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BRINGING SIMPLICITY TO TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION IN THE MINING INDUSTRY – KUCHERA GMBH

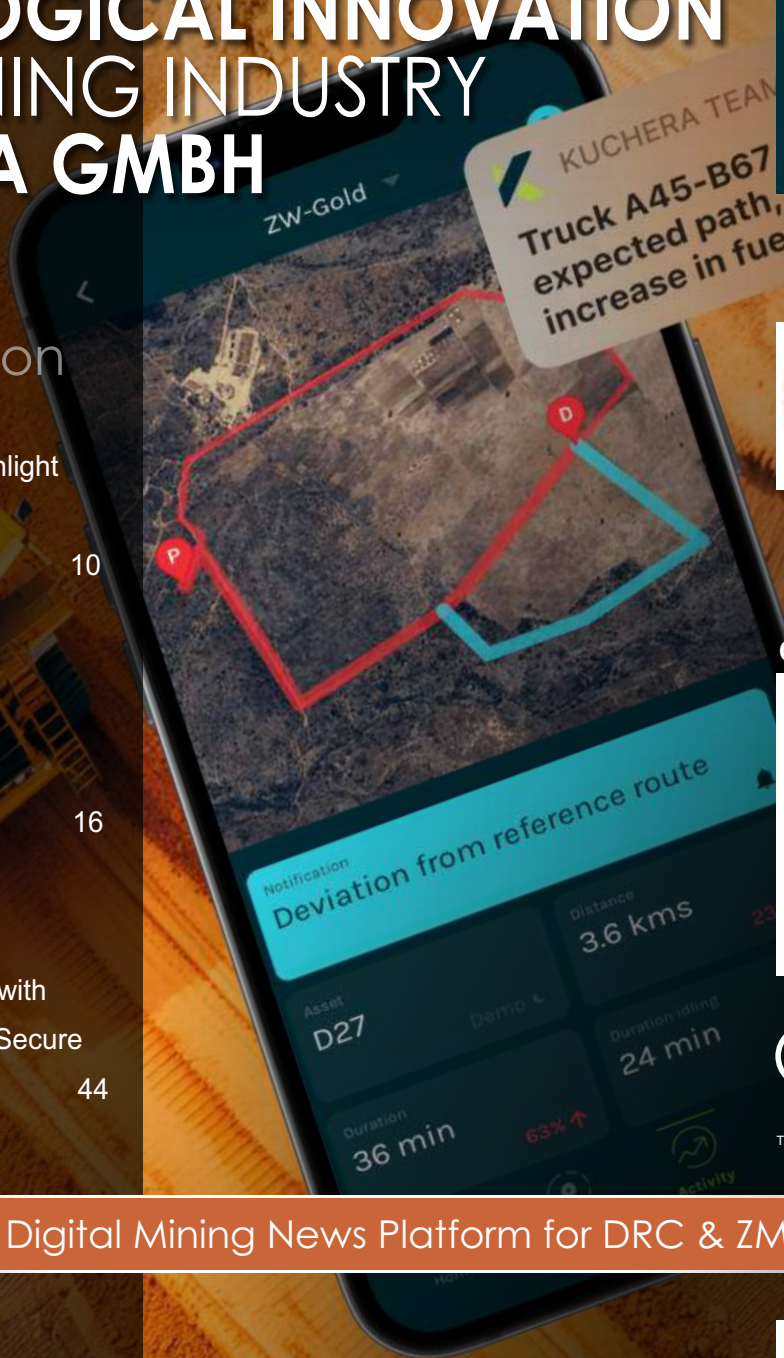


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Publisher

Biju Makelele

Editor

Constance M
news@copperbeltkatangamining.com

Associate Editor

Pierre Kadimba

Editorial Contributor(s)

Johansen
Majory

Graphics, Layout and Production

Arnold's Designs
designer@arnolds-designs.com

Advertising

advertising@copperbeltkatangamining.com

Kitwe Office

Near ECL Mall, Freedom Avenue
Kitwe, Zambia

Lubumbashi Office

Quartier Industriel 2,
Lubumbashi,
Democratic Republic of Congo

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MOPANI COPPER MINES TRANSACTION FALLS OUTSIDE ARTICLE 210 OF ZAMBIA'S CONSTITUTION

Attorney General Mulilo Kabesha clarified that the Mopani Copper Mines transaction falls outside the scope of Article 210 of the Zambian Constitution and thus doesn't necessitate approval from the National Assembly.

In a statement issued recently, Mr. Kabesha emphasized that Article 210 pertains to transactions involving the sale, transfer, or disposal of significant state assets, including parastatals and government-held equity.

He highlighted that Mopani does not fall under either category as it is not a parastatal nor does the government hold equity in it. Mopani operates as a distinct legal entity under the Companies Act, with its transactions governed by the Act's regulatory framework, particularly concerning issued shares.



DRC DIAMOND EXPORTS REACH \$86.5 MILLION IN 2023 FOR LAW VIOLATION

In 2023, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) achieved significant diamond exports totaling around 8,305,796 carats, generating approximately \$86.5 million in revenue.

Artisanal operations dominated the sector, contributing 6,671,325 carats and \$64.2 million, while industrial production lagged behind with 1,634,470 carats and \$22.2 million.

The Arab Emirates emerged as the largest buyer, accounting for 56% of the total exports, followed by Belgium and the EU with 41%, and India with a modest 2%.

Despite these figures, the DRC saw a decline in diamond exports compared to the previous five years, where in 2022, exports reached 11,683,439 carats, generating \$145.9 million in revenue.



GOLD SURGES AMID ESCALATING TENSIONS IN MIDDLE EAST

Gold prices surged by up to 1.2% following Iran's recent attack on Israel over the weekend, driving demand for safe-haven assets.

The precious metal remained near a record high achieved on Friday as the conflict in the Middle East intensified. Iran launched over 300 drones and missiles against Israel on Saturday, most of which were intercepted, with no reported fatalities.

As of 6:20 a.m. in Singapore, spot gold rose by 0.8% to \$2,361.92 per ounce, continuing its rally that began in mid-February.



ENTERPRISE MINE IN ZAMBIA TARGETS 20,000 TONNES OF NICKEL PRODUCTION

Enterprise Mine, a nickel-producing operation managed by Trident Limited in Kalumbila District, Zambia's North Western Province, is targeting a production of approximately 20,000 tonnes of nickel this year.

According to Junior Keyser, Outgoing General Manager of Trident Limited, the mine is fully operational and currently employs around 750 contractors and 250 direct employees.

Keyser notes that the enterprise is currently generating about 1,000 tonnes of final product nickel per month as production continues to increase at its plant.

He emphasizes the mine's intention to capitalize on the high demand for nickel in the international market by maximizing production this year.

In an interview in Kalumbila, Keyser also mentioned the mine's initiative to train local residents in short programs aimed at preparing them for employment opportunities at Enterprise Mine.

CRITICAL MINERALS MARKET VALUE PROJECTED TO SOAR TO \$770 BILLION BY 2040

The market value of critical minerals is projected to rise from its current \$325 billion to \$770 billion by 2040 under the Net Zero Emission (NZE) scenario, which aims for carbon neutrality by 2050.

This projection is part of the “Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2024,” a study released by the International Energy Agency (IEA) on May 17, 2024.

The report attributes the expected increase in market value to the surging global demand for minerals essential for the energy transition, including lithium, cobalt, copper, nickel, and rare earth elements. This demand surge is driven by global decarbonization efforts.

Scenarios and Demand Projections

.Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS): The IEA anticipates that global demand for critical minerals will double by 2030.

.Net Zero Emission (NZE) Scenario: The demand is expected to triple by 2030 and quadruple by 2040.

Lithium Under the NZE scenario, global demand for lithium could increase nine-fold by 2040, while in the STEPS scenario, it could grow five-fold.

The report underscores the crucial role of these minerals in achieving global energy transition goals and highlights the significant market growth expected in the coming decades. arly concerning issued shares.

ZAMBIA’S CABINET APPROVES BEIRA DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR AGREEMENT

The Zambian Cabinet, under the leadership of President Hakainde Hichilema, has given the green light to the Beira Development Corridor Agreement, a significant move poised to bolster regional trade and infrastructure development.

This agreement involves Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, aiming to establish a cooperative framework for the Beira Corridor, a pivotal trade route for landlocked nations in the area.

Chairing the cabinet meeting, President Hichilema paved the way for this strategic decision. Frank Tayali, Minister of Transport and Logistics, expressed optimism regarding the agreement’s potential, highlighting its role in addressing common challenges while fostering infrastructure development, transit-transport collaboration, and cross-border trade.

The Beira Corridor holds particular importance for Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, providing them with the shortest path to a seaport.

Access to such a port is vital for enhancing their export competitiveness regionally and globally. Minister Tayali emphasized the corridor’s significance for Zambia, citing it as the fastest route to a seaport.

Following the cabinet’s endorsement, the agreement will undergo

presentation to Zambia’s Parliament for ratification.

Once ratified, it will mark Zambia’s fifth approved Corridor Agreement under Minister Tayali’s leadership, with only the North South Corridor Agreement awaiting SADC Secretariat intervention for progress.

Minister Tayali’s advocacy within the cabinet played a pivotal role in securing approval for the Beira Corridor Agreement.

He sees this milestone as a positive stride towards establishing a multimodal transportation system, benefiting not only Zambia but also fostering economic growth across the wider region.

Moreover, this development aligns seamlessly with the New Dawn Government’s vision of propelling Zambia into an export-oriented, middle-income nation by 2030, potentially positioning Zambia as a key regional transport and logistics hub.

Minister Tayali also anticipates the development of the Kafue to Lion’s Den railway link, which is poised to significantly shorten the distance to the Beira seaport by over 1,000 kilometers, further facilitating trade and economic activity.

The Zambian Cabinet’s approval of the Beira Development Corridor Agreement signifies a promising stride towards heightened regional trade, infrastructure advancement, and economic prosperity for Zambia and its neighboring nations.



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AFDB URGES POLITICAL COORDINATION FOR INGA 3 DAM CONSTRUCTION IN THE DRC

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is calling for increased political coordination to kickstart the construction of the Inga 3 dam in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), emphasized by AfDB Group President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina.

The Inga 3 dam project holds the potential to supply power to between 12 to 15 central and southern African countries, offering a possible solution to South Africa's energy deficit.

Securing financing for this venture, including contributions from various banks such as the AfDB, has been under discussion.

Adesina highlighted the significance of addressing South Africa's energy challenges, despite being Africa's largest industrialized economy.

These challenges have led to a decline in industrial output, GDP contraction, and hindered job creation, impacting not only South Africa but the entire region.



TANTALEX LITHIUM RESOURCES CORP ANNOUNCES PRODUCTION MILESTONE IN DRC'S TITAN PLANT

Canadian company Tantalum Lithium Resources Corp, led by Eric Allard, has announced that its tin and tantalum plant, TiTan, based in the DRC, has produced its first batch of export-ready tin and tantalum concentrates.

A first batch of 10 tonnes of tin concentrates (SnO₂) has been fully processed at its Manono mining site. Additionally, 2.5 tonnes of tantalum concentrates (Ta₂O₅) have also been produced.

All of TiTan's production is sold under an operating agreement with AfriMet Resources Ag, a Swiss company based in Zug, founded by Hadley Natus in 2019, also the chairman of Tantalum, and part of the Vanomet group.

