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**Energy security for mines in Africa:
Why the case for hybrid power
has never been stronger**

*Edith Kikonyogo,
Managing Director,
Aggreko Africa*

Page 09



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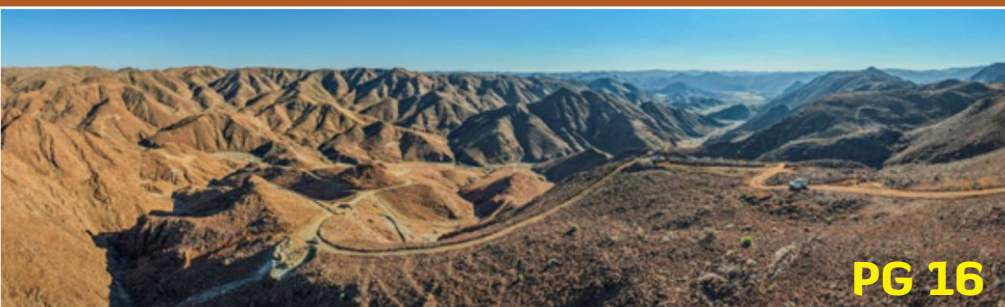
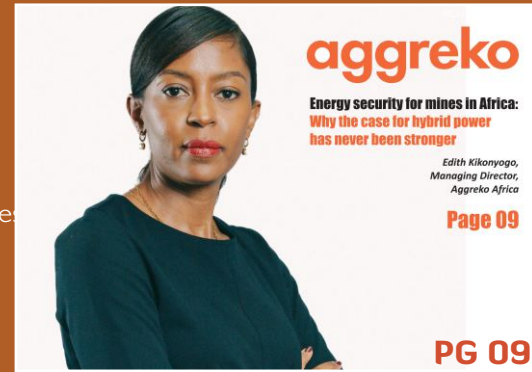

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CONTENTS

- 06 When your Hydraulic System Squeaks do you check the Pulse?
- 09 Energy Security for Mines in Africa
- 12 GeoMine Consulting Is Redefining What In-Country Expertise Means
- 16 Koryx Copper Appoints Country Manager as Haib Copper Project Advances
- 20 Ore in the Ground Is a Resource. Ore Processed Is an Economy.
- 24 Namibia Oil and Gas Conference 2026
- 26 Local manufacturing showcased at Electra Mining Africa
- 29 The Growing Role of Women in Industrial Transformation
- 30 Rare Earth Explorer Launches Massive Namibia Drill Drive with Toyota, Japan Backing
- 31 Navachab Gold Mine Moves Deep
- 31 Serval Resources Confirms Surface Copper-Silver Potential in Namibia
- 32 Namibia Re-Engineers Oil Frontier with 'Digital Twin' Revolution
- 33 Shell Hits Most Promising Oil Yet in Namibia Frontier Rush



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Editor's Note

Mining Africa Magazine is the home to the very best news, features and comprehensive overview of products suitable for both rental and user. It focuses also on technological developments across the spectrum of targeted equipment and machinery through in-depth technical articles derived from all product suppliers. Taking in everything from the latest products and techniques, to up-to-the-minute design trends and industry moulding regulations, Mining Africa should be the first port of call for any professional looking to remain on the cutting edge when it comes to their or related industries.

This issue of Mining Africa Magazine tries to bring together this wide range of perspectives in mining on the continent. It is my sincere hope that you will appreciate the insights given. Our publication focuses on the developments and activities taking place in the mining sector throughout Africa. As you are aware the continent is a haven of minerals which are in demand worldwide. The diamonds of Botswana, the South African gold, Zambia is renowned for its copper and the oil of Angola, to mention just a few. Unfortunately despite its mineral wealth, Africa still lags behind in development as compared to the rest of the world.

