and governance standards.

The move follows the launch of Congo's first batch of traceable artisanal cobalt in November, aimed at formalising the sector and strengthening ethical supply chains.


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IAMGOLD'S LEMELIN THANKS MENTOR FOR AFRICA OPTION

Bruno Lemelin's path to becoming chief operating officer of Iamgold was shaped early in his career, when he joined the Essakane mine in Burkina Faso amid growing regional instability. Previously with Xstrata and Falconbridge, the role marked his first time managing a large-scale operation of around 800 people producing 400,000 ounces of gold annually. Mentored by Gilles Ferlatte, Lemelin credits the experience with developing his operational leadership and resilience in a complex environment.

That foundation proved critical years later as Lemelin oversaw the construction and ramp-up of Iamgold's flagship Côté mine in Ontario, reaching commercial production and positioning it among Canada's largest gold operations. Appointed COO in 2023, he emphasises disciplined execution, cost control, and teamwork, noting that Côté's successful build and steady-state performance were the result of coordinated effort across construction, commissioning, and operations.

Côté produced 106,000 ounces in the third quarter and remains central to Iamgold's growth strategy, with average annual production targeted at 365,000 ounces and expansion potential through the nearby Gosselin deposit. Ongoing drilling and technical studies are evaluating higher throughput scenarios and the possibility of extending mine life well beyond current plans. At Essakane, additional exploration is also underway ahead of a lease renewal process later in the decade.

With a doctorate in mineral economics and a background spanning engineering and finance, Lemelin combines academic rigour with practical experience. Looking ahead, he sees technology, automation, and data-driven operations as key to attracting younger talent and improving performance, positioning modern mining as both technically advanced and economically resilient.

CrystalForge Technologies

HOW CRYSTALFORGE TECHNOLOGIES SCALES AFRICAN MINING THROUGH SYSTEMS-LEVEL DATA ARCHITECTURE

CrystalForge Technologies designs the operating architecture that enables African mining operations to scale with control, resilience, and long-term confidence. The company engineers physical processes, industrial data infrastructure, and operational intelligence as one integrated system.

In environments defined by scale and variability, intelligence must be engineered to hold. CrystalForge Technologies builds the foundations that make that possible across Africa's most demanding mining portfolios. It determines whether production can scale with control and whether growth introduces resilience or fragility. As African mining enters a phase defined by deeper orebodies, tighter energy margins, and heightened operational scrutiny, the industry's challenge is no longer access to technology. It is the absence of systems engineered to behave predictably under scale.

This is where CrystalForge Technologies operates.

Rather than approaching mining through isolated digital interventions, the company engineers integrated operating architectures that align physical processes, data infrastructure, and intelligence into a single, coherent system. The result is not transformation theatre, but operational certainty.

CORE SERVICES

- **Systems architecture for mining at scale**

Aligning processes, data, and intelligence to drive stable, repeatable growth

- **Operational intelligence & applied AI**

Integrating AI into workflows to boost efficiency, and decision-making

- **Control, automation & edge systems**

Modernising control systems with deterministic logic and edge autonomy

- **Industrial data infrastructure & governance**

Building resilient, time-aligned data foundations for reliable decisions

In 2025, CrystalForge Technologies delivered one of the largest single-phase industrial operating system rollout. Executed in under eight months, the programme spanned 25 operational sites, in three countries worldwide. Bringing together seven distinct commodities; lithium, coal, phosphate, diamond, PGMs, limestone, and manganese, within a single, unified operating architecture.

This breadth of commodity exposure and geographic dispersion underscored the system's ability to perform consistently across materially different processing environments, operating conditions, and organisational contexts. More than 30,000 active users were brought onto a unified operating environment and has already delivered value exceeding thirty times its implementation cost.

THE SCALING CONSTRAINT IN AFRICAN MINING

In African mining, expansion is typically driven by assets, geography, and production targets. Operating systems, however, are often inherited, localised, and unevenly integrated, shaping how scale manifests across sites as portfolios grow. As portfolios expand, variability compounds and decision latency increases. Performance becomes difficult to replicate from one operation to the next.

Most scaling initiatives attempt to solve this downstream, through reporting layers, analytics platforms, or post-hoc optimization. CrystalForge Technologies approaches the problem at the level where scale is either enabled or constrained: the operating architecture itself.

SYSTEMS-LEVEL DATA ARCHITECTURE AS A SCALING ENABLER

At scale, data architecture is not an IT concern. It is an operating condition. For growth to be stable and repeatable, physical processes, control systems, data flows, and intelligence layers must be designed as a single, coherent system. CrystalForge Technologies engineers systems-level data architectures that:

- Anchor operational truth at the source, not in downstream reconciliation
- Enforce time-synchronisation across production, maintenance, and planning domains
- Standardize operating logic without erasing site-specific realities
- Support both human decision-making and machine execution

When physical process engineering, data infrastructure, and intelligence are delivered as one system, the outcomes are concrete and provable. Mining operations will see improved control over process variability, lower unplanned downtime, faster time to action for maintenance events, and higher fidelity in production forecasting. Those operational improvements translate directly to lower unit costs, more predictable capital planning, and stronger margins under variable commodity prices.

Interested in scaling your operations?

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Successful filtration requires more than high performance equipment. It demands reliable, long term support. Roxia's Filtration Life Cycle Service is available for all Tower Press type filters, regardless of the original manufacturer, ensuring consistent performance throughout the equipment's lifetime.

We provide one to one compatible spare parts, expert maintenance, refurbishments, and automation upgrades and full modernizations for every Tower Press type filter. Our service offering keeps filtration processes running at peak capacity while extending equipment lifetime and improving operational stability. Services include routine maintenance, inspections and troubleshooting, process optimization, automation support, predictive monitoring, complete overhauls. With Roxia as a life cycle partner, customers secure predictable performance, reduced downtime, and efficient, long term operation.

Strong Local Presence in South Africa

Roxia's South Africa team provides local maintenance, inspections, troubleshooting, and process support. Local spare parts availability and rapid on site service ensure continuity of production. Roxia's global capability is backed by local facilities in Finland, Chile, Peru, China, Germany, and the United States.

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OEM Spare Parts for All Tower Press Brands

Roxia supplies high quality OEM spare parts compatible with all Tower Press filter brands. Our offering includes fore example filter cloths, plates, frames, diaphragms, grids, plate seals, hydraulic components, and automation parts—designed for long service life and reliable operation. Local stock and fast deliveries minimize downtime and simplify maintenance planning.

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.

SOUTH AFRICA'S LAST MANGANESE SMELTER ON THE BRINK AS HIGH POWER COSTS WEIGH

Transalloys, which operates South Africa's last functioning manganese smelter, may have to close the plant and cut hundreds of jobs if its soaring electricity costs are not brought down, its CEO said on Tuesday.

More than a dozen smelters have shut down in South Africa in recent years, citing high electricity costs, leading to thousands of job losses.

Transalloys CEO Konstantin Sadovnik told local television station Newzroom Afrika that the business has been loss-making for about three years, mainly due to sharply rising power costs, which make up nearly 40% of total expenses.

The company plans to cut about 600 direct jobs, a move that could impact as many as 7,000 livelihoods in the broader economy of the eMalahleni municipality, where it is based. "Their jobs are indeed on the line," said Sadovnik.

He said the plant could be mothballed pending a near-term solution or closed permanently, depending on whether manganese smelters are included in a proposed electricity pricing framework being discussed by the government and the ferrochrome industry.

South Africa is the world's largest producer of manganese, which is used in steel-making, but exports most of the mineral in ore form due to limited smelting capacity.

The country's energy regulator Nersa is currently reviewing an interim power tariff adjustment for struggling smelters in the ferrochrome sector, with the government also working on a longer-term mechanism to support competitive pricing.