In November 2023, Swiss company Glencore and Tantalum Lithium entered into a \$5 million marketing agreement covering 100% of the lithium production from the Manono project from the start of commercial production and throughout the mine's lifespan.



ZESCO NEGOTIATES INCREASED ELECTRICITY IMPORTS FROM MOZAMBIQUE

Zambian Energy Minister Peter Kapala announced negotiations between ZESCO and Mozambique's EDM to increase electricity imports to 120 MW.

Currently, Zambia imports 50 to 90 MW from Mozambique and plans to boost it to meet demand. This move, however, will result in a revenue loss of \$110 million.

Last October, EDM agreed to resume electricity sales to Zambia under a contract potentially reaching 250 MW. The agreement includes firm sales of 50 MW during off-peak hours and an additional 200 MW on a non-firm basis.

Additionally, both parties renewed an agreement to extend cross-border energy supply to Zumbo, in Tete province. These agreements were formalized during the 55th meeting of the SAPP Executive Committee in Luanda. Mozambique aims to solidify its position as a regional power generation center and increase foreign exchange earnings.



KINDU AIRPORT AUTHORITIES INTERCEPT THREE BAGS OF STOLEN COPPER CABLES

Theft of cables from the national electricity company (SNEL) has become alarmingly frequent, with the latest incident occurring in Kindu, Maniema province.

According to an ACP dispatch via MINES.CD, authorities seized three bags containing copper electricity conductors from SNEL at Kindu airport just before boarding for Kinshasa.

These cables were cut from the national electricity company's line, highlighting the pervasive nature of this criminal activity. Similar incidents have been reported in Haut-Katanga province, particularly targeting SNEL installations along the Kolwezi – Likasi – Lubumbashi high voltage line.

Securing SNEL's installations has become a pressing challenge due to the recurring thefts, depriving the population of access to electrical energy, which is already scarce.



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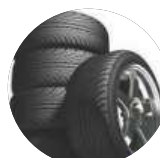


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DGC AFRICA and UXi Artisan Development: Charting a Path for Industrial and Societal Transformation in the DRC

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the innovative partnership between DGC AFRICA and UXi Artisan Development is setting a new standard for industrial growth and workforce empowerment. This strategic alliance showcases the transformative potential of combining hands-on artisan training with profound industry knowledge to foster systemic change and empower the workforce.

DGC AFRICA: Pioneers in Industrial Solutions

As an integral part of the renowned Dickinson Group of Companies, DGC AFRICA has become a linchpin of asset integrity management and industrial solutions across sub-Saharan Africa. With a century-long legacy of innovation, DGC AFRICA enhances efficiency, safety, and sustainability across various industries, including mining, metals smelting, and mineral processing. The company's deep-rooted expertise in these sectors provides a strong foundation for the impactful training programs designed in collaboration with UXi Artisan Development.

The DRC is a land of immense potential, blessed with abundant natural resources. Despite this, the country has yet to fully capitalize on its wealth due to a significant skills gap that hinders local participation in the booming industrial sectors. This gap has led to high unemployment rates, particularly among the youth, creating a paradox in a nation rich in resources but struggling to empower its workforce.

DGC UXi Artisan Development envisions a different future for the DRC—one where the country's natural wealth translates into prosperity for all, fuelled by a skilled and empowered local workforce. The collaboration goes beyond merely bridging the skills gap in the DRC's labour market. It weaves

together UXi's educational expertise with DGC AFRICA's deep industry insights to uplift communities, particularly in Kolwezi and Lubumbashi. This initiative is poised to instil essential skills, drive innovation, and promote self-reliance, thereby nurturing a new generation of professionals expected to lead the nation's economic resurgence.

Three Pillars of Transformation:

- 1. Industry-Specific Training:** We offer internationally recognized training programs meticulously tailored to meet the specific needs of the expanding industrial sector. This ensures graduates possess the exact skillsets demanded by employers, maximizing their employability.
- 2. Investing in a Well-Rounded Workforce:** Our programs extend beyond technical skills to include training in crucial areas such as supply chain management and business management. This holistic approach creates a versatile workforce, adaptable to the ever-evolving demands of the industry.
- 3. Empowering Women for Success:** We actively dismantle social and cultural barriers that hinder women's participation in the workforce, offering mentorship opportunities and developing programs specifically designed to equip women with the skills they need to thrive in high-paying industrial jobs.

In addition to these core pillars, we are leading the effort to establish a national certification program aligned with QCTO international standards. Developed in collaboration with local and national institutions, this program will set a globally recognized standard for Congolese workers, opening doors to international career opportunities.

Early results from these programs are promising, showing high employment rates among graduates and positive

responses from local businesses. The initiative maintains a continuous dialogue with the communities it serves, ensuring that the programs meet local needs and that there is substantial community involvement in their planning and execution.

With support and cooperation from local governments, the partnership has ambitious plans for the future. It aims to expand its successful programs to other regions and sectors within the DRC, scaling up its impact and investing in training infrastructure to support sustainable growth.

Despite facing logistical and cultural challenges, DGC AFRICA and UXi are proactively adapting their strategies to ensure the initiative's long-term viability. This includes forging alliances with other NGOs, international bodies, and private sector entities to enhance the resources and opportunities available to participants.

Importantly, the initiative champions inclusivity, actively promoting the participation of women and marginalized groups in its programs. This not only enriches the talent pool but also strengthens the socio-economic fabric of the DRC.

Looking to the future, DGC UXi Artisan Development envisions expanding the provision of artisanal skills training beyond the Katanga region, reaching into key locations throughout the DRC. Following this, there are plans to broaden their impact into Francophone Africa and select countries in sub-Saharan Africa, aiming to set a benchmark for development initiatives worldwide. This comprehensive strategy represents a robust commitment to fostering sustainable industrial growth and societal advancement across the region.



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EXPLOSIVES & ACCESSORIES THAT FULLY SATISFY YOUR MINING REQUIREMENTS | SOLAR EXPLOCHEM ZAMBIA

Solar Explochem Zambia Limited was incorporated on 29th day of July 2009 as a private company limited by shares. It was promoted by Solar Overseas Netherlands Cooperative U.A. & ORTIN INVESTMENT (UAE) for setting up the business of manufacture & supply of Industrial (Commercial) Explosives, Trading in Ammonium Nitrate, Cartridge Explosives and Explosives Accessories.

The company's business include

- ∅ Manufacture and supply of Bulk Emulsion Explosives
- ∅ Manufacture and supply of Cartridge Emulsion Explosives
- ∅ Assembly of Non Electronic Detonators
- ∅ Trading in Ammonium Nitrate, & Explosives Accessories.

The Company has been set up in Zambia to service the open pit and underground mining projects in Zambia and other countries like Congo and Kenya by supplying of bulk Emulsion explosives, Cartridge Explosives and other Explosives Accessories. The Initial Capacity of the Emulsion Matrix is 15000 MT PA, NON Electronic Detonators 1100,000 unit PA & Cartridge Explosives 6000 MT PA at 100% Capacity Utilization. The Company has the backing of the largest Explosive Manufacturer in India – Solar Industries India Limited for technology transfer & Plant set up.

The Equity Ratio presently is 65% of shareholding by Solar Overseas Netherlands Cooperative U.A. & 35% by ORTIN INVESTMENT (UAE).

Solar Overseas Netherlands Cooperative U.A. is the 100% subsidiary of Solar Overseas Mauritius Ltd. & Solar Overseas Mauritius Ltd. is the subsidiary of Solar Industries India Ltd.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

Solar Explochem (Z) Limited will extend all kinds of blasting technical services that is required by its customers. It has been a strong commitment of the Company to help mining industry to improve upon the various process of blasting with a view to achieve maximum drilling, keeping in control the bench stability, vibration, fly rock etc. Company has also taken several steps to translate its above philosophy into action.

The Company will conduct technical seminars at customer's site to interact with mining engineers of various mining Firms. The major objective of these seminars was to make the professional in the mining industry aware of the latest Technology, its relative advantages over the conventional systems so as to have better appreciation by the consumer and supplies of each other's requirements. The main object of our efforts is to reduce the cost of end product per MT of explosive.

MARKET POTENTIAL

PRESENT MARKET DEMAND IN ZAMBIA FOR EXPLOSIVES

This is as per ordered quantity of our main consumer i.e. Konkola Copper Mines Plc, Lafarge Cement, Maamba Collieries, Sable, BME, Kagem Mining, Grizzly Mining, Mopani Copper Mines. As per the conservative estimate, the present demand of Bulk Explosive in Zambia is estimated to be at least to the extent of 15,000 MT/ Annum, Cartridge Explosive 4800 MT/Annum and 900,000 Qty/Annum Non Electronic Detonator. There are four major Explosive manufacturers in Zambia, who are meeting the present demand. However, with the thrust priority allocated to mining sector and particularly copper, Coal, quarries and infrastructure industry. The demand of Explosives is growing tremendously under new government flexible investor policies.

KOBOLD METALS GETS GREENLIGHT FOR KONKOLA WEST COPPER PROJECT

Mineral exploration startup KoBold Metals Company will commence drilling activities at the Konkola West Copper Project in Zambia this month.

The company will assess deep copper mineralization within the main ore shale, which also hosts large-scale deposits and mining projects including the Konkola and Mingomba Mines.

"The first drill site has been selected, the drill contract has been let, drill site preparation has been completed and equipment mobilisation is in progress," stated Patrick Cheetham, Executive Chairman of Tertiary Minerals, a subsidiary of KoBold in Zambia.

The announcement follows Kobold securing authorization from Hon. Paul Kabuswe, Minister for Mines in Zambia, to collaborate with Mwashia Resources Ltd – a subsidiary of TMZ – on the exploration license 27067-HQ-LEL for the project.

Additionally, the company has obtained Environmental Impact Assessment approval for the project from the Board of the Zambian Competition and Consumer Protection Commission.



MOPANI COPPER MINES RELAUNCH MARKS NEW ERA FOR ZAMBIA

In a historic event for Kitwe, the Copperbelt, and Zambia's mining sector, Mopani Copper Mines celebrated its revitalization, heralding a significant economic shift for the region and the nation.

President Hakainde Hichilema expressed deep appreciation for the collaborative efforts that led to the relaunch, emphasizing the meticulous negotiations with International Resource Holdings (IRH) from Abu Dhabi.

The partnership, characterized by mutual respect and equitable benefits, ensures Zambian citizens retain a 49% shareholding through ZCCM-IH, showcasing a commitment to national prosperity.

IRH's \$1.1 billion investment marks a groundbreaking milestone, representing the first substantial investment from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Zambia.

This investment is poised to catalyze further economic growth, with prospects of additional investments in green energy and other sectors.

To bolster local suppliers, Mopani has initiated a Supplier Development Program, aimed at enhancing the capacity of Zambian businesses by providing access to capital and business development services.

This initiative underscores the commitment to fostering local economic empowerment and sustainable growth.

President Hichilema urged Zambian businesses to draw inspiration from the UAE's success in managing its oil resources and transforming its economy.

The partnership with IRH signifies a step towards leveraging international expertise to propel Zambia's economic development.

The Zambian government extended heartfelt gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler of Abu Dhabi and President of the UAE, for his unwavering support in strengthening ties between the two nations.

Recognition was also given to His Highness Sheikh Tahnoon Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of IHC, for his role in facilitating the partnership.