A robust mining sector is broadly understood as a fundamental path to economic growth

and development. The key boon of mining is that it absorbs large swaths of workers and places them into productive and decent paying jobs. Throughout history, this exact recipe has transformed the United States, United Kingdom, France, Japan, and Germany into some of the world's wealthiest nations.

However, this narrative seems to exclude many African nations. Despite their manufacturing potential and promising trajectories, most African countries have remained relatively dearth of factories. This limited industrial development represents a missed opportunity for economic transformation and quality employment generation that alleviates poverty. Today, leaders are increasingly realizing that the mining industry is a major factor in helping Africa to achieve its goals and successfully reaching the next stage of economic development.

We hope to contribute more to the development of our mining industry by consistently presenting interesting and pertinent articles to our readers. We continue to solicit and publish contributions from different mining companies to enable them to present their side of the story.

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When your Hydraulic System Squeaks do you check the Pulse?

By Hydrasales – Leaders in Hydraulic Filtration, Monitoring and Hydraulic accessories

The scale of open pit mining on the Copper Belts of Zambia is vast. Terraced benches cut deep into the earth, haul trucks chug along well-worn routes heavily laden with mined output. Large excavators industriously mine the area, loading vast quantities of material on regular shifts. It is a process meticulously scheduled and where uptime is paramount with production expected to deliver under relentless conditions.

A large thirty cubic metre bucket excavator is at the core of the production process. The hydraulic system generates the force and thrusts required to break, extract and load material, cycle after cycle. The mining operation appears regular, continuous and as scheduled.

However, as with most hydraulic systems, the earliest signs of trouble are rarely dramatic, especially in such dusty and dirty environments.

Every system squeaks. The question is whether anyone checks the pulse?

Imagine a scenario where, operators begin to notice initially minor changes in the excavator's operational behaviour:

- Nothing severe enough to stop production, but enough to cause concern.
- The boom does not function with the same level of sharpness.
- There is a slight hesitation or jerk on the return stroke.
- Movements that were once smooth and

precise are touch inconsistent.

In a high-production mining environment, such small aberrations can easily be overlooked. Yet it could be the first indication of the beginning of a possible deterioration within the system.

These excavators power large hydraulic cylinders, pilot driven hydraulic control valves and operate under extreme pressures and loads.

· Hydraulic fluid cleanliness is critical for the demands of the task at hand. Levels of contamination can begin to affect performance.

· Microscopic particles, often invisible to

the naked eye, can gradually wear internal surfaces, damage seals or interfere with the fine tolerances of valve components.

Contamination does not typically result in immediate failure. Instead, it works quietly in the background, slowly degrading performance and operation until the system no longer operates as intended. Now consider how such a scenario might unfold in a well-managed system.

The excavator is equipped with a comprehensive filtration and monitoring setup.

- A high-pressure inline filter is positioned directly downstream of the pump, acting as the first line of defence by capturing harmful particles before they reach sensitive components.
- A return-line filter, fitted with a clogging indicator, ensures that oil returning to the reservoir is cleaned effectively.
- Supporting this, an offline kidney-loop filtration system continuously circulates oil through a contamination monitor, providing real-time cleanliness readings in line with ISO 4406 standards.

Over time, the contamination monitor begins to highlight a gradual increase in particle counts, particularly in the 4 µm and 6 µm ranges. This change may not trigger immediate concern, but it begins to establish a trend.

Shortly thereafter, the return filter's clogging indicator activates, signalling that the filter element has reached its contamination holding capacity.

Pay attention to such a whisper and you'll avoid the shout!

At this point, a proactive maintenance response is critically called for.

The filter element is replaced and inspected, revealing fine metallic particles trapped within the media. While small, these particles point to internal wear somewhere within the system. Further

investigation could reasonably trace the source to a hydraulic cylinder, where guide rings could have worn over time. This wear allows slight piston misalignment, eventually leading to seal damage and the generation of metallic debris.

Left unchecked, this type of condition could escalate. Contaminants would continue circulating through the system, accelerating wear in valves and other critical components. In a worst-case scenario, if left unchecked, the cylinder could fail under load, resulting in unplanned downtime, costly repairs and a loss of output.