"Energy is our biggest cost driver," Sadovnik said, adding that Transalloys is competing against smelters abroad whose electricity costs are "roughly half" of South Africa's regulated levels.

The company hopes for a resolution within the next two months. Restructuring would proceed around February if no solution is found.

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BARRICK ANNOUNCES RESOLUTION OF ITS DISPUTES WITH MALI

Barrick Mining Corporation (NYSE:B)(TSX:ABX) ("Barrick" or the "Company") today announced that it has entered into an agreement which puts an end to all of its disputes with the Government of the Republic of Mali regarding the Loulo and Gounkoto mines.

All charges brought against Barrick, its affiliates and employees will be dropped and the legal steps for the release of the four detained Barrick employees will be undertaken. Additionally, the provisional administration of the Loulo-Gounkoto complex will be terminated, following which operational control over the complex will be handed back to Barrick. This will pave the way for a constructive path forward. As a result of the settlement, Barrick's subsidiaries will withdraw the arbitration claims currently pending before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

About Barrick Mining Corporation

Barrick is a leading global mining, exploration and development company. With one of the largest portfolios of world-class and long-life gold and copper assets in the industry—including six of the world's Tier One gold mines—Barrick's operations and projects span 18 countries and five continents. Barrick is also the largest gold producer in the United States. We create real, long-term value for all stakeholders through responsible mining, strong partnerships and a disciplined approach to growth. Barrick shares trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol 'B' and on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol 'ABX'.

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HASSAN ALLAM CONSTRUCTION AWARDED A LANDMARK USD 250 MILLION CONTRACT TO BUILD THE ICONIC AFREXIMBANK AFRICAN TRADE CENTRE IN EGYPT'S NEW CAPITAL

Hassan Allam Construction, a subsidiary of Hassan Allam Holding, has been awarded a landmark USD 250 million contract for the construction of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) (www.Afreximbank.com) African Trade Centre, which will also host its new headquarters building, to be located in the New Capital of Egypt.

Among the top dignitaries who attended the stone-laying ceremony for the construction of AATC in the New Capital was H.E. Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr. George Elombi, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank, H.E. Mr. Hassan Abdalla, Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt, Eng. Hassan Allam, CEO of Hassan Allam Holding and Eng. Mohamed El Dahshoury, CEO of Hassan Allam Construction.

The project encompasses the full construction and finishing of a comprehensive development that will serve as Afreximbank's global headquarters. The scope covers the main Afreximbank Headquarters Building, a 110-room hotel, and six fully serviced residential villas. The complex will host a full suite of other modern trade-supporting facilities, including a trade information centre, a world-class library and knowledge hub, an Afreximbank corporate museum, an innovation and SME incubation centre to support entrepreneurship, a business centre, a corporate museum, a 750-seater modern conference centre, an exhibition centre, retail and dinning outlets, shops, extensive back-of-house and support facilities and a 1,200-bay parking structure.

In addition to full civil works, the contract covers Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) systems, hard and soft landscaping, as well as the complete supply and installation of Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E). The development is also being designed as a green, sustainable project, reflecting Afreximbank's and Hassan Allam Holding's commitment to modern, efficient, and environmentally responsible built environments. Together, these elements will form a modern African Trade Centre designed to facilitate trade, policy dialogue, and collaboration across the continent.

Hassan Allam, CEO of Hassan Allam Holding, said: "Our collaboration with Afreximbank reflects a shared belief in the power of infrastructure to unlock Africa's economic potential. For more than nine decades, Hassan Allam Holding has been committed to delivering projects that strengthen communities, enable growth, and support long-term development. We are proud to bring this experience to a project of such continental significance, one that will serve as a catalyst for trade collaboration, and opportunity across Africa."

Dr. George Elombi, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank, said: "The African Trade Centres are a concrete solution to a unique challenge of the lack of knowledge about our African market, a major obstacle to promoting trade. The AATC is meant not simply to accommodate the expansion of the Bank, but also to address the lack of trade and investment information among African businesses; a challenge that has confounded the growth of intra-African trade and investment for nearly seven decades. We envision that the project will be completed within 36 months and will create approximately 8,000 direct and indirect jobs during construction and approximately 1,000 jobs during the operational phase."

This collaboration goes further than conventional financing arrangements, anchored instead in a shared vision for infrastructure development, sustainability, and Africa's economic transformation. Through successive financing rounds, structured guarantees, and joint investment in high-impact projects, both institutions have repeatedly demonstrated their unwavering commitment to advancing transformational initiatives across the continent.

Eng Hassan Allam was among the top dignitaries who attended the stone laying ceremony for the construction of AATC in the New Capital. Others included H.E. Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation, H.E. Mr. Hassan Abdalla, Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt, Amr Allam, CO-CEO of Hassan Allam Holding, Mohamed El Dahshoury, CEO of Hassan Allam Construction, and the executive leadership of Afreximbank.

HASSAN ALLAM CONSTRUCTION AWARDED A LANDMARK USD 250 MILLION CONTRACT TO BUILD THE ICONIC AFREXIMBANK AFRICAN TRADE CENTRE IN EGYPT'S NEW CAPITAL

The Most Expensive Gap in Your Operation **Isn't Underground.**

In the mining, manufacturing and construction sectors, we obsess over "the gap." The gap in the grade, in the schedule, in the safety perimeter. And we are strong at managing those risks.

But there is a wider, expensive risk that sits in the boardroom's blind spot: **The Frontline Digital Gap.**

While we have world-class tech at HQ, the people at the rock face and on the sites - those without email - are often left in the digital dark. When you cannot reach 100% of your employees instantly with a critical safety alert or a policy update, you aren't just facing a communication problem, you are facing a major operational liability.

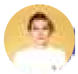
We've seen the impact of closing this gap firsthand.

We've worked with major industry leaders to digitise their fieldworkers' employee experience. By moving away from word-of-mouth, paper noticeboards and unsecure manual WhatsApp groups, they secured ironclad, **100% auditable trails** for safety acknowledgments and PPE compliance. They protected their workers and their license to operate by ensuring that critical information reached the right person, at the right time.

Beyond safety and compliance, the efficiency gains are significant. The platform removed the friction that keeps workers in queues at the HR office instead of on-site. Direct digital access to payslips, leave, shifts and training, **reduced admin time by 40% and paper costs by 75%.**

Other leaders reported increased trust and a zero strike "streak" since launching their digital comms platform. Success and a strong bottom line starts with a connection. As an executive, providing your team with a professional, digital access point isn't a "nice-to have". It is the foundation of a safe, efficient, and compliant operation.

Are you ready to close the gap?