Samir Kumar (Operations Manager.)
 +260 971977883, +260 968407012
 samirkumar@solarexplochemzm.com
V.T.Reddy (Director)
 +260 979480807, +260 966680809
 vtreddy2006@gmail.com, vtreddy2006@solarexplochemzm.com

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- Assembly of **Non Electronic Detonators**
- Trading in **Ammonium Nitrate** and other **Explosives Accessories.**



A Turnkey Approach to ESG and sustainability in the Engineering and Mining Sectors



Abednico Mkhari, CEO – NTGR Engineering

Unlocking engineering and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) excellence:

In today's ever-evolving world, engineering companies play a pivotal role in shaping the future of society. With our comprehensive range of services, NTGR Engineering stands at the forefront of innovation and sustainability.

NTGR Engineering is an award-winning multidisciplinary engineering company, specialising in turnkey engineering services encompassing civil, mechanical, electrical and structural engineering, as well as asset management and environmental, social and governance services.

NTGR is well aware of how the global society is facing unprecedented challenges due to climate change. The need to meet the Paris Agreement targets, to decarbonise and the requirement to invest responsibly will result in the need for increased ESG disclosures. In the context of Africa, climate change poses substantial risks to African economies and threatens the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. It is not only the physical impacts of climate change but also the economic consequences of changes in required resources and global value chains because of decarbonisation that will further impact African economies and cause higher levels of poverty.

For ESG to be meaningful and create value for people in Africa, NTGR believes that it should become a catalyst for business engagement in delivering transformative impacts in Africa. ESG should stimulate businesses in addressing the African systemic challenges and add value to the continent in an inclusive, equitable, sustainable and African way. With our ESG services that we have provided to many of our clients, we have assisted many in understanding and implementing ESG across the business value chain. We place great emphasis on the integration of cutting-edge technologies and environmentally conscious practices, ensuring that our solutions are not only reliable but also environmentally friendly.

How we integrate ESG and our service offerings:

NTGR Additional Services include:

Embracing a turnkey approach

At the heart of our operations lies a turnkey approach that sets us apart. By offering a holistic suite of engineering services, we provide our clients with a seamless experience from

conception to completion.

Whether it's designing and constructing a state-of-the-art infrastructure project or implementing innovative solutions to enhance operational efficiency, our turnkey approach ensures that all aspects of a project are expertly managed under one roof, minimising risks and maximising cost-

effectiveness. contract suites such as FIDIC and NEC4. From civil engineers who masterfully navigate complex terrain and design major transportation and infrastructure projects to mechanical engineers who optimise machinery performance, design, alter or modify systems and components that meet project needs and eliminate malfunctions, electrical engineers who design intelligent energy solutions, to structural engineers who ensure safety and durability.

Our cross-disciplinary collaboration allows us to deliver innovative solutions tailored to each client's unique requirements.

Strategic asset management

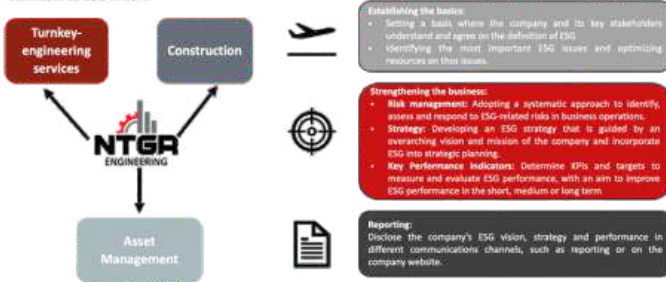
Recognising the importance of long-term success, we offer comprehensive asset-management services to optimise the lifespan and value of infrastructure investments. We have successfully implemented Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to track the location of assets.

By leveraging GIS technology, we provide our clients with real-time visibility and accurate asset tracking. This not only improves security and reduces the risk of theft or loss but also enables efficient planning and scheduling of maintenance activities. By leveraging data-driven insights and predictive analytics, we maximise asset performance, reduce downtime and minimise life-cycle costs, ultimately ensuring a sustainable return on investment.

Expanding into oil and gas: a vision for the future

In line with our growth strategy, we are proud to announce our foray into the oil and gas sector. During recent visits to the United Arab Emirates, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, we encountered dynamic opportunities that have inspired us to venture into this industry. These regions presented valuable insights, partnerships and resources that will propel us forward in this new chapter.

NTGR Engineering is a multifunctional engineering and infrastructure solutions company with track record of 15 years offering turnkey-engineering services and Asset Management Services to a broad and diverse client base across the mining, manufacturing and public sector infrastructure development sectors in the SADC region. Below is how we have integrated ESG and intend on assisting your business to be ESG efficient.

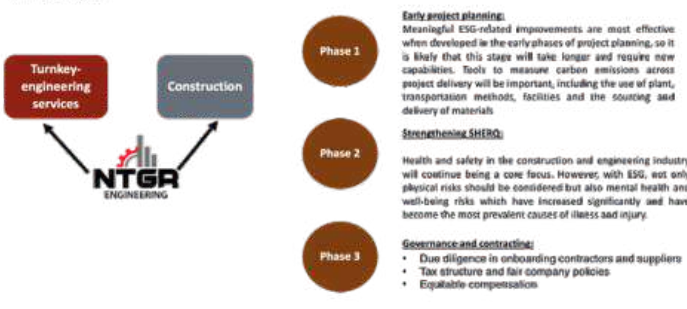


effectiveness.

Unleashing engineering expertise

Our team of highly skilled and experienced engineers is the driving force behind our success. We have inhouse multidisciplinary engineering teams that provide comprehensive EPC services

In the tendering and early planning stages of projects, construction and engineering companies will be expected to demonstrate their ESG credentials. To make progress in this area construction and engineering companies will need to focus heavily on nurturing an innovative mindset within the ESG space.



for clients across diverse industries, delivering capital efficiency and project certainty.

We are experienced in EPCM/turnkey project-

ESG Consultation Services offered by NTGR

ESG Consultation Service Offered	The Value Add to your Business
ESG Reporting	Identification and management of risks and opportunities associated with environmental and social impact; building trust with investors and stakeholders.
ESG Training and Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To offer Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) training solutions, from introductory to topic-specific levels, to help you improve overall ESG performance and compliance, mitigating operational and reputational risks.
ESG Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By measuring and managing ESG risks, risk managers can have a significant impact on factors influencing their organizations' long-term success. We assist Risk managers in making sure their organization can answer the big ESG questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the key ESG risks and opportunities? How likely are these risks and opportunities to manifest and how severe could they be? What are our regulatory and other reporting requirements related to sustainability risks? What is the business doing to address priority ESG risks and what could it be doing?



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DRC SURPASSES PERU AS SECOND-LARGEST COPPER PRODUCER

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing Peru as the world's second-largest copper producer.

Previously, Peru held this position, trailing behind Chile, one of the leading copper producers globally. The DRC, renowned for its abundant mineral resources, particularly copper, has seen a notable rise in its copper production.

Initial estimates from Statista projected Chile to produce 5.3 million metric tons of copper in 2023, with Peru following closely at 2.6 million metric tons and the DRC at 2.5 million metric tons.

However, recent reports indicate that the DRC's copper production surged to 2.8 million metric tons, outstripping Peru's output.

The Ministry of Mines in the Democratic

Republic of Congo, as reported by Russian news publication Sputnik, revealed that the country's copper production in 2023 reached approximately 2.84 million tonnes.

In contrast, Peru achieved a record production of 2.76 metric tons of copper during the same period, marking a 12.7% increase compared to 2022.

Peru's Minister of Energy and Mines, Romulo Mucho, anticipates further growth, projecting the country's copper output to reach 3 million tons by 2024.

Recognizing the crucial role of copper in renewable energy, the DRC has accelerated its copper production efforts. In October 2023, the country made a substantial investment of \$850 million in a road project to enhance connectivity between copper and cobalt mines in the DRC, Zambia, and an East African

port.

Moreover, being one of Africa's leading mineral-producing nations, the DRC heavily relies on copper exports, attracting significant foreign investments.

Chinese investors, in particular, have played a dominant role, controlling around 70% of the mining sector as reported by S&P Global in 2020.

ALSO READ: DRC POISED TO OVERTAKE PERU AS WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST COPPER PRODUCER

Additionally, a recent agreement between Chinese mining company Sicominex and Congolese state-owned Gecamines entails a \$7 billion investment, primarily aimed at developing national infrastructure, including roads, in the DR Congo.

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KOBOLD METALS EXPEDITES HIGH-GRADE COPPER MINE IN ZAMBIA

KoBold Metals, a California-based metals exploration company with backing from billionaires Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos, is considering partnerships as it aims to expedite the development of a new copper mine in Zambia, with an estimated cost of around \$2 billion.

The Silicon Valley start-up, renowned for its use of artificial intelligence in prospecting for copper, cobalt, nickel, and lithium, is also contemplating a potential public listing of its shares within the next three to four years, according to Josh Goldman, its co-founder and president, as reported by Reuters.

Initially planning to construct a new mine at its Mingomba project in Zambia within the decade, KoBold is now accelerating its plans to meet the rising demand for critical metals, stated Goldman.

"We're aiming to expedite the process significantly, aiming for one of the highest-grade, large copper mines," Goldman remarked during the African Mining Indaba. "We are committed to an accelerated timeline,

with our foot firmly on the accelerator."

KoBold revealed that the Mingomba deposit, currently undergoing further exploration, boasts copper ore grades of approximately 5%, placing its quality on par with Ivanhoe Mines' Kakula deposit in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The ore body's quality could potentially make Mingomba the highest-grade Zambian discovery in a century, KoBold asserted.

Backed by Breakthrough Energy Ventures, a climate and technology fund supported by notable figures such as Richard Branson and Ray Dalio, KoBold anticipates commencing mine development, including shaft sinking, around 2027, according to Mfikeyi Makayi, CEO for KoBold Metals Africa, speaking to Reuters.

While the Zambian mine may necessitate an estimated \$2 billion investment, Goldman suggested that existing infrastructure from other operators within the central African copperbelt could help mitigate capital requirements.

"The challenge globally isn't a lack of capital availability but rather a scarcity of high-quality projects. Where there are promising returns, capital follows," Goldman explained. "For an exceptional project, funding will be available."

The push to construct the new mine coincides with increased U.S. efforts to secure alternative sources of critical metals like copper, cobalt, lithium, and nickel, crucial for facilitating the transition to clean energy and accelerating the adoption of battery electric vehicles.

KoBold remains open to partnerships both in Zambia and across its various projects worldwide, with Goldman stating that the company is receptive to discussions regarding diverse partnership opportunities. KoBold collaborates with industry giants BHP and Rio Tinto on projects in Australia and Canada.

"There's considerable interest from financing parties and various stakeholders in the Mingomba project," Goldman remarked. "We are open to exploring discussions about a wide array of potential partnerships."



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ABU DHABI FIRM EYES ACQUISITION OF ZAMBIA'S LUBAMBE COPPER MINE

An entity of the International Holding Company (IHC), Abu Dhabi's esteemed corporation, has expressed interest in acquiring Zambia's Lubambe copper mine, a deal that could potentially complicate the ongoing sale process initiated by China's JCHX Mining, according to sources familiar with the matter.

International Resources Holding (IRH), a subsidiary of IHC, has communicated its interest to EMR Capital, a private equity manager holding an 80% stake in the Lubambe copper project, currently up for sale.