Instead, early detection allows for an appropriately planned intervention.

This is where the true value of filtration and monitoring is confirmed. It is not simply about removing contaminants, but about preserving system performance and preventing failure before it occurs.

Effective protection begins with correct filtration strategy.

High-pressure inline filters, installed immediately after the pump, provide primary protection capturing contaminants at source. Given the high pressures and flow rates involved in modern hydraulic systems, these filters must, at all times, be capable of operating without restricting performance.

Beyond this, suction filters help protect pumps from coarse contaminants during startup, while return-line filters ensure that oil re-entering the reservoir is clean.

Tank-mounted breathers play an equally important supporting role, preventing moisture and airborne particles from entering the system—an especially relevant factor in dusty mining environments.

Together, these components form a

layered approach to maintaining fluid cleanliness.

However, depending on the sophistication of the system, having filtration alone is not enough. Without proper monitoring, even the best systems can become vulnerable. Clogging indicators and real-time contamination monitors provide radar like visibility into the inside performance and operation of the system. This allows maintenance teams to respond to performance trends rather than responding to abject failures.

Chris Banks, a sales engineer at Hydrasales says;

"At Hydrasales, our approach to hydraulic system reliability is built on prevention rather than reaction. Our filtration and contamination monitoring solutions include:

A range of high-pressure inline filters for core system protection

Return-line and suction filters with flexibility for complete loop filtration

Tank-mounted breathers and accessories to prevent external contamination

Contamination monitors and clogging indicators for real-time system insight
A comprehensive range of absolute filter elements designed for optimum efficiency

We work closely and support our customers to incorporate and adopt the development of clean, efficient and reliable hydraulic systems.

Whether applied in mining, mobile equipment or heavy industrial operations, understanding what your system may be telling you—even in its quietest moments—can make all the difference."

For more information contact Hydrasales, +27 11 392 3736, harpo@hydrasales.co.za, www.hydrasales.co.za

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Energy Security for Mines in Africa: Why the Case for Hybrid Power Has Never Been Stronger

Edith Kikonyogo, Managing Director, Aggreko Africa



Brent crude prices have recently moved sharply, rising from \$92 to over \$113 per barrel in a single week this month. The International Energy Agency's March 2026 Oil Market Report calls this the largest supply disruption in the history of the global oil market, with nearly 20 million barrels per day of crude and product exports affected by conflict in the Middle East and disruptions to the Strait of Hormuz.

For mining operations across Africa, shifts like these carry practical implications for operating costs. Energy is closely tied to almost every stage of the mining value chain, from crushing and milling to ventilation, dewatering, and processing. For off-grid operations, where on-site diesel generation keeps production running, oil price volatility hits production costs directly. Delivered fuel prices at remote mine sites across Africa already exceed international benchmarks once you factor in transport, security, and

handling. When global crude surges 40% in a matter of weeks, as it has this quarter, the financial exposure compounds quickly.

This is not a new challenge, but the pace and scale of disruptions are accelerating. Energy strategy is becoming an increasingly important part of mining resilience and long-term planning.

The risk of a single-fuel strategy

Thermal generation continues to play an important role in many remote mining power strategies. Diesel and gas-powered generators deliver the firm, dispatchable capacity you need to keep operations running around the clock. In many cases, thermal generation remains a practical requirement for maintaining reliable baseload capacity. The issue is not thermal power. Over-reliance on a single fuel source can increase exposure to cost and supply volatility outside your operational control. When every kilowatt-hour depends on diesel alone, you are

not just running a mine, you are running a fuel logistics operation, exposed to currency swings, transport bottlenecks, and geopolitical shocks that have nothing to do with your orebody or your team's capability. In parts of East Africa, fuel prices have surged more than 75% since the start of 2026. In South Africa, petrol could see a price increase of over R5 per litre in April, while diesel is expected to see a R8.60 increase per litre. For a mine consuming millions of litres annually, these swings can add millions of dollars to your cost base, with zero increase in output.