Merel van der Lei CEO, Wyzetalk

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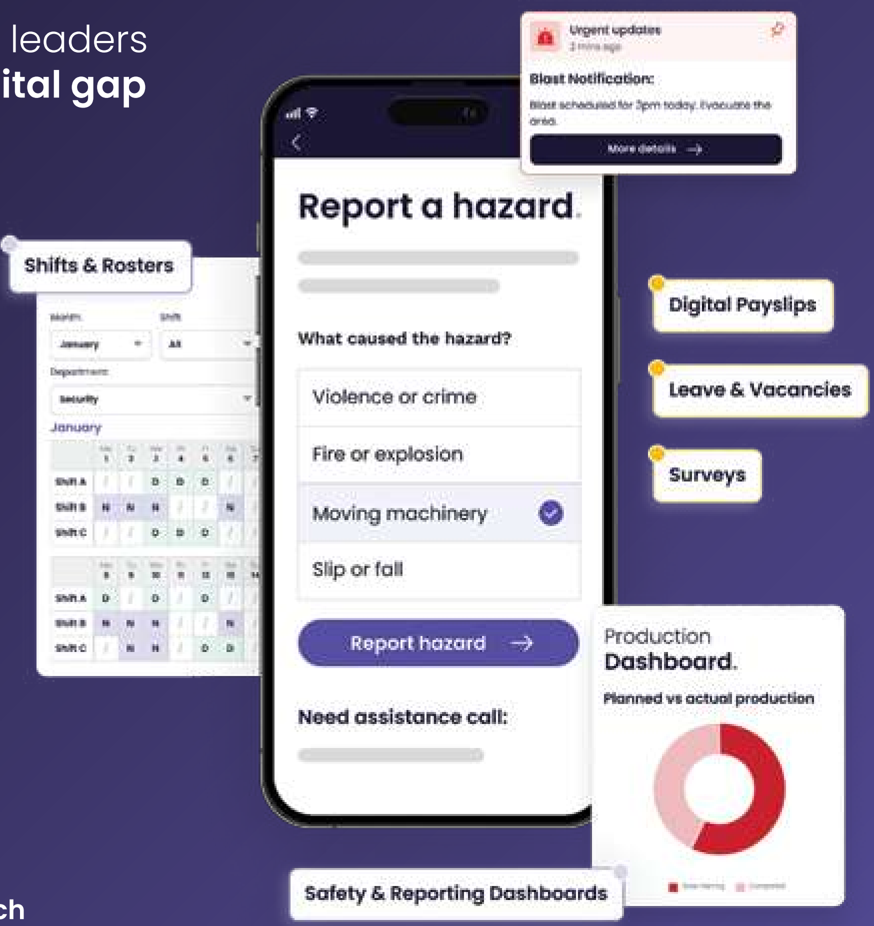

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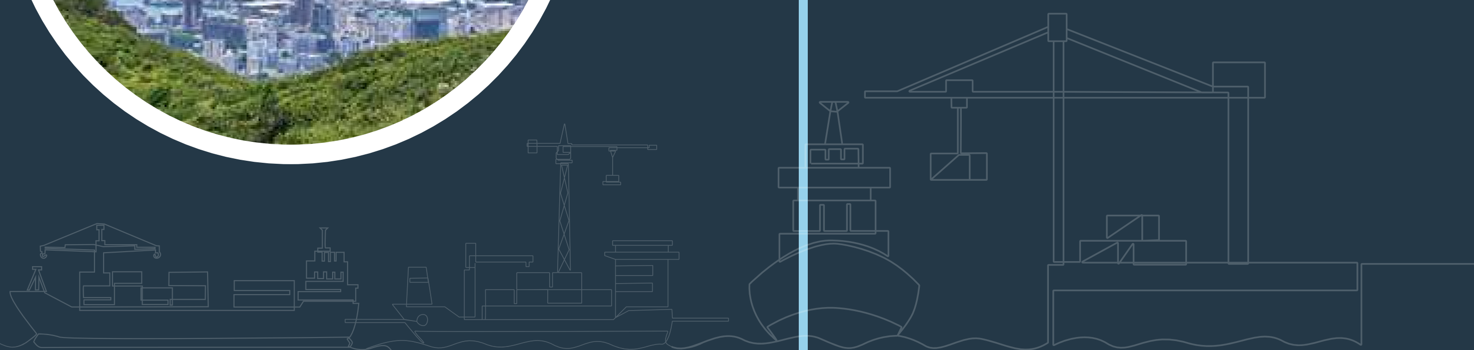

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FASTEST TRADE ROUTE TO WALVIS BAY PORT LAUNCHED BY WESTERN CORRIDOR LIMITED IN ZAMBIA

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, officiated at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Western Corridor Transformation Project, marking the official commencement of a landmark development initiative undertaken through a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) with Western Corridor Limited (WCL). Executed as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), the Western Corridor Limited (https://www.WesternCorridorLimited.com) is the concessionnaire incorporated by BeefCo Limited and First Quantum Minerals (FQM) Limited.

Significant work has already commenced on the project since the groundbreaking ceremony held on October 31, 2025 in Kasempa town. The ceremony was attended by key Government Officials such as the Minister of Finance and National Planning, Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane, the Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Mr. Chipoka Mulenga, the Minister of Infrastructure and Urban Development, Mr. Charles Milupi, the Road Development Agency (RDA) officials, senior government personnel, traditional leaders, private sector partners and members of the electorate.

This project is a strategic private sector-led initiative, aligned with the government's Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP). It is poised to unlock the vast economic potential of the Western Corridor through strategic investments in key sectors, including integrated agriculture, infrastructure development, and value addition.

Western Corridor Limited (WCL) is set to upgrade the current gravel alignment to bituminous standard, including two new bridges over the Lalafuta and Luena rivers and selected urban road works in Kasempa and Kaoma Districts. The 371km road project promises improved road standards which will significantly reduce travel times, create jobs and boost export potential. The road will link key mining zones and boost agricultural capacity, as well as being the fastest trade route to the port at Walvis Bay in Namibia.

Speaking at the ceremony, President Hakainde Hichilema highlighted the project's alignment with government priorities in driving economic growth, particularly in agriculture and mining. The President highlighted the vast potential that awaits in regional connectivity and international trade, he said, "This road means business, business to move goods from Zambia to the world through the port of Walvis Bay, and from the world, through Walvis Bay, back to Zambia."

The President emphasized that even when the country was bankrupt, the main priority was to help the people of Zambia through interventions such as the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) to unlock investment. "This is a great day because infrastructure, roads in particular, open up investment. From Mutanda to Kasempa, Kaoma to Mongu, Senanga to Sesheke upto Katima Mulilo; this will be the fastest route to Walvis Bay. Since Independence, the residents of Kasempa can for the first time travel shorter distances to Lusaka through Kaoma and Mumbwa,"

The President further expressed contentment at the prospect of the improved road infrastructure directly addressing issues of unemployment by providing jobs to the local community and the youth as well as providing support for MSMEs through opportunities for local contractors and suppliers, with at least 20% of project works reserved for Zambian citizen contractors, service providers and/ or suppliers.

Western Corridor Limited's CEO, Buks Jansen Van Rensburg reiterated the importance of working as a team to actualise the vision of the Mutanda to Kaoma road. He stated, "Let's build more roads, let's protect our roads and infrastructure and give support to the country and to all the communities," he emphasised. "Do not look for outside help, let's look for Zambian solutions to Zambian challenges. Honourable Milupi gave Western Corridor Limited an opportunity, he pushed us out of our limits and now this road is a reality through Public-Private-Partnership," he added.

First Quantum Minerals (FQM) Limited Country Manager, Dr. Godwin Beene, said the initiative reflects FQM's belief that mining must act as a catalyst for inclusive and sustainable development. "We understand that a thriving mining sector depends on a robust and well-maintained road network – one that connects production centers to markets, communities to opportunities, and people to prosperity", Dr. Beene asserted. He added that, "over the past decade, First Quantum Minerals has invested in road infrastructure within Solwezi and Kalumbila. These projects, like this one, were designed to improve accessibility, enhance safety, and stimulate local enterprise. The Mutanda–Kaoma Road builds upon that legacy; demonstrating how responsible private investment can meaningfully complement public infrastructure priorities."

The groundbreaking ceremony signifies the beginning of major development works, heralding a new era of economic and social prosperity for the Western Corridor. This event underscores the Government's commitment to fostering sustainable development, creating significant employment opportunities, and improving livelihoods throughout the province.

Hydropower Systems: Breathe new life into underground mines

"the most efficient system out there"

Hydropower Systems (Pty) Ltd, based in Potchefstroom, South Africa, has established itself as a key player in the global mining sector. As a compliant, broad-based black economic empowerment entity and a member of the Mining Equipment Manufacturers of South Africa, the company employs a skilled workforce to deliver advanced solutions. **Specialising in underground mining equipment**, Hydropower Systems focuses on creating robust, user-friendly technologies that **enhance efficiency, safety, and sustainability**. With its modern facilities, the firm designs and manufactures systems deployed in mines across South Africa, the broader African continent, and internationally, helping miners tackle challenging environments with greater ease and reliability.