This development adds a layer of complexity to the sale process already initiated by JCHX, a Shanghai-listed mine servicing firm, which entered into an agreement with EMR to acquire its stake in Lubambe in January.

However, the completion of the sale process is contingent upon approval from the Zambian government, a step that remains pending and unclear, as confirmed by one of the sources.

Notably, the Zambian government holds a

20% stake in Lubambe through its state-owned entity, ZCCM-IH.

IRH's interest in Lubambe underscores the aggressive pursuit of critical metal supplies in Africa by cash-rich oil majors from the Middle East, particularly the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, as they aim to diversify their economies amidst the global energy transition.

This interest puts Middle Eastern investors in direct competition with Chinese companies, including state-backed firms, also vying for strategic deals in Africa to fortify China's dominance in crucial minerals, essential for various industries, including electric vehicle manufacturing.

Although EMR Capital has a binding agreement with JCHX, precluding it from considering new offers, it is aware of IRH's interest in acquiring the assets.

IRH has informed both the Zambian government and ZCCM-IH of its intentions, although it has yet to present a formal offer to EMR.

This move by IRH echoes its recent

acquisition of a majority stake in Zambia's Mopani Copper Mines, marking its entry into Africa's second-largest copper producer.

EMR's decision to divest its stake in the Lubambe mine is driven by the maturity of its funds, compounded by delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the project's development.

Additionally, EMR recently sold a majority stake in the adjacent Mingomba copper project to California-based startup KoBold Metals.

Despite producing approximately 15,000 tons of copper last year, Lubambe aims to enhance its output to around 2,500 tons per month for long-term sustainability.

JCHX's proposal to acquire EMR's stake includes assuming the project's substantial debt, signaling its commitment to Lubambe's future prospects.

As the sale process unfolds, Zambia's Ministry of Mines plays a pivotal role, although it has yet to respond to inquiries regarding the developments.

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BRINGING SIMPLICITY TO TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION IN THE MINING INDUSTRY – KUCHERA GMBH

There's no argument that the mining industry needs more innovative solutions if we are to keep pace with the increasing demand for minerals, legislative developments and the decreasing number of people working in the industry. But, it's something we've been talking about as an industry for decades, and having visited several mines since founding Kuchera in 2022, Kumbirai Chipadza, their Chief Marketing Officer, has noticed that everyone still relies heavily on pen-and-paper practices.

On a visit to a mining company, the Kuchera team met a CFO who used a picture of a whiteboard to work with client invoices. At the end of each day, she would send a message to the operations manager on site asking him to take a picture of the board with his mobile phone and send it to her as a text message. She would then spend the next hour zooming in on the picture on her phone and slowly

transferring the data into an Excel spreadsheet before adding it to the invoicing documents.

When we asked her why the process was so manual, she told us it's the way it's always been. Although technology existed to improve the process, it was either too expensive, too complicated, or she didn't trust it. It was only by comparing Kuchera's data with the data on her whiteboard and working with our product team that she began to incorporate our reporting into her process, which has enabled her to grow her business and take on more of the work available in the area.

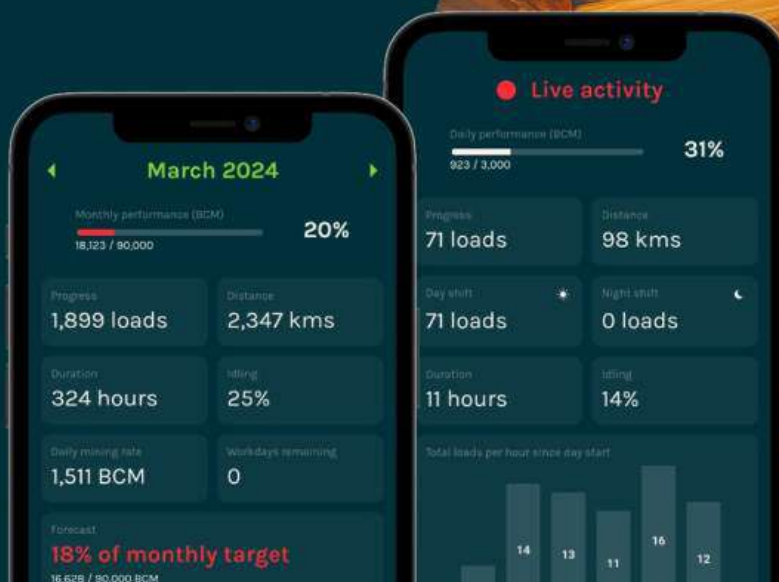
THE CHALLENGE OF OEM COMPATIBILITY IN THE MINING INDUSTRY

Another reason why many companies don't adopt existing technology is that it's unfortunately not compatible across their entire fleet. This means that if our former CFO wanted to implement this technology, she would also have to make sure that they stayed loyal to a single OEM provider.

This limits their ability to switch providers based on features or reliability. It would also mean being locked into a fixed price for the software offered by the OEM, which is often too expensive for a small business. Ultimately, leaving them with messaging images of whiteboards to get the billing right. Thankfully, companies like Kuchera have started to enter the market and offer an OEM agnostic solution.

Once her fleet was connected to the Kuchera Cloud, we took the time to show her how the software works. What she was most excited about was how Kuchera automatically tracks the distance travelled by all the vehicles in the fleet, including the gradient to the landfill site. This data confirmed a feeling she had when signing the contract that the landfill was further away than originally thought, with a steeper incline. She was able to use the reports we send her each month to prove this, as well as the daily reports that could replace the

kuchera



whiteboard, so she no longer has to spend hours going back and forth copying and pasting things.

After using Kuchera for a few weeks, she gave us a pretty fantastic review:

“After installing Kuchera, we realised that we had been underbilling for quite some time. In contracting, you can charge per kilometre driven and it turned out that we were driving 1.4km for every 1 km billed. There were always arguments about these figures, but now we can actually go into the Kuchera app and show them exactly what routes our fleet has taken, when they started, when they stopped and the exact mileage.

Our conversations have gone from debating distances to having clear and accurate data that has smoothed the process.

Now, with the extra time and increased revenue, we can invest more time in our business because we have the capacity to scale to new sites and take on new contracts, whereas before we were sort of stuck working out problems in old contracts that didn’t allow us to take on additional work. With the market for mining contractors growing, Kuchera has really come at the perfect time!”

We were really happy hearing how Kuchera was able to impact her operations, but we were quite surprised by the lack of competition in the market, considering how quickly the technology could positively impact operations.

THE GLOBAL MINING INDUSTRY WILL NEED TO CHANGE DRAMATICALLY

One reason for this could be the dynamic landscape of the global mining industry, which faces unique challenges depending on the people, region and resources that we’re finally starting to address. This includes the technology we’ve developed at Kuchera from 2022, which collects data from the fleet and aggregates it in the Kuchera cloud, before turning it into automated optimisations (including daily and monthly reports for invoicing and sustainability reporting).

Thankfully, we’ve been lucky to have the support of BEUMER Group and their knowledge as FAM in the mining industry. This has helped us enter into many productive conversations with a handful of professionals in the industry across Southern Africa, including Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Our story isn’t over yet. During our second deployment this year, we discovered that it wasn’t just the mining contractors that were having problems. We also used Kuchera at a mining site where the operations manager was facing several operational issues,

including excessive fuel consumption, increased downtime and even unexpected shutdowns. Most of these could be resolved with just a little more operational visibility, which is relatively easy to obtain if you have the right data.

Still, he was facing the same issue as the contractors: the software was being held behind gated doors, which meant varying platforms, dashboards and technical knowledge to get started.

We showed him Kuchera, and we immediately saw results the next day after connecting his fleet to the Kuchera Connectivity Cloud.

“I was always worried about leaving the mine. It seemed like something always went wrong the moment I went home, so I started spending more and more time on site to make sure everything was going according to plan.

With increased demand for minerals and less workers, it also puts a lot of pressure on operations managers to make sure things are always running according to plan. If something goes wrong or if operations are delayed, even by a few hours, it might mean we don’t make our monthly goals.

With Kuchera, I have all of my operations in a simple dashboard that tracks everything in real time along with monthly forecasting, so I know when to be worried, which takes a ton of pressure off me and the entire team. I can finally spend my time off at home or golfing, knowing that, if I want to, I simply need to check the app on my phone to make sure things are going according to plan.”

TWO SUCCESSFUL DEPLOYMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

During our last deployment in March 2024, we’re proud to have unlocked significant value for two clients. It’s only been a few weeks, but we’ve already enabled our customers to see a net positive ROI with increased operational efficiency, reduced fuel costs and improved team collaboration.

How did we do it? Here are some of the accomplishments we’ve achieved in just the past few weeks:

Accurate distance reporting up to 100m: We were able to correct invoicing for one mining contractor who was billing 1km for every trip to the dump site, which was actually 1.4km. Thanks to our reports, we were immediately able to spot this discrepancy, leading to a net positive of 40% increased revenue during the next billing cycle.

True inclination reporting: One of our clients charges a standard amount for a 6-degree incline out of a pit. After installing Kuchera, they measured that the incline was actually 11

degrees, which was reported and corrected in the initial contract, unlocking additional revenue.

Optimising operating hours: Thanks to Kuchera’s maintenance overview, operations managers have seen an average increase in uptime from 8.5 hours per shift to 10 hours within the first week of using the app.

Improved accuracy for productive loads: Within the first month, our partners saw an increased accuracy for productive loads from 80% to 95% by recording actual productive cycles of the asset.

Planned and daily rate of BCM: When operations managers used Kuchera, they saw an average increase in operator output from 6 loads per hours to 8 loads per hour through cycle standardisation times and recommended output rates.

Reduced idling time: With automated optimisations, operations managers had a better overview of their fleet and were able to quickly act to reduce idling time from an average of 3 hours per 12 hour shift to less than 30 minutes thanks to asset positioning and queuing times.

Optimised fuel consumption: We’ve reduced the average fuel consumption from 1,300l to less than 900l across a fleet of 10 dump trucks through monitoring refuelling trips and consumption patterns to create standardisation across assets.

We’re currently looking to speak to mining owners, operators, contractors and government officials working in the industry to learn more about how we could improve Kuchera to fit the industry’s current needs. If you’re interested in speaking with us or even trying Kuchera for your operations, we’d love to hear from you!

You can contact us directly via email at hello@kuchera.global.

Hope to hear from you soon, and thank you for reading more about our story!





SIBANYE-STILLWATER APPOINTS PHILIPPE BOISSEAU AS INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sibanye-Stillwater, a leading precious metals miner listed on the JSE and NYSE, has welcomed Philippe Boisseau as its newest independent non-executive director, effective April 8.

Boisseau brings over 25 years of executive leadership experience to the board, notably serving as CEO of Spanish energy firm Compañía Española de Petróleos for three years.

With a background of two decades at TotalEnergies, he has held key roles in refining, upstream operations, and Middle East business management.

In his new role, Boisseau will contribute his expertise to various committees, including audit and risk, nominations, and safety, environment, and sustainability.

Having previously advised Sibanye, Boisseau will now play a pivotal role in refining the company's strategic direction, particularly in prioritizing investments in metals and energy sectors.

JAPANESE GOVT PLEDGES K38 BILLION INVESTMENT IN ZAMBIA'S MINING SECTOR

The Japanese Government has committed to invest K38 billion to support Japanese ventures in Zambia's mining industry, aiming to bolster bilateral cooperation in this crucial sector.

During a bilateral meeting held in Tokyo, Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Saito Ken, expressed the Japanese Business Corporation's keen interest in investing in Zambia's mining industry.

Vice Minister Taku Ishii further highlighted collaboration efforts between the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) and the Zambian Government on exploration projects.

In response, Zambia's Minister of Mines and Minerals Development, Paul Kabuswe, emphasized the government's eagerness for continued collaboration, particularly in geological mapping initiatives aimed at attracting more investment and generating employment opportunities in the sector.

ZIJIN'S DRC COPPER MINE SUSPENDED OVER RADIATION WORRIES

Recent developments have led to the suspension of operations at the La Compagnie Minière de Musonoie (COMMUS) project, a key copper and cobalt mine operated by Zijin Mining Group Ltd. in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Reports indicate concerns over elevated radiation levels in the cobalt extracted from the mine.

Sources familiar with the situation revealed that COMMUS has been non-operational since earlier last week. Government officials are actively involved in overseeing the suspension of production and conducting tests on cobalt shipments.

Some shipments, which were previously exported, have been blocked and returned for further assessment due to potential contamination concerns.

The presence of uranium deposits in Congo's southeastern Katanga region adds complexity to the situation, as occasional contamination incidents occur.

Cobalt, a critical component in various industries, including electronics and electric vehicles, is primarily extracted as a byproduct of copper mining.

Last year, COMMUS contributed significantly to global cobalt and copper supplies, producing 2,200 tons of cobalt and 129,000 tons of copper.

The suspension of COMMUS operations comes at a time of disruption in the global copper market, exacerbated by unforeseen closures and production downgrades in major mines.

The temporary halt underscores the

challenges faced by the mining sector, impacting production and supply chains worldwide.

Owned primarily by Zijin Mining Group Ltd., with the state-owned Gecamines holding a minority stake, COMMUS is located in Kolwezi, a prominent mining hub in Lualaba province.

Zijin also has interests in other significant mining projects in Congo, including the Kamo-Kakula copper project operated by Ivanhoe Mines Ltd.

Requests for comments from Zijin Mining Group Ltd., Congo's Mines Minister, and Lualaba's Mining Minister remain unanswered, highlighting the sensitivity surrounding the issue. Gecamines has refrained from providing a statement, reflecting the gravity of the situation.

FIRST QUANTUM CEO INSPECTS PROGRESS OF S3 EXPANSION AT KANSANSHI

First Quantum Minerals Chief Executive, Tristan Pascall, has been on the ground at Kansanshi to personally inspect the progress the company is making with its S3 expansion project.

Of a total investment commitment of US\$1.25 billion, the majority of this is being spent this year to ensure the entire project is completed by mid-2025.

The S3 expansion entails an expansion of the mine pit and the mining fleet that services it, as well as the construction of a new processing plant, and a major expansion of the Kansanshi smelter.

The result will be to extend Kansanshi's mine life as a world class asset into the 2040s, increase copper production to

more than 200,000 tonnes a year while continuing to drive economic development and jobs in Zambia.

To ensure continuation of the S3 expansion in the face of disruption to its Cobre Panama mine in Panama, First Quantum has recently raised US\$3.3 billion as part of a comprehensive refinancing package and a copper pre-payment arrangement.

The company has also extended its debt facilities through to mid-2027, providing the pathway to deliver on its commitment to Zambia with the S3 expansion.

Commenting after his site inspection, Mr Tristan Pascall, said he was pleased to see the level of progress on the ground at Kansanshi.

"It's great to be at Kansanshi, and to see that the S3 development work is progressing on the ground according to plan. Kansanshi – and Zambia, in general – has been the mainstay of our mining activity for the last twenty years, and will be just as important to us for the next twenty.

We've had to adapt ourselves to unforeseen circumstances over the last few months, but we've met challenges before, always finding a way through and coming out stronger.

Completing the S3 expansion on schedule is a priority for us, and the actions we have taken recently puts us in a strong position to do just that. I look forward to my next visit here, to see this project through to its completion."



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FIRST DRC FEMALE PRIME MINISTER "MOMENTOUS OCCASION FOR DRC'S COMING-OF-AGE JOURNEY"

"This is such great news, how wonderful for the new Prime Minister, H.E. Judith Tuluka, and the DRC! May it inspire many young Congolese women and girls to reach for a stars and becoming mining engineers, geologists or any exciting career that the mining industry offers."

This is the reaction to the recent appointment of DRC's former Planning Minister, H.E. Madam Judith Tuluka Suminwa, as the country's new Prime Minister by Samukelo Madlabane, Event Director – Mining at the Vuka Group, organisers of the annual, long-running flagship conference and expo, DRC Mining Week, in Lubumbashi.

Impressive career

Says Madlabane: "While we are aware and hopeful that soon the announcement that a woman has been appointed to such an auspicious post will not be something that will be particularly newsworthy anymore, let alone a story that breaks on 1 April, we appreciate and celebrate that this is an

important moment for the new Prime Minister's impressive career and for her personally as well as a momentous occasion for the DRC in its coming-of-age journey." Women in Mining

According to the Event Director, as longstanding supporters of DRC Mining Week, the Kinshasa government has always been pro-active in its emphasis of promoting equality, sustainability and empowerment in the sector. He explains: "Indeed, we are so proud of the annual Women In Mining initiative at our event.

It is always an event highlight, uniting various inspirational professionals who are pioneers in the community. Year after year, we host a packed, invitation-only meeting with remarkable women coming together to share their experiences, their best practices and their knowledge."

As organisers of DRC Mining Week and other leading events in this industry, the Vuka Group embodies these same principles of empowerment and sustainability.

"In fact, Madlabane continues, "women have

always formed the indispensable heart of the DRC Mining Week event teams that have worked tirelessly on this event for almost 20 years now.

We look forward to returning to Lubumbashi from 12–14 June for the industry to join hearts and minds to celebrate its successes and deliberate the challenges."

About DRC Mining Week

DRC Mining Week is organised by The VUKA Group (formerly Clarion Events Africa), a leading Cape Town-based and multi-award-winning organiser of exhibitions, conferences and digital events across the continent in the infrastructure, energy, mining, mobility, ecommerce and CX sectors.

DRC Mining Week dates and venue:

Live event: 12–14 June 2024

Expo and conference: 12–14 June 2024

Location: Grand Karavia Hotel, Lubumbashi, DRC

Website: <http://www.drcminingweek.com>

KITOKO – IVANHOE'S NEW HIGH-GRADE COPPER DISCOVERY

In late 2023, Ivanhoe Mines announced a significant, high-grade copper discovery in the Western Foreland, adjacent to the Kamoia-Kakula Copper Complex in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The discovery, coined Kitoko, means "beautiful" or "gift" in several local languages spoken throughout the DRC.

This exciting discovery confirms the presence of a significant high-grade copper mineralizing system between 1,000 meters and 1,140 metres below the surface.

Kitoko is a fine-grained copper mineralization hosted in flat-lying siltstone in the lower Grand Conglomerate, like Kamoia, Kakula, Makoko, and Kiala deposits, with the highest copper grades at the base of the mineralized zone.

The Kitoko discovery, located twenty-five kilometres west of Kakula Mine and a mere

five kilometres south and southeast of Makoko Deposit, is part of a package of newly acquired joint venture licences, increasing Ivanhoe's Western Foreland land position by 10%.

Under the terms of the joint venture that covers the 247 square kilometres of newly acquired licences, Ivanhoe has an initial interest of 10% with an earn-in right to increase its ownership by funding ongoing exploration activities.

Ivanhoe expects to make further exploration spending commitments in 2024, to increase Ivanhoe's interest to 60%.

Kitoko discovery further advances Ivanhoe's proprietary exploration model

Ivanhoe geologists have developed proprietary geological models based on increased knowledge of the architecture of this emerging copper district and the formation of high-grade mineralization, including grade distribution.

This knowledge has been increased substantially during the mining of the high-grade Kakula deposit, demonstrating the advantage of an operating mine adjacent to active exploration.

The discovery was solely targeted using knowledge of shelf architecture. The intersection of high-grade mineralization, at over 1,000 meters depth in the Western Foreland, confirms the criteria used for targeting blind mineralization across the 2,654-square-kilometre license package.

The accomplishments of our drilling initiatives affirm the capability of our geological experts to identify significant new copper discoveries throughout the Western Foreland.

With the DRC government fully supporting exploration activities, Ivanhoe is proud to lead the way with our talented team and history of success.



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Deepak M MEGHRAJANI

+260 977711285

d.meghrajani@metminzambia.com

Rajkumar MAKHIJA

+260 971008132

operation@metminzambia.com

Alok SINGH

+260 770443190

safetysales@metminzambia.com

Monil VAIDH

+260 965100095

kitwesales@metminzambia.com

OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS



XTRACT RESOURCES ENTERS JV TO ACQUIRE MAJORITY STAKE IN ZAMBIA'S SILVERKING COPPER MINE

Xtract Resources has announced a joint venture (JV) agreement with Oval Mining, in collaboration with Cooperlemon Consultancy, aimed at acquiring up to a 70% stake in Zambia's Silverking copper mine and its associated exploration license.

The initial option period spans 18 months, during which Xtract is obligated to invest \$500,000 in exploration activities to earn a 51% interest.

Upon completion of the earn-in period or upon reaching the investment threshold, the JV will be formally established between Xtract and Cooperlemon.

Xtract retains the option to increase its stake to

70% by committing an additional \$1 million over two years towards further exploration and development efforts.

In the event that exploration efforts uncover an inferred resource exceeding 500,000 tonnes of contained copper, any future sale of the project will result in both parties equally sharing the proceeds.

The exploration license, situated in Zambia's Mumbwa District within the Central Province, covers an area of approximately 81.7km².

Xtract has underscored the distinctive mineralization characteristics of the Silverking mine, highlighting deep oxidation and high-grade supergene enrichment akin to the

nearby Kitumba deposit.

The historical operation at Silverking, encompassing both open-pit and underground mining, reached a depth of only 70m, with notable drill intercepts such as 50m at 5.47% copper (Cu).

Colin Bird, executive chairman of Xtract Resources, expressed enthusiasm about the agreement, stating, "This partnership aligns with the company's strategic objective of acquiring exploration assets with significant copper prospects, substantial upside potential, and proximity to existing or potential mines. Silverking unequivocally meets all these criteria, and we are optimistic about the possibilities for future discovery."



PRESIDENT HICHILEMA LAUNCHES REVITALIZATION OF LUANSHYA COPPER MINES

In a landmark event, President Hakainde Hichilema inaugurated the dewatering of Shaft 28 at Luanshya Copper Mines last week, marking a significant step towards revitalizing Zambia's mining industry.

The ambitious project, backed by a \$500 million investment from China Non-Ferrous Metals Corporation (CNMC), promises to create over 3,000 jobs and inject new life into the region's economy.

The ceremony, attended by dignitaries and officials, symbolized a strong partnership between Zambia and China, underscoring their commitment to fostering economic growth and development.

President Hichilema expressed gratitude to President Xi Jinping and CNMC for their investment, which is set to transform Luanshya's mining sector.

Shaft 28, dormant for nearly two decades, will now be brought back to life with cutting-edge technology and state-of-the-art infrastructure.