Industry recognition for innovation in underground mining productivity

Hydropower Systems' **commitment to innovation** has been recognised by the **Mining Equipment Manufacturers of South Africa Innovation Awards**. The company received recognition for enhanced underground mining **productivity**, with a special mention for advancements in **data integration**. These systems incorporate real-time monitoring and predictive maintenance capabilities, enabling operators to identify potential issues early, optimise performance, and maintain consistent equipment availability underground.

Supplying Wassara water-powered drilling technology in South Africa

Hydropower Systems' offering is further strengthened through its role as the **sole distributor of Wassara products** in South Africa. Wassara is internationally recognised for its **environmentally responsible, water-powered drilling systems** that reduce dust and noise while maintaining the integrity of surrounding rock. This **partnership** allows Hydropower Systems to deliver comprehensive underground drilling solutions that combine in-house innovation with proven international technology, supporting cleaner, safer, and more efficient mining operations.

The HPS Long hole drilling system

Complementing the core drilling system are Hydropower Systems' specialized long hole rigs, designed to handle demanding applications with superior performance. The H80 Long Hole Rig stands out for its **hydropower down-the-hole drilling capabilities**, offering greater mobility and ease of use compared to older compressed air alternatives. It excels in tasks such as **destressing, drop raising, cover drilling, drain holes, and inverted drilling, particularly in sensitive geological formations where safety is paramount**. Operators appreciate its straightforward maintenance and ability to integrate seamlessly into existing workflows, resulting in more reliable and cost-effective outcomes. Similarly, the HC50 Long Hole Rig provides a **compact solution** for percussion and core drilling in tight spaces, utilizing advanced hammers to achieve accurate results with minimal energy demands. This rig's versatility makes it ideal for **intermittent core sampling and other specialized needs**, ensuring mines can maintain high standards of precision without compromising on portability or safety.

"Our Long hole drilling systems are developed for performance in demanding conditions."

Validated Improvements achieved

Hydropower Systems' groundbreaking underground drilling system powers a suite of ancillary equipment—like rock drills, waterjets, chainsaws, pod setting tools, blasthole cleaners, roof bolters, watering-down guns, and stope atomizers. The system replaces inefficient compressed air or centralized setups for modular, crew-specific control that **reduces water and electricity usage**.

Validated by mines, it delivers the following proven gains:

- Electricity usage 2kWh/ton of ore mined
- Water usage 0.3T water/broken ton
- Production Improvement by 50%
- Reduced time spent in the red zone
- User acceptance – 2 weeks training to full production
- IoT-ready

What our clients have to say:

Industry leaders confirm the operational impact of Hydropower Systems' technologies.

"We've implemented Hydropower Systems' Hydrovessel drilling system underground for the past two years, and **it has completely changed how we work**. The on-demand energy feature cuts unnecessary water and electricity usage and **boosts overall efficiency in our deep-level operations**. Teams spend less time in dangerous areas, experience reduced fatigue, and benefit from a cleaner stope atmosphere with quieter conditions. The connected monitoring supports proactive maintenance and increased availability, resulting in optimal equipment uptime and improved production. Compared to older, centralised methods, this modular approach makes operations more intelligent, secure, and eco-friendly. HPS's assistance has been key to a smooth and rapid adoption. **It's an essential upgrade for mines seeking better output at lower costs.**"

★★★★★

Riaan Van Den Berg
Head of Operations at Kopanang Mine

"For more than a year, our team has relied on Hydropower Systems' H80 Long Hole Rig, and **it's greatly improved our underground efforts**. This hydropower down-the-hole (DTH) package surpasses prior compressed air options, with better handling and simplicity that suits all operators. It's **perfect for destressing, drop raising, covering drilling and drain holes , while fostering a secure setting in tricky rock layers**. The rig has elevated our **efficiency** by **reducing running costs**, thanks to its mobility and fast deployment. Hydropower Systems' backing has made the implementation effortless. We endorse the H80 for any mine wanting effective, budget-friendly, and safe drilling—**it's become invaluable to us.**"

★★★★★

Willem Gouws
General Manager at Harmony Moab Khotsong Mine

Through continued innovation and practical engineering, Hydropower Systems remains focused on advancing underground mining technology, delivering solutions that balance operational performance, safety, and sustainability in modern mining environments.

Scan to visit www.hydropowersystems.co.za

RWANDAN TUNGSTEN MINE ENTERS US DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAIN

RWANDA'S Nyakabingo tungsten mine has become the largest source in Africa since Trinity Metals Group acquired the operation in 2022, tripling output to over 1,200 tons of high-grade concentrate annually.

The mine, backed by Dublin-based TechMet and the US Development Finance Corporation, began supplying Global Tungsten and Powders in Pennsylvania last September under a multiyear contract. Trinity chair Shawn McKormick told the Financial Times Rwanda "directly in the American defence supply chain now" as Washington seeks alternatives to China's 80% market control.

However, Rwanda's mineral sector faces persistent accusations of serving as a conduit for conflict minerals from neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. M23 rebels allied to Rwanda have captured Congolese territory rich in coltan, tin and gold since January, with UN experts reporting mineral mixing "had reached unprecedented levels".

The International Tin Supply Chain Initiative recorded a 213% annual surge in Rwandan tantalum exports coinciding with M23's expanding mine control. Tech giant Apple subsequently instructed suppliers to cease sourcing tantalum from Rwanda and DRC, which together produce 60% of global supply.

Alice Uwase, CEO of Rwanda's mining regulator, acknowledged allegations "undermined our efforts as a government" whilst emphasising modernisation progress.

Trinity maintains strict traceability by tracking every ore bag from pit to end user, avoiding purchases from artisanal miners, said the Financial Times. The company is seeking $60m to construct a tungsten processing plant as Rwanda pursues ambitions to become a regional "value addition hub".

The US government has incorporated economic integration and billions in investment promises into peace negotiations between Rwanda and DRC, raising prospects for formalised cross-border mineral trade.

PILOT CRUSHTEC EMPOWERS SMALL SAND PRODUCERS WITH READY TO RUN FIT-FOR-PURPOSE MODULAR PLANTS

Small scale sand producers now have a cost effective, reliable and integrated solution to their production needs, taking the guesswork and risk out of daily operations. Pilot Crushtec has invested its decades of design and engineering experience into a range of dedicated, modular sand-making plants that give users the latest fit-for-purpose technology within a short lead time of just two months.

According to Francois Marias, Sales and Marketing Director at Pilot Crushtec, many smaller operators tend to make do with second-hand equipment, which is often not ideal for their application.

“Many operators put together the components – from crushers and screens to feeders and conveyors – but lose time and money during operations due to inefficiencies and unreliable performance,” Marais says. “Alternatively, if they choose to go with a bespoke plant, tailored for their purposes, this comes at considerable cost and can take many months to design and manufacture.”

The Pilot Crushtec modular sand-making plants reduce risk by delivering a turnkey solution that is purpose-built for sand production. These plants have been designed as a complete ready to run solution. The major advantage lies in their convenience and cost effectiveness as they offer a fully integrated plant that dramatically reduces site preparation and set-up time.

“This makes for fast deployment, without compromising performance or reliability,” Marais explains. “It’s all about packaging the well-known components for the user’s convenience and peace-of-mind.”

This is central to Pilot Crushtec’s modular approach, ensuring that all components fit seamlessly together and are ready to commission – with minimal site preparation costs. While a concrete base can be beneficial, these modules are skid mounted and designed to work on a flat level compacted surface. There is no need for added platforms, welding or extra items like chutes to be specially fitted on site.