The project includes a sophisticated pumping system capable of relocating 170 million cubic

liters of water to the Kafue River, facilitating not only mining operations but also supporting agricultural activities in the area.

In his address, President Hichilema reaffirmed his government's dedication to delivering development and improving livelihoods for all Zambians.

He assured the people of Luanshya that his administration is committed to reviving the mining sector and creating employment opportunities across various industries.

The President's commitment was echoed by Minister of Mines and Minerals Development Paul Kabuswe, who emphasized the government's fulfillment of its promise to revamp the mines.

He highlighted the significance of the Shaft 28 project in contributing to Zambia's copper production targets and driving economic growth.

CNMC Luanshya Copper Mine Chairperson Wang Jingui provided insights into the technical aspects of the project, detailing the process of dewatering Shaft 28.

Approximately 170 million cubic meters of

water will be pumped out using custom-designed pumps, benefiting both the mining operations and local agricultural endeavors.

The project's impact extends beyond job creation and economic growth. Minister of Infrastructure, Housing, and Urban Development Charles Milupi pledged to improve the Chisenge-Luanshya Road into a first-class tarmac road, enhancing connectivity and accessibility in the region.

Additionally, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development Gary Nkombo announced plans to gift Luanshya with 11 kilometers of tarmac road, further underscoring the government's commitment to infrastructure development.

As anticipation grows among residents, the dewatering of Shaft 28 heralds a new era of prosperity for Luanshya and the wider Copperbelt region.

With the promise of employment opportunities, economic growth, and improved infrastructure, the project represents a significant milestone in Zambia's journey towards sustainable development and prosperity.



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ZCCM-IH SHAREHOLDERS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOPANI COPPER MINES TRANSACTION

ZCCM Investments Holdings Plc (ZCCM-IH) shareholders have unanimously approved the Mopani Copper Mines Plc (Mopani) transaction where Delta Mining Limited (Delta), a subsidiary of International Resource Holdings (IRH), has agreed to acquire a 51% shareholding in Mopani for a total investment of up to US\$1.1 billion.

The approval was given at the Shareholder's Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held in Lusaka on 23rd February 2024. ZCCM-IH will retain 49% shares in Mopani, with 3 out of 9 board seats (5 by Delta and 1 by GRZ), and thus continue to participate in the governance of Mopani and have full visibility of its operations. Speaking after the EGM, ZCCM-IH Board Chairperson stated that "the transaction is a landmark

achievement that delivers significant value to ZCCM-IH, Mopani, and the Zambian people, as it unlocks the long-term sustainability of Mopani operations, which contributes to the revitalisation of the Copperbelt".

"It's pleasing to note that IRH has committed to retain Zambian workers, including the management team, who will be complimented by new skills and expertise from Delta to facilitate the expansion of MCM production to 200, 000 tonnes per annum", remarked Mr Muyangwa.

IRH have already proved their commitment by providing interim funding of \$130m, before they take over, that has allowed continued payment to suppliers and contractors.

Further, ZCCM-IH Board Director Mr Phillippe Taussac who represents minority shareholders said that "the extinguishing of the Mopani

\$1.5billion debt that ZCCM-IH had guaranteed, will certainly lead to significant improved financial performance for all ZCCM-IH's shareholders".

Mr Taussac expressed happiness that ZCCM-IH now has a strong long-term strategic equity partner in Mopani, whilst remaining a significant shareholder in the company".

This transaction represents a major step for Zambia's copper mining industry towards the achievement of the country's 3 million metric tonnes of copper production per annum by 2030.

Following the announcement of the transaction, the markets have responded positively with increased activity and share price appreciation. On the Lusaka Securities Exchange ZCCM-IH shares soared by 11.9% from K42 to K47 per share.

MOPANI COPPER MINES INITIATES SUPPLIER REGISTRATION DRIVE FOR BUSINESS REVIVAL

Mopani Copper Mines (MCM) has commenced the registration of suppliers and contractors of goods and services on its database, marking the revitalization of the mine's business operations.

Following the recent handover of the mine to Abu Dhabi-based International Resources Limited (IRL) by President Hakainde Hichilema, who acquired a 51 percent stake, Mopani is taking steps to invigorate its business segment.

The Copperbelt region's economy heavily relies on mining, with over 90 percent of companies providing goods and services to the industry.

However, due to decreased copper

production at Mopani over the past four years, many contractors had to cease operations, resulting in a reduction in the number of suppliers on the database.

IRL, the equity partner in Mopani, has committed to injecting \$1.1 billion into the mine's development plan, with capital inflows already underway.

Mopani, through its corporate office, has issued a memorandum inviting credible suppliers and reputable businesses to register for the supply of various goods and services.

The memo states, "MCM invites applications from credible and established reputable business entities to register for the provision of various works, goods, and services in various

categories of the company's requirements.

All vendors participating must clearly indicate their areas of specialization and upload the entire requested document using the provided link."

Applicants are informed that there will be a pre-registration screening, and only successful applicants will be registered. The registration period for suppliers is from March 25 to May 31 this year. Existing vendors are exempt from applying for online registration.

Coaster Mwaba, President of the Association of Mine Suppliers and Contractors, confirmed that Mopani has initiated the registration process for suppliers of goods and services.

He encouraged business entities to ensure they submit all required documents to the mine during the registration process.

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ELECTRA BATTERY PARTNERS WITH ERG FOR DRC'S COBALT SUPPLY

In the race for the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) rich mineral resources, valued at a staggering \$24 trillion, Electra Battery Materials has taken a significant stride. Recently, the company announced a pivotal agreement with Eurasian Resources Group (ERG) for a steady supply of Congolese cobalt.

Under this arrangement, ERG, based in the DRC, will deliver 3,000 tonnes of cobalt hydroxide annually from its Metalkol operation to Electra. This cobalt will be channeled to a refinery located near Toronto, starting in 2026.

This strategic partnership aligns with the United States' mineral security strategy, particularly in meeting the burgeoning demand for cobalt, crucial for electric vehicle (EV) batteries.

Moreover, the agreement complies with the American Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), providing further impetus to the growing adoption of EVs through subsidies.

Electra anticipates that its Canadian refinery will have the capacity to power up to 1.5 million vehicles annually, solidifying its position as a leading cobalt sulfate refinery in North America.

Trent Mell, CEO of Electra, expressed immense

pride in the partnership, emphasizing ERG's esteemed reputation as one of the premier cobalt hydroxide suppliers globally.

Meanwhile, cobalt production in the DRC is witnessing a notable surge. Data from the Central Bank of Congo (BCC) indicates a substantial output of 139,838 tonnes during the 2023 fiscal year.

This partnership not only underscores the importance of strategic alliances in securing vital resources but also reflects the growing significance of sustainable energy solutions in the global market.

JIANGXI COPPER BUYS \$212 MILLION OF FIRST QUANTUM SHARES

First Quantum Minerals Ltd.'s second-largest shareholder bought an additional C\$287.5 million (\$212 million) in shares of the Canadian metals producer that's been hurt by the forced closure of its flagship copper mine in Panama.

China's Jiangxi Copper Co. bought 25.9 million First Quantum shares for C\$11.10 each through a stock sale by the Canadian company, according to a Friday

regulatory filing. The Canadian company raised C\$1.55 billion last month through a bought deal offering that was part of refinancing measures to shore up its balance sheet following the shutdown of its Cobre Panama mine.

First Quantum rose 0.2% to C\$12.88 at 11:02 a.m. in Toronto.

Jiangxi Copper has stepped in to support First Quantum after the Vancouver-based

company was forced to close Cobre Panama in November on orders from the Central American government. The Chinese firm, which holds 18.4% of First Quantum, also agreed last week to buy \$500 million for copper shipments from a First Quantum mine in Zambia.

Panama accounted for 78% of First Quantum's operating profit in the first nine months of last year.

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bmlivingstone@repro.co.zm

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THE CHALLENGE

FQM Trident limited operates multiple mining sites in Zambia and specializes in the extraction of copper and nickel. Printing processes are crucial in managing specific workflows within the mine's operations. The mine's printing environment has faced several challenges over the years which include :

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- Increased downtime heavily affecting workflow.
- High logistical costs such as purchase and delivery of consumables and spare parts.
- Lack of trained on site engineers.
- Lack of centralized print management.



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- Cost reduction by **25%**.
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- Reduction in logistical costs.
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Thanks to the Partnership with Repro Limited, FQM now operates in a more cost-effective environment by utilizing the most modern printing practices.

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DRC'S ARSP AND SOUTH AFRICAN BEE SIGN A COLLABORATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

After several months of technical work, ARSP and the South African BEE signed a memorandum of understanding for the sharing of information and experience in the field of subcontracting.

This initiative follows diplomatic relations promoted by the Heads of State of two countries, namely Félix Tshisekedi for the DRC and Cyril Ramaphosa for South Africa, which has already experienced the development of its middle class and whose experience will be shared with the DRC.

The signing ceremony of the memorandum of understanding took place in Kinshasa in the presence of different personalities including entrepreneurs from several corners of the country, national deputies, ministers, as well as the South African Ambassador to the DRC and his Congolese counterpart representing

the DRC in South Africa.

In his speech, Miguel Kashal Katemb, Director General of the Regulatory Authority for Subcontracting in the Private Sector (ARSP) painted a picture of the value chain across the country and the world.

"The signing today of a memorandum of understanding between the ARSP of the DRC and BEE of South Africa is a special moment which we welcome for its impact. It is a question of boosting, on the DRC side, the perspective of the creation of Congolese millionaires and billionaires as presented by the Head of State. Several other countries have implemented the same policy, including the United States in 1933, Egypt, France, Nigeria. » said Miguel Kashal.

And added: "As far as the DRC is concerned, efforts are focused much more on the

establishment of a legal arsenal on local content."

For his part, the Director General of BEE, Tshediso Matona, evokes, through this signature, the advancement of the African continent.

"We have African billionaires, and we encourage that. And we hope that with this policy, we will achieve more of these kinds of successes, because these billionaires will create companies that will provide employment to our people. We all have the same objectives for our people, the success of subcontracting and this is in the interest of the entire continent.", he said.

Through this protocol, the ARSP aims to strengthen its operational capacity with a view to achieving the commitment of the Head of State, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi, to create jobs for the Congolese population.

KIBALI AND ARSP TEAM UP TO PROMOTE LOCAL CONTENT IN THE DRC

Africa's largest gold mine, Kibali, and the Autorite de Regulation de la Sous-Traitance dans le Secteur Prive (ARSP), the body which oversees the DRC's sub-contracting sector, have agreed to collaborate on a range of local content initiatives.

The partnership has been designed to increase the mine's already extensive use of Congolese contractors and suppliers in line with parent company Barrick's global policy of supporting local businesses and employing host country nationals.

Since 2009, Kibali has spent more than \$2.6 billion with local suppliers. Of its more than 6,500 employees, 95% are Congolese, including the general manager.

"We encourage Kibali to continue this policy to enhance the considerable contribution it already makes to the local as well as the wider Congolese economy," said M Miguel Kasha Katemb, CEO of the ARSP.

Barrick president and chief executive Mark Bristow said Kibali's local procurement policy was not only aligned with ARSP's aims and regulations but went well beyond them.

"Since it went into operation in 2009, Kibali has

transformed the previously disadvantaged northeastern corner of the country into a flourishing commercial hub. We will continue to drive sustainable value creation through our partnerships here," he said.