"As a leading crushing and screening OEM in South Africa, we have been designing and manufacturing for more than 35 years, which means we have all the necessary in-house designs and engineering for this range," Marais explains. "This means that customers don't have to foot the bill for custom engineering – and this alone will save them on upfront capital expenditure and reduces the risk of budget overruns."

Being built from tried-and-tested well-engineered designs also ensures that these standard plants are well proven in the field. Refined over years to work seamlessly across various applications, they are less likely to experience unexpected breakdowns or operating inefficiencies.

"A standard plant also brings the benefit of having already been debugged and optimised, so you're starting with a solution that's less likely to have hidden flaws," he says. "This also simplifies the maintenance and support for the equipment, as parts are off-the-shelf and easier to source."

He emphasises that Pilot Crushtec's established support networks ensure that customers do not scramble to find parts or fix issues - which can be a risk especially on remote sites.

The sand-making plants come in three sizes. The smallest in the range is the SMP100 which can produce up to 40 tonnes per hour of minus 5 mm sand with a recirculating load capacity of 85 tph through the rotor. Next in the range is the SMP200, capable of producing up to 55 tph, while the SMP300 can produce 100 tph.

"Our modular systems also have the advantage of scalability, which is ideal for those customers that will require increased capacity later," he says. "Our well-engineered modular systems allow you to add units or upgrade without overhauling the whole setup, making it easier to scale as your operation grows."

The sand-making plants are manufactured locally to the highest quality standards at Pilot Crushtec's modern ISO-accredited facilities in Jet Park, Johannesburg. Marais reiterates that the quality of this new equipment helps customers to mitigate risks that could undermine a project's viability or threaten their reputation in the market.

"Investing in a turnkey solution like our sand-making plants removes the unknown operational elements for the customer allowing them to make reliable forecasts of their returns and expenses," Marais concludes.

POWER AT THE EDGE OF MINING OPERATIONS

HOW OVERLOOKED POWER SYSTEMS SHAPE RELIABILITY ACROSS AFRICAN MINES

Across African mining operations, power reliability extends beyond production plant and primary networks. Control systems, communications, safety infrastructure, and remote services depend on power systems that often sit at the edge of operations — out of sight, but critical to day-to-day performance.

Power strategy at the edge of African mining operations

In African mining, attention gravitates toward medium-voltage networks, processing plants, and large mechanical loads. These systems drive capital spend and production. Yet everyday reliability, safety compliance, and contractor performance are often shaped further downstream, in the auxiliary power systems that support control, communications, security, and essential services. When these systems fail, the consequences are disruptive and immediate.

A familiar but persistent challenge

Across many operations, auxiliary and control systems still rely on small generators or basic backup. As mines expand, these loads are often treated as temporary or secondary, even when they become permanent.

> “The power systems mining relies on most are often the hardest to see, and the hardest to recover when they fail.”

The outcome is well known. Generators run continuously at low load, diesel consumption remains high, maintenance increases, and visibility into performance is limited. Responsibility often sits between departments and contractors, making these systems easy to tolerate and difficult to improve.

A defined role for hybrid systems

This is where energy solutions built with Victron Energy products are typically applied. Not at the level of primary mine power, but within the auxiliary and distributed layer that supports essential services at the edge of operations.

Victron Energy systems commonly provide backup power to PLC and SCADA cabinets, communications infrastructure, access control and CCTV systems, gatehouses, weighbridges, environmental monitoring shelters, and safety-related circuits. These applications require stable supply and predictable behaviour during outages, changeovers, and grid disturbances.

By integrating inverter, battery, and generator control into a single system, the Victron Energy ecosystem enables these assets to operate more consistently, without altering the mine’s broader electrical design philosophy.

Remote infrastructure and operational sprawl

As mines expand, remote power nodes multiply. Boreholes, water outstations, camps, drill sites, and perimeter security installations are now standard. Across Africa, this decentralisation is often driven by geology, logistics, and security rather than by choice.

In these environments, Victron Energy supports modular hybrid configurations that combine battery storage, generator supply, and solar input. Systems can be deployed in stages, scaled as demand changes, and maintained in locations where access is limited and downtime has practical consequences.

Diesel reduction where it matters most

Hybrid operation often delivers its clearest gains in small, isolated power systems. Running a generator around the clock to supply only a steady power demand remains common, particularly in water infrastructure, security installations, and contractor-operated facilities.

The Victron Energy ecosystem enables defined generator operating windows and healthier loading, with battery storage covering low-demand periods. This reduces run hours, lowers fuel use, and improves system behaviour, while keeping the generator in its familiar role.

Visibility as reassurance, not oversight

As distributed power systems spread, visibility becomes as important as capacity. Without clear data, maintenance becomes reactive, savings are difficult to verify, and expectations between operators and contractors are harder to align.

Victron Energy Remote Management provides practical oversight of auxiliary power systems across sites. Performance trends, alarm history, generator run data, and energy metrics provide insight without constant site visits. For many operators, this visibility is less about optimisation and more about reassurance.

Clear boundaries and a practical fit

None of this replaces the role of heavy industrial suppliers. Primary power networks remain firmly within the high-power domain. Victron Energy operates alongside that infrastructure, supporting auxiliary and distributed power without altering the mine’s primary electrical architecture.

In practice, these systems are often implemented by contractors and service providers. Camp operators, drilling contractors, security providers, water service companies, and EPCMs delivering containerised skids all work within this space.

A modular ecosystem of flexible building blocks allows power solutions to be configured for diverse requirements, while remaining efficient, scalable, and straightforward to specify and support.

Focused, not expansive

The value of Victron Energy solutions in mining lies in making supporting but important power systems easier to manage. By improving reliability, lowering running costs, improving efficiency, and supporting long-term profitability through clear system visibility, Victron Energy stabilises parts of the operation that are easy to overlook and frustrating to recover once they fail.

For an industry shaped by decentralised infrastructure, contractor-led delivery, and remote operations, a dependable and well-understood approach to auxiliary power is becoming a practical baseline.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Victron Energy solutions for mining and remote operations.

victronenergy.com


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ETHIOPIA'S MINING REFORMS TRANSFORM INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Ethiopia's economic liberalisation programme is reshaping its mining sector after decades of restrictive policies that kept the industry on the margins of the economy. Currency reforms and improved access to foreign exchange have eased long-standing constraints on importing equipment and managing international supply chains, while regulatory changes have created clearer and more predictable operating frameworks for mining companies.

These reforms have translated into growing investor confidence, particularly at the exploration stage. Streamlined licensing processes, faster permit approvals and improved regulatory transparency are reducing uncertainty and encouraging international companies to commit capital to geological surveys and early-stage project development that were previously impractical.

Fiscal and investment incentives further support this renewed momentum by improving project economics and accommodating the long development timelines typical of mining projects. Measures aimed at facilitating equipment imports and supporting infrastructure development signal a shift toward attracting long-term, capital-intensive investment rather than short-term speculative interest.

Despite ongoing challenges such as infrastructure gaps and commodity price volatility, Ethiopia's mining reforms represent a structural transformation rather than incremental change. By linking mining development with value addition and broader industrial growth, the country is positioning the sector to play a more significant and sustainable role in its economic future.

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.

AXIS INTERNATIONAL LAUNCHES $29BN GUINEA ARBITRATION CLAIM

UAE-based Axis International has launched a $29 billion arbitration case against the Guinean government after its bauxite mining permit was revoked, equipment seized and bank accounts frozen. The company has taken the dispute to the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes after negotiations with the state failed. Axis says the licence was withdrawn without notice, despite it being Guinea's second-largest bauxite producer.

Guinea is the world's largest exporter of bauxite, supplying roughly a third of global production used in aluminium manufacturing. In recent years, the government has cancelled multiple mining licences across bauxite, gold, diamond, graphite and iron ore as part of a broader push for resource nationalism and greater domestic value addition.

President Mamady Doumbouya's administration has argued that companies failing to meet contractual obligations, particularly commitments to build local processing facilities, should face sanctions. Mining minister Bouna Sylla has rejected claims of expropriation, stating that enforcement actions are linked to breaches of development agreements. The government has also compelled major operators, including Chinese firms and Rio Tinto, to pursue local processing under long-term national industrial plans.

Axis maintains that its Boké region mine has exported bauxite consistently and supported thousands of workers and dependants. Founder Pankaj Oswal said the company has made significant economic contributions since entering Guinea, where it holds a majority stake in the local operating entity alongside the state.


980
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WACKER NEUSON BRINGS WEIDEMANN TO AFRICA WITH THE DEBUT OF THE T7042 TELEHANDLER

Wacker Neuson South Africa is extremely proud to announce the introduction of the globally trusted, precision-engineered German telehandler brand, Weidemann, to Sub-Sahara Africa's agricultural sector. This strategic move ushers in a new force set to elevate productivity and performance across the region's farming landscape.

"Our introduction of Weidemann to the South and Sub-Saharan African market reinforces our long-term growth vision for Africa and marks a defining moment in our expansion journey, by bringing Weidemann's renowned telehandler technology into our sales channel and opening new avenues for innovation and efficiency throughout Africa's farmlands," says Stefan le Roux, Managing Director of Wacker Neuson South Africa. "We identified significant potential in Africa's agricultural market for telehandlers even before the pandemic. Weidemann, another premium German brand within the Wacker Neuson Group, enables us to deliver yet another exceptional product to our valued customers. Providing end-users with the highest quality equipment, backed by outstanding after-sales support, is both our vision and our mission, and this launch is a natural evolution of that commitment."

The Weidemann T7042 marks a milestone as the first telehandler model to debut on African soil. Compact, robust and engineered for high performance, it embodies the agility, versatility and multi-functionality that define Weidemann's brand promise - 'designed for work'. "After evaluating both market demand and real-world performance, we selected the T7042 for its strength and smart engineering, a machine capable of meeting the rigorous demands of modern agriculture," says Le Roux. He further highlights that this launch sets the stage for potential future rollouts, guided by market response, with six Weidemann telehandler variants to choose from, including an electric model.

"Weidemann's DNA has always been agriculture," says Etienne Pignon, Market Development Manager for Weidemann South Africa. "Africa is a key growth region where farms are rapidly moving toward more efficient, mechanized operations, and our machines are built precisely for these daily demands – from feeding livestock to stacking bales. The T7042 reflects this strength, combining high lifting performance, robust engineering, operator comfort and true multi-purpose capability for the realities of African farming. Working through Wacker Neuson South Africa allows us to provide trusted local support, fast service and a solid foundation to grow the product range step by step. This step into the region is not about making a quick splash; it is about building long-term value and earning trust, one customer at a time."

The T7042, one of the largest models in the Weidemann portfolio, boasts a 7-metre lifting height and a 4.2-tonne payload, the machine is built to handle demanding tasks with ease. Available in two powerful engine configurations, the T7042 delivers exceptional performance across a wide range of applications, from heavy material handling and high reach stacking to precision pushing and continuous system filling.

With nearly 180 years of global manufacturing heritage, the Wacker Neuson Group continues to shape the future of compact and light equipment. Wacker Neuson South Africa celebrates its 45th anniversary in 2025, underscoring its deep roots in the region's construction and agricultural sectors.

"Weidemann's own legacy is equally impressive," notes Le Roux. "The company marks its 65th anniversary in 2025, and its longstanding reputation for quality and innovation makes it a perfect fit for our customers." Founded in Diemelsee-Flechtdorf in 1960 by brothers Oswald and Reinhold Weidemann, Weidemann Maschinenfabrik KG initially produced components and devices. Driven by a mission to ease the burden of stable and internal farm management through mechanisation, the company achieved a breakthrough in 1972 with the invention of the Hoftrac, a compact, articulated wheel loader that revolutionised agricultural work that remains an indispensable everyday helper on farms around the world, valued for its versatility, reliability and compact power.

Weidemann's trajectory took a pivotal turn in 2005 when it was acquired by Wacker Construction Equipment AG, marking the beginning of yellow wheel loader production for the construction industry. The major merging of Neuson Kramer Baumaschinen AG and Wacker Construction Equipment AG two years later, led to the formation of Wacker Neuson SE, solidifying Weidemann's place within a larger industrial group. In 2021, Weidemann launched the T7042 alongside the T7035 to meet evolving demands in agricultural and industrial operations.

Engineered for efficiency and built for productivity, the T7042 achieves economic efficiency through integrated technically sophisticated design solutions that combine powerful drive performance, strong thrust forces and dynamic kinetics to deliver high productivity across every task. The advanced quick-hitch hydraulic system enables fast, comfortable attachment changes, with excellent visibility of the hitch plate for easy, intuitive swaps. A safe two-handed uncoupling mechanism adds an extra layer of operator protection while maximising uptime. With high hydraulic output and exceptional machine stability, the T7042 supports a wide range of hydraulically powered attachments, offering the flexibility and speed today's agricultural operations demand.

The T7042's tight turning radius makes it a compact, agile all-rounder for confined operations. Weidemann's advanced engine technologies and cutting-edge exhaust after-treatment systems meet current emissions standards, while precisely matched engines tailored to each size class ensure fuel-efficient operation and optimal power.

Operator safety and comfort are central to Weidemann's design philosophy, exemplified by the Best View cabin. Its 4-pillar structure, panoramic rear windshield and curved front glass deliver exceptional all-round visibility, even with the boom extended, while a sloped engine hood improves sightlines to the rear wheel and surrounding area, ensuring outstanding situational awareness. Ergonomic controls, a colour-coded interface, sprung joystick console and 7-inch display enhance usability, while an adjustable steering wheel, anti-slip steps, and accessible handles support safe entry. Adaptive lighting and halogen work lights across the cab and telescopic arm create a fatigue-reducing, productivity-boosting environment.

Quality is a Weidemann standard rooted in precision engineering and customer trust. Every machine delivered from Korbach, one of Europe's most advanced telehandler production hubs, reflects a commitment to quality, safety and efficiency. The T7042 is built not only to perform, but to endure, translating into real-world gains for every operation. "The fact that we offer a five-year, 6,000-hour warranty on the T7042, more than double the industry standard, underscores our absolute confidence in the telehandler's quality and reinforces our commitment to long-term customer support," stresses Le Roux.

Building on this pledge, Wacker Neuson South Africa is establishing a dedicated dealer network focused exclusively on the Weidemann brand to ensure on-the-ground support across the region. "The appointment of specialist Weidemann dealers reflects our investment in sustainable long-term growth and regional empowerment by building a responsive, locally anchored support ecosystem that puts our customers first," affirms Le Roux.

He concludes: "We invite those who share our vision, energy and belief in the future of African agriculture to join the young, dynamic Weidemann family. Please reach out, let's connect, collaborate and grow the future of African agriculture."

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SEW-EURODRIVE UNVEILS WORLD CLASS FACILITY IN GQEBERHA TO SERVE EASTERN CAPE INDUSTRY

In a landmark event in the Eastern Cape attended by key customers and industry leaders, SEW-EURODRIVE officially opened its expanded state-of-the-art facility in Gqeberha, marking a major milestone in its strategy to strengthen regional support and deepen its footprint in the region. The new facility, which drew high praise from customers who attended the event for its scale, technical capability and level of investment, positions the company as a powerful local partner to the province's fast-growing industrial sector.

With the Eastern Cape recognised as a critical node for automotive manufacturing, logistics, agri-processing, and renewable energy, SEW-EURODRIVE's latest investment underscores its commitment to aligning with regional growth and customer needs.