"The mine has been a champion of economic and social development in the region and has actively mentored the growth of small local enterprises into substantial business, by enhancing their commercial and technical skills, and providing them with the opportunities to exercise these. Kibali's third hydropower station, for instance, was built by an all-Congolese team."



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GECAMINES CONGRATULATES JUDITH SUMINWA TULUKA ON PRIME MINISTER APPOINTMENT

The General of Carrières and Mines (Gecamines) extends its warm congratulations to Mrs. Judith Suminwa Tuluka on her recent appointment as Prime Minister.

Gecamines, through its Board of Directors, General Management, and entire staff, applauds the confidence placed in Mrs. Tuluka by President Félix Tshisekedi.

Mrs. Tuluka's historic appointment as the first female Prime Minister in the Democratic Republic of Congo is celebrated as a significant milestone in the nation's political history. It

signifies a break from the past and instills pride in the Congolese people, heralding a new era of peace and prosperity.

Gecamines, committed to supporting the economic policies of the country, pledges its full support to Mrs. Tuluka's leadership. Leveraging its potential and expertise, Gecamines stands ready to assist in implementing the economic program aimed at improving the well-being of the Congolese people.

Aligned with Mrs. Tuluka's vision of "peace-development-social well-being," Gecamines is

actively engaged in its Transformation Process. The company vows to seize every opportunity to create value and contribute to the success of the government's policies under Mrs. Tuluka's leadership.

As Mrs. Tuluka embarks on her new role, Gecamines extends its best wishes for her success. May her decisions be guided by wisdom and illuminated by the divine light, leading to the advancement and prosperity of the Democratic Republic of Congo.



PRESIDENT HICHILEMA'S INITIATIVE RECEIVES PRAISE FOR LUANSHYA COPPER MINE REVIVAL

Stakeholders and the business community in the mining sector of the Copperbelt region have commended President Hakainde Hichilema and his government for their efforts in revitalizing Luanshya Copper Mine Shaft 28.

Businessman Phesto Musonda highlighted the significance of Shaft 28 as a major source of high-grade copper concentrate and cobalt.

He expressed optimism that its full operationalization would lead to the reopening of Chambeshi Metals, positively impacting the economy of Luanshya and the broader Copperbelt through job creation and

opportunities for small businesses.

The Mine Workers Union of Zambia President, Joseph Chewe, and the National Union of Miners and Allied Workers President, Saul Simujika, welcomed the news of Shaft 28's dewatering with enthusiasm, citing the assurance of job security for workers.

They emphasized that this development would bolster copper production on the Copperbelt and attract substantial investments in the mining sector.

Costa Mwaba, President of the Mine Suppliers and Contractors Association, urged the government to prioritize local contractors in

supplying jobs to the mine, emphasizing the importance of empowering local businesses.

Heartson Mabeta, Member of Parliament for Kankoyo in Mufulira, encouraged the youth set to benefit from job opportunities at the mine to invest in their future.

President Hakainde Hichilema recently commissioned the dewatering of Luanshya Copper Mine Shaft 28, a project estimated at \$500 million.

Once fully operational, it is expected to create 3,000 jobs and produce 83,000 tonnes of copper annually, signaling a significant milestone in Zambia's mining sector under the new administration.

AFRICA GLOBAL LOGISTICS COMMENCES OPERATIONS AT PORT OF LOBITO

Africa Global Logistics (AGL) marked a significant milestone last week as it received the first cargo ship at the Port of Lobito in the Benguela province of Angola.

The arrival of the ship at the general cargo terminal signals the formalization of AGL's activities in operating the Multipurpose terminal at Porto do Lobito.

Managed by the firm Seatrade, the cargo ship, measuring 169.37 meters long, brought 6,500 tons of rice to the port. It has been docked at the south pier since Tuesday to commence unloading operations.

This historic moment at the Port of Lobito marks the transition to the Porto Senhoro management model, with AGL as the concessionaire of the multipurpose terminal.

AGL recently secured a 20-year

concession contract for the operation of the Multipurpose Container and General Cargo Terminal at the port.

Owned by the Mediterranean Shipping Company Group (MSC Group), AGL operates in 49 countries and manages over twenty port concessions, including container terminals, Ro-Ro terminals, and forest products terminals, along with railway concessions in Cameroon and the Ivory Coast.

Under the concession contract, AGL is committed to maintaining jobs and implementing training programs to enhance the skills of national workers assigned to the terminal.

It also aims to integrate Angolan staff into management roles, in compliance with local legislation on private investment and promotion of national employment.

SOURCE:freighttrendsglobal.com

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KBR SECURES MANAGEMENT CONTRACT FOR LOBITO REFINERY EXPANSION PROJECT IN ANGOLA

Engineering firm KBR has been awarded a project management contract for the development of the Lobito Refinery, a significant project located in Benguela Province, Angola.

With a capacity of 200,000 barrels per day (bpd), this refinery expansion project marks a pivotal moment in Angola's oil industry.

Under the contract granted by Angolan national oil company Sonangol, KBR will oversee the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) phase of the project.

This agreement solidifies a 20-year partnership between KBR and Sonangol, demonstrating KBR's continued commitment to the region.

Jay Ibrahim, President of Sustainable Technology Solutions at KBR, expressed enthusiasm for the project, stating, "We are excited to be a part of this important project and to continue to grow and maintain a substantial presence in the region."

He emphasized KBR's strategic focus on providing technical services that support Angola's sustainable development objectives.

The Lobito Refinery expansion is a significant endeavor for Angola, as it represents the country's largest refining facility. Once completed, the refinery is expected to double Angola's refining capacity.

KBR successfully completed the Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) stage of the project in 2023. The FEED design not only met Sonangol's business goals but also adhered to advanced emission standards within the industry, highlighting KBR's commitment to excellence and environmental responsibility.

SOURCE: angolanminingoilandgas.com



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EPIROC ZAMBIA ANNOUNCES PLANS TO BUILD A NEW FACILITY IN CHINGOLA, ZAMBIA

Epiroc Zambia Limited is set to revolutionize the mining industry with the unveiling of its groundbreaking plans for a cutting-edge facility in Chingola, Zambia.

Scheduled for the third quarter of 2024, the launch of this state-of-the-art facility marks a significant stride in Epiroc's commitment to technological innovation and sustainable productivity.

Comprising a comprehensive hub housing a training center, service center, workshop, warehouse, and administrative offices, the new facility aims to elevate skill development not only within Zambia but also across East, Central, and West Africa.

Equipped with advanced technologies and processes, the training center will cater to the evolving demands of the mining industry, empowering professionals with the expertise needed to navigate modern mining equipment.

Strategically positioned in Chingola on a sprawling 50,000-square meter piece of land, the facility's location underscores Zambia's rich mining potential and ideal geographical setting.

This strategic move aligns with Epiroc's vision

of driving the transition towards sustainable renewable energy while harnessing the region's abundant mineral reserves.

The construction of this state-of-the-art facility reaffirms Epiroc's unwavering commitment to the mining industry's prosperity, not only in Zambia but also across Africa.

In a recent press briefing held in Kitwe, Epiroc's Country Director, Davis Nongera, emphasized the significance of the new facility in enhancing skills and expertise among local and regional professionals.

He highlighted the importance of training individuals to handle and maintain Epiroc's advanced equipment, emphasizing the need for a multi-faceted approach to skills development.

The training center, equipped with advanced equipment and technologies, will offer courses tailored to address the specific needs of the mining industry.

"With a focus on delivering top-notch solutions to clients within Zambia and beyond, the center aims to bridge the skills gap and empower individuals to excel in the mining sector." He said.

While construction of the facility is expected to

commence within a year, the training programs will be operational within two years, offering comprehensive training to individuals seeking to enhance their skills in the mining industry.

With training facilities across the globe, including Sweden, South Africa, and the USA, Epiroc is committed to upskilling individuals and driving sustainable mining practices worldwide.

As a global leader in mining and construction solutions, Epiroc is renowned for its groundbreaking technology and innovative equipment, catering to the needs of customers in over 150 countries.

With headquarters in Chingola and branch offices in Kitwe and Solwezi, the company has continuously expanded its footprint, fostering economic growth and productivity.

Established in February 1949, Epiroc Zambia Limited, formerly known as Atlas Copco Zambia Limited, has been a driving force in Zambia's mining industry.

As Epiroc embarks on this transformative initiative, it remains steadfast in its commitment to innovation, collaboration, and excellence, driving towards a future of sustainable mining practices and enhanced productivity in Africa and beyond.



Africa Global Logistics Announces Launch in Zambia: Transforming Transport and Logistics Landscape

Africa Global Logistics, a leading logistics solutions provider, is proud to announce its official rebrand launch in Zambia. With a rich history of excellence and innovation, and formally known as Bollore Logistics, Africa Global Logistics is poised to revolutionize the logistics landscape in Zambia, delivering unparalleled services and driving economic growth and development.

The rebrand of Africa Global Logistics in Zambia represents a strategic move to strengthen the company's presence in the region and capitalize on the country's burgeoning logistics sector. With Zambia's strategic location and growing economy, Africa Global Logistics is well-positioned to meet the increasing demand for efficient and reliable logistics solutions.

"We are thrilled to bring Africa Global Logistics to Zambia and embark on this exciting journey of growth and expansion," said Philippe Niamkey, Country Director of Africa Global Logistics Zambia. "As a leading logistics solutions provider, we are committed to delivering world-class services and driving positive change in the industry. With our extensive network, cutting-edge technology, and unwavering commitment to customer satisfaction, we are confident that Africa Global Logistics will make a significant impact in Zambia's transport and logistics sector."

Africa Global Logistics offers a comprehensive range of logistics services, including freight forwarding, warehousing, transportation, customs brokerage, and supply chain management. Leveraging its global network and expertise, Africa Global Logistics provides tailored solutions to meet the unique needs of its clients across various industries.

"We believe that efficient logistics is the backbone of economic growth and development," added Philippe, "By providing reliable and cost-effective logistics solutions, we aim to facilitate trade, enhance connectivity, and drive competitiveness in Zambia and beyond. We are excited to partner with local businesses, government agencies, and stakeholders to unlock the full potential of Zambia's logistics sector."

Africa Global Logistics is committed to sustainability and corporate social responsibility, striving to minimize its environmental footprint and promote social welfare. The company adheres to the highest standards of ethical business practices and is dedicated to making a positive impact on the communities it serves.

As part of its launch in Zambia, Africa Global Logistics will host a series of events and initiatives to engage with stakeholders, showcase its capabilities, and demonstrate its commitment to the Zambian market. The company invites all interested parties to join in celebrating this milestone and learn more about the opportunities that Africa Global Logistics brings to Zambia.

About Africa Global Logistics:

Africa Global Logistics Zambia, through its subsidiaries, is active in the mining, consumer products, telecommunications and humanitarian aid sectors, providing Zambia's business community with superior logistics solutions in all sectors that drive Zambian economic life.

For more than fifty years, we have been providing multi-modal logistics solutions in supply chain management, airfreight, ocean freight, corridor management, warehousing of goods and value-added products, supported by our nationwide distribution solutions, to support the socio-economic development of Zambia. Through the synergy of our resources, we are actively involved in Zambia's major development projects in the power, infrastructure and mining sectors, supporting our clients and their requirements for successful execution.

Through investment in equipment and innovation, our teams are committed to providing customised logistics solutions that meet the specific needs of our customers. For more information, visit <https://www.aglgroup.com>.

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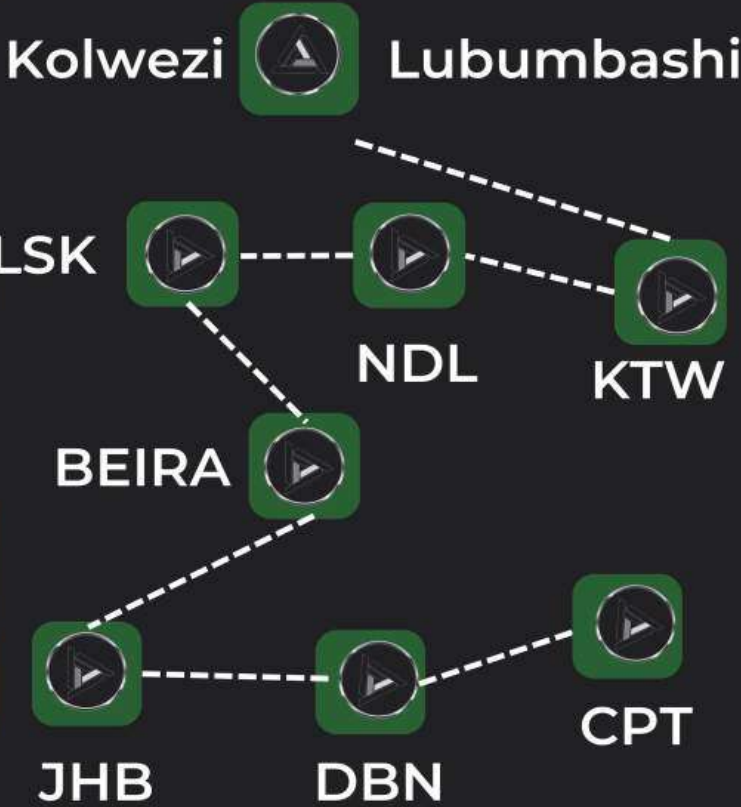
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US SEEKS CLOSER TIES WITH DRC MINER GECAMINES TO SECURE CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY

The United States is actively engaged in regular dialogue with the Democratic Republic of Congo's state miner, Gecamines, as part of efforts to strengthen ties with key suppliers of cobalt and copper in Africa, a senior State Department official informed Reuters.

With China's aggressive investment in Congo, Zambia, and other African nations, Washington has increasingly expressed concerns about the concentration of mineral supplies essential for electric vehicles and electronics in the hands of a single dominant player.

Jose Fernandez, the US State Department's under secretary for economic growth, energy, and the environment, revealed in an interview this week that discussions with Gecamines revolve around supply agreements and potential mining projects the company is exploring. These conversations occur approximately every four to six weeks.

The Mineral Security Partnership (MSP), a collaboration involving over a dozen countries and the European Union, recently struck a deal with Gecamines and Japan's JOGMEC. Fernandez attributed

this agreement to ongoing discussions with Gecamines.

Fernandez emphasized the importance of diversifying mineral supply chains, stating, "Be it China or anybody else, it's just not good to have one single supplier of anything."

He highlighted the necessity for host countries to avoid scenarios where investors neglect environmental responsibilities and fail to engage local workforces.

Regarding speculations about the US government's interest in acquiring Canadian miner First Quantum's Zambian assets, Fernandez declined to comment.

However, he reiterated the US's commitment to collaborating with Zambia and Congo on mining and regulatory frameworks.

Despite China's dominance in Africa's critical mineral sector, Fernandez clarified that Washington's objective isn't to counter China's influence directly.

Instead, the US aims to diversify its supply chains and promote higher mining standards among African partners.

DRC RAISES CONCERNS WITH APPLE OVER ALLEGED USE OF CONFLICT MINERALS

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has conveyed apprehensions to Apple Inc. regarding the potential presence of conflict minerals sourced from the country within the tech giant's supply chain.

International lawyers representing the Congolese state submitted inquiries to Apple on April 22, expressing concerns about the origin of minerals like tin, tungsten, and tantalum, collectively known as 3T minerals, as reported by Bloomberg.

This development follows a recent US court ruling that cleared several tech companies, including Apple, of child labor charges in cobalt mines across Africa.

In a statement released on lawyer Robert Amsterdam's website, Paris-based lawyers representing the DRC accused Apple of purchasing these minerals, which are purportedly smuggled from the DRC to neighboring Rwanda and integrated into the global supply chain.

Robert Amsterdam, the lawyer representing the DRC, highlighted the discrepancy between Apple's claims of verifying the origins of minerals and the lack of concrete evidence supporting these assertions.

He emphasized concerns about minerals from Rwanda, where production of key 3T minerals is minimal despite claims by tech companies of sourcing from the country.

While Apple has implemented measures to address allegations concerning conflict minerals since 2016, including audits of its suppliers, questions remain regarding the effectiveness of these efforts.

In response, Apple reiterated its commitment to responsible sourcing of minerals and improving working conditions in mining communities, including those in Congo.

The company has removed non-compliant smelters and refiners from its supply chain and expressed confidence that its suppliers do not finance or benefit armed groups in the region.

Nevertheless, the issue underscores ongoing challenges in ensuring transparency and accountability within global supply chains, particularly concerning minerals associated with conflict zones.

ZIMBABWE ADVANCES PLANS FOR LOCAL PRODUCTION OF BATTERY-GRADE LITHIUM



Zimbabwe is making strides in its efforts to enhance its lithium industry, with four mining companies presenting proposals to produce battery-grade lithium within the country. This move reflects Zimbabwe's ambition to refine lithium locally, a mineral crucial for electric vehicle batteries and renewable energy storage, aiming to bolster its economy.

As Africa's leading lithium producer, Zimbabwe is urging miners to process the mineral domestically, shifting away from the current practice where Chinese lithium miners primarily export lithium concentrates to China for further processing.

Last November, Zimbabwe's finance minister Mthuli Ncube announced a deadline for miners to submit plans for local refining, initially set for March 2024. However, the deadline was extended by two months at the request of some miners, according to deputy mines minister Polite Kambamura.

Kambamura confirmed that four major mining companies have submitted long-term plans for local lithium refining, although he refrained from disclosing their names. The

government is yet to review these proposals.

Zimbabwe boasts substantial hard-rock lithium reserves, attracting significant investment from Chinese mining giants like Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Sinomine Resource Group, Chengxin Lithium Group, Yahua Group, Canmax Technologies, and the Tsingshan Group.

While some Chinese firms, such as Huayou, have expressed interest in exploring battery-grade lithium production in Zimbabwe, they highlight challenges such as the lack of resources necessary for production, including reliable renewable energy, natural gas, and sulphuric acid.

Nonetheless, Zimbabwe remains steadfast in its pursuit of local lithium refining, envisioning the development of a robust lithium industry to meet the growing demand for batteries amid the global shift towards cleaner energy sources.

"We are not going to end on concentrates; we want batteries to be manufactured here," emphasized Kambamura, underscoring Zimbabwe's commitment to value-added processing within its borders.

SOURCE: batterymetalsafrica.com

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FASTENER SOLUTIONS FOR MINING AND CONSTRUCTION SINCE 1972 - CP ENGINEERING

CP Engineering, a longstanding engineering company, has recently announced significant expansions to its operations.

Based in Kitwe, Zambia, in the heart of the Copperbelt province, CP Engineering specializes in turning, milling, line boring, gear cutting, and heavy and light fabrication, and stocks fasteners, bolts, nuts, washers, threaded bars, and foundation bolts in various grades and materials.

With a rich history dating back to 1972, the company has become a reliable supplier of fasteners and various engineering services to the mining and construction industries in the region.

The current expansion of CP Engineering shop section is coming as a response to the recent growing business potential in the region.

The expansion plans include a significant enlargement of the showroom, allowing clients access to a wider range of

products.

Despite slower business in the previous years, the recent influx of foreign investments and global brands into Zambia has sparked renewed opportunities.

Speaking to Copperbelt Katanga Mining, CP Engineering Operations Manager, Jagdish Patel highlighted the promising outlook for business growth, particularly in the mining sector within Zambia and DRC.

With new corporate announcements of new mining projects, such as Kansanshi S3 expansion, Kobold Metals Mingomba Project, Lumwana expansion plans, Mopani Copper Mine recapitalization by IRH, Konkola Copper Mine (KCM) reopening, Luanshya Copper Mine reopening as well as Mimbula Project by Jubilee Metals, CP Engineering aims to introduce new products tailored to the evolving engineering needs of Mining houses.

At CP Engineering, providing quality products and services is vital. Mr. Patel emphasized the company's commitment to delivering high-quality products and services, refusing to compromise on

standards.

In addition to serving mining companies in Zambia, CP Engineering extends its reach to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Positioned strategically, CP Engineering's products and services are easily accessible to mines in the DRC, saving time and enhancing efficiency. CP Engineering also undertakes construction services as a subcontractor, offering a comprehensive range of engineering solutions.

CP Engineering, as a corporate citizen, actively engages the community in various social responsibility initiatives, from tree planting to the construction of schools in rural areas.

Speaking to Copperbelt Katanga Mining about the company's corporate social responsibility, CP Engineering CEO Harish Patel said that beyond business endeavors, the company remains dedicated to making a positive impact on the community.

"To date, CP Engineering has contributed to the construction of over 17 schools and provided financial aid to pupils in need of educational support." He said.

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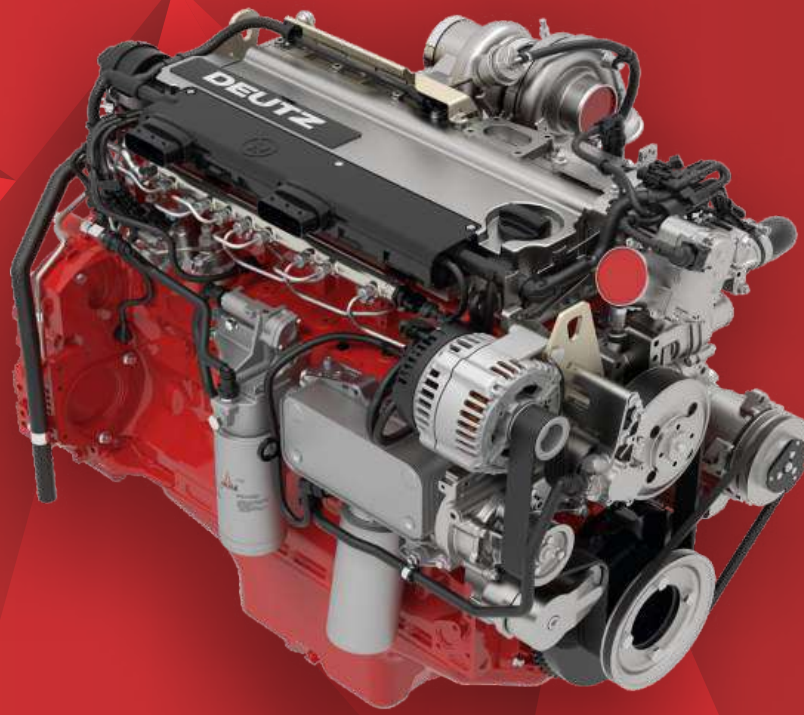
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