"This is more than just a building - it's a symbol of our long term investment in the region and the industries that drive it," Phillip Steyn, SEW-EURODRIVE Gqeberha Branch Manager, says. "Our customers were visibly impressed by the capabilities we have brought under one roof - from advanced assembly and service infrastructure to the engineering depth we can now offer locally."

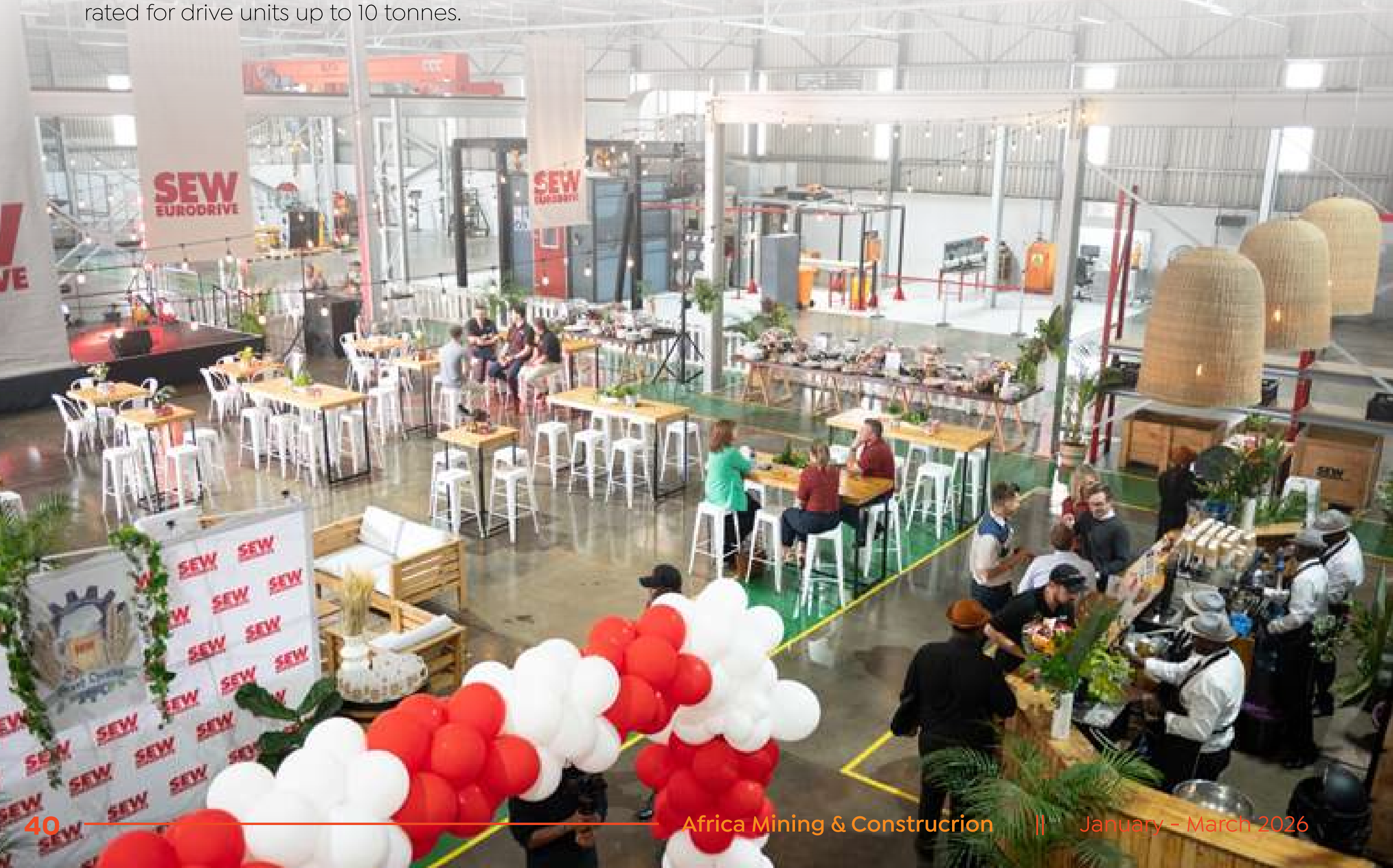
The 2,400m² facility significantly expands on the company's previous footprint in the area, offering modernised assembly bays, dedicated painting and dispatch zones and a fully equipped service centre complete with high-pressure cleaning systems, conformance and quality testing and overhead cranes rated for drive units up to 10 tonnes.

The facility is already transforming response times and service efficiency. "We have shifted from being a branch office to a regional powerhouse," Steyn adds. "We can assemble to order, stock critical components and carry out major repairs - all without sending equipment elsewhere. That is a gamechanger for uptime and operational continuity for our customers across the Eastern Cape region."

Looking ahead, SEW-EURODRIVE has confirmed further expansion plans including the launch of a customer-focused experience centre. Steyn says that this interactive space will showcase next-generation mechatronic drive technologies, host energy optimisation studies and provide a real-world environment for customers to trial the latest control platforms and software.

The Gqeberha branch plays a key role in major industrial projects across the province, from turnkey solutions for fruit processing facilities to drive upgrades in the Coega IDZ and surrounding ports. The local engineering team works hand-in-hand with customers to co-develop solutions that prioritise reliability, energy efficiency and productivity.

"Our expanded facility reflects our belief in the Eastern Cape's potential and our readiness to support its industrial evolution," Steyn concludes. "This is about delivering innovation and support where it is needed most - right here, on the ground, with our customers."



BOTSWANA RUSSIAN RARE EARTH INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROSPECTS 2026

African mining partnerships are increasingly shaped by geopolitics rather than immediate commercial reality, with diplomatic positioning often preceding confirmed geological discoveries by many years. In the race to secure critical minerals, countries are building strategic relationships and institutional frameworks long before extraction becomes viable, making it essential to distinguish political signalling from operational readiness.

Botswana's decision to establish an embassy in Moscow reflects this trend. The move creates diplomatic channels for future cooperation, including potential mining collaboration, but does not indicate near-term rare earth development. Botswana currently has no confirmed rare earth deposits, active exploration programmes, or licences, and any viable project would likely require a decade or more of exploration, feasibility work, and infrastructure investment.

Russia's interest in Africa is driven largely by sanctions-related constraints and the need to diversify supply chains, rather than proven resources in Botswana. While Russian firms have mining experience in the country through past nickel and platinum projects, rare earths present far greater technical, financial, and processing challenges, especially given China's dominance in separation technology.

Botswana's economy remains anchored in diamonds, which generate about a third of government revenue and benefit from mature infrastructure and proven markets. By contrast, rare earth development would involve high geological risk, long timelines, and multibillion-dollar capital requirements with uncertain returns.

Overall, the Russia–Botswana engagement should be viewed as long-term strategic positioning rather than an imminent mining opportunity. Meaningful progress will depend on concrete milestones such as geological surveys, exploration licences, and feasibility studies, not diplomatic announcements alone.

ROLLS-ROYCE SUPPLIES MTU ON-BOARD POWER GENERATORS FOR BALEÀRIA'S ELECTRIC FERRIES ON THE ROUTE BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA

Rolls-Royce's Power Systems division is supplying a total of eight mtu emergency power generators for two fully electric fast ferries belonging to the Spanish shipping company Baleària. From 2027, the ships will cover the 18 nautical miles between Tarifa in Spain and Tangier in Morocco using electric power, thereby opening up the first "green corridor" between Europe and Africa.

The project is considered a milestone for CO2-neutral mobility at sea and is supported by an international network of partners consisting of shipping companies, shipyards, port authorities, energy suppliers, and other companies.

On behalf of the Spanish shipyard Astilleros Armon, four mtu 20V4000M35S emergency power generators will be supplied for each of the two ships. With an output of 2,840 kilowatts each, the generators will ensure the power supply in case of need – for example, if the ferries' on-board batteries cannot be charged in port as planned.

Unlike conventional on-board power systems, however, their function goes far beyond simply supplying the electrical systems: in an emergency, the mtu gensets can also secure the entire propulsion system of the ferries.

"For us as a shipyard, the integration of powerful, compact systems is crucial –especially in innovative ship projects such as this one. The mtu gensets from Rolls-Royce meet these requirements perfectly and help to provide additional backup for the ferries' electrical systems," said Ricardo Garcia, Head of Marketing, Sales & Business Development at Astilleros Armon.

Thanks to their high-power density, low weight, and compact design, mtu engines are ideal for use in high-speed ferries. Delivery is scheduled for the first half of 2026, with the ferries entering regular service in 2027.

"The project is a prime example of how emission-free shipping and reliable system technology go hand in hand," said Phil Kordic, Senior Expert, Commercial Marine Business, at Rolls-Royce Power Systems. "Our mtu engines make an important contribution to the operational safety and efficiency of these state-of-the-art ships – powerful, lightweight and perfectly tailored to maritime requirements."

The two identical catamarans are fully electric, reach a maximum speed of up to 26 knots, and can accommodate 804 passengers and 225 vehicles.

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.

MAKOR RESOURCES POSITIONS THE MULI COPPER PROJECT AS A DISTRICT-SCALE STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY IN ZAMBIA

Makor Resources, a Zambia-focused copper exploration and development company with Australian capital markets experience, is advancing its Muli Copper Project as a district-scale copper opportunity in Zambia's Central Province—an emerging copper corridor of increasing relevance to global supply security, electrification, and long-term industrial growth.

The Muli Copper Project comprises a large, contiguous, and underexplored land position located within a regionally significant intrusive and structural setting interpreted to be prospective for intrusive-related copper systems. Situated in one of the world's most established copper jurisdictions, the project offers scale, geological continuity, and long-duration development optionality at an early stage of the district's modern exploration cycle—attributes that are becoming increasingly scarce as competition for high-quality copper exposure intensifies.

As global investment accelerates toward electrification, energy transition, and infrastructure resilience, copper has re-emerged as a strategically critical material. Zambia continues to strengthen its position as a cornerstone supplier of responsibly produced copper, supported by a clear national mandate to expand output, attract long-term capital, and support downstream industrial development.

District-Scale Validation and Strategic Context

The Muli Copper Project is located within a fertile intrusive and structural corridor in Zambia's Central Province, approximately 30 kilometres from the Sinomine-developed Kitumba Copper Project. The advancement of Kitumba has reinforced the presence of large-scale, long-life copper systems within the broader district, while contributing to improved infrastructure readiness, increased regional data density, and growing institutional recognition of the corridor.

Within this evolving district context, Muli represents a rare early-cycle opportunity to establish exposure to system-scale copper potential within a geological setting transitioning from underexplored to strategically significant, while competitive intensity for large, contiguous land positions remains relatively low.

Disciplined, System-Scale Exploration Approach

Makor is advancing the Muli Copper Project through a phased and technically disciplined exploration strategy designed to evaluate intrusive-related copper systems at scale. The approach prioritises integrated geological interpretation, geophysical and geochemical analysis, and corridor-scale target generation across multiple prospective domains.

This strategy is deliberately focused on early technical de-risking and the preservation of strategic optionality, rather than short-cycle exploration outcomes. The objective is to establish a robust system-level understanding capable of supporting multiple future development pathways, aligned with the long-duration investment horizons increasingly favoured in the global copper sector.

Jurisdictional Strength and Responsible Development

Zambia remains one of the world's most established copper jurisdictions, combining a stable regulatory framework, export-ready infrastructure, and a deeply experienced mining workforce. Copper development continues to form a central pillar of national economic strategy.

Makor's operating model integrates early-stage community engagement, transparent stakeholder alignment, and governance discipline as core components of licence security and long-term development viability, supporting responsible growth as projects advance.

Executive Commentary

"In today's copper market, assets with genuine scale, jurisdictional security, and the potential to support long-life development are becoming increasingly scarce," said Ricus Grimbeek, Executive Chair of Makor Resources. "What gives Muli credibility at this stage are the fundamentals: a large, contiguous land position in a proven copper jurisdiction, location within an intrusive-related corridor capable of supporting long-life systems, and emerging district validation. Muli stands out as a district-scale copper position where disciplined, system-led exploration can unlock value over time. Our focus is on advancing the asset with the technical rigour, governance standards, and long-term perspective required to support credible development pathways."

"Muli reflects how Makor approaches asset formation from the outset," said Brooke Bibeault, Chief Executive Officer of Makor Resources. "We focus on jurisdictions where long-life copper development is supported at a national level, and on projects where scale, geological integrity, and stakeholder alignment can be built deliberately and responsibly. In Zambia's Central Province, we see the opportunity to advance a district-scale copper asset with the discipline, credibility, and long-horizon perspective required to create enduring value for the country, investors, and the global copper supply chain."

MULTOTEC ENCOURAGES BROADER INDUSTRY SUPPORT FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN METALLURGY AND RELATED FIELDS

The South African mining and minerals sector relies heavily on skilled engineers, geologists, metallurgists and technical staff to operate efficiently, innovate and remain globally competitive. However, the supply and quality of graduates entering the mining industry is under pressure. To help strengthen the talent pipeline, Multotec, alongside other industry participants, contributes to the Minerals Education Trust Fund (METF), a South African industry-driven, non-profit initiative supporting tertiary education in mining-related disciplines.

Maintaining high-quality education in these fields reduces the risk of skills shortages, keeps academic departments viable, and promotes broader industry transformation in terms of demographics, gender, and access.

Building minerals education capacity through the METF

The METF provides financial support to universities, enabling departments to maintain academic standards, upgrade laboratories and equipment, and support research and teaching initiatives. By fostering strong collaboration between industry and academia, the fund helps ensure a steady pipeline of graduates with the technical skills needed to sustain and transform South Africa's minerals sector.

Supported by 23 contributing companies across the mining value chain, the METF currently funds nine tertiary institutions through targeted subventions that cover lecturers, academic staff support, laboratory improvements, and teaching resources. Sub-committees aligned to specific academic disciplines liaise with universities to allocate grants, facilitate industry-academic linkages, assess performance metrics, and ensure continued impact.

Multotec is a long-standing contributor to the METF, providing financial support to advance technical skills and human capital development across the minerals sector. The company renews its contribution annually, alongside other industry participants, and also provides minerals processing equipment to help strengthen links between industry and academia.

Why broader industry support is essential

Since 1999, the METF has disbursed more than R715 million to 17 university departments. Expanding industry participation is essential to sustain and grow its impact. Contributions help maintain teaching capacity, align curricula with industry needs and ensure facilities and laboratories remain up to date. A wider base of contributors will allow more universities to benefit and provide additional resources to support the development of the next generation of engineers, metallurgists and scientists.

Christina Ramotsabi, Product Manager for Spirals at Multotec says, "Supporting the METF is a shared responsibility. I encourage any organisation connected to the minerals value chain, from mining and processing to equipment manufacturing, research, consulting and engineering services, to join the fund and play a role in strengthening the sector's future."

Ramotsabi adds: "Education is something that is very close to my heart. Growing up in the township of Sebokeng, I would not be where I am today without the opportunity to study and the support I received along the way. My involvement in the METF allows me to give back and help create similar opportunities for others. When the industry works together, we can help address the skills challenges we face and support long-term, meaningful change."

Contributions are acknowledged with an 18A Certificate, qualifying for tax exemption under Section 18A of the Income Tax Act. Additionally, your contribution earns points under the Socio-Economic Development (SED) component of the B-BBEE codes and counts toward the mandatory HRD contribution required by the Mining Charter. The METF is a registered Public Benefit Organization (PBO) and has been verified against the B-BBEE scorecard.

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