That is not energy security.

Hybrid power: cost predictability through diversification

One practical response to fuel volatility is to complement thermal generation with additional energy sources. It is to reduce the share of your energy mix that is exposed to volatile commodity prices.

Hybrid power solutions are designed to support a more balanced and diversified energy mix. Solar photovoltaic arrays, battery energy storage, and flexible thermal generation work together under advanced control to give you a more balanced, more predictable energy mix. Solar delivers low-cost energy during daylight hours at a fixed cost. Batteries smooth your load profile and capture excess renewable generation. Thermal assets provide firm backup and peak capacity, running more efficiently because they are no longer carrying the full baseload alone.

The economics speak for themselves. Past regional data shows solar-plus-storage can deliver electricity at USD 0.06 to 0.20 per kilowatt-hour, compared with USD 0.15 to over 0.50 per kilowatt-hour for diesel in off-grid contexts. Across multiple projects in Africa, well-designed hybrid power solutions have displaced up to 40% of diesel consumption while maintaining round-the-clock reliability. The Middle East and Africa microgrid market, valued at over USD 10 billion today, is projected to exceed USD 21 billion by 2030. Mining is a leading driver of that growth.

These outcomes are increasingly being demonstrated across operating sites in demanding environments, proven in some of the continent's most demanding environments.

Beyond cost: the strategic case for acting now

Energy security in mining increasingly extends beyond fuel pricing considerations alone. It comes down to several factors that are becoming increasingly relevant for executive and board-level consideration.

Operational resilience is improved by hybrid power solutions, as they build redundancy into your energy supply. If one source is disrupted, others compensate. Advanced controllers manage load balancing in real time, and well-designed solutions routinely deliver uptime above 99.9%. For a mine where every hour of downtime means lost production, that resilience matters.

Financial predictability improves when a significant share of your energy comes from solar and its fuel costs are zero once installed. That creates a natural hedge against fluctuations in

fossil fuel prices and provides your finance team with a more stable cost base for long-term planning. Mines with lower, more predictable energy costs also unlock better access to sustainability-linked finance and stronger terms from offtake partners.

Licence to operate remains key - institutional investors, international lenders, and major commodity buyers now factor Scope 1 emissions and renewable energy adoption into their due diligence. A mid-sized mine transitioning to hybrid power can cut CO₂ emissions by 50,000 to 100,000 tonnes annually. That is not just an environmental metric. It is a commercial advantage that strengthens your position across the value chain.

What holds mines back, and how to move past it

If the case is this strong, why has adoption not been faster? While adoption challenges exist, a growing range of solutions is helping address them.

Capital allocation is the most common constraint. You rightly prioritise investment in core operations: expanding the pit, upgrading processing, and extending mine life. Large upfront capital spent on energy infrastructure competes with those priorities.

Alternative commercial models, including OPEX-led structures, can help reduce upfront capital requirements. Power purchase agreements and OPEX-led structures give you access to hybrid power solutions with minimal upfront investment. You pay for power on a per-kilowatt-hour basis, typically lower than your existing diesel cost from day one.

Operational complexity is another concern. You are experts in extracting and processing minerals, not in managing integrated energy solutions that combine solar, storage, and thermal generation. This is where working with an experienced energy partner can add value. The right energy partner brings lifecycle management: operations, maintenance, remote monitoring, fuel mix optimisation, and the ability to scale your energy solution as production evolves.

Regulatory environments across African jurisdictions vary. Navigating permitting,

environmental compliance, and grid interconnection (where applicable) requires local knowledge and established on-the-ground relationships.

A practical path forward

The current oil price environment has made the cost of inaction hard to miss. But decisions around hybrid power are often informed by long-term trends rather than short-term price movements. It should be driven by a clear view of where the world is heading.

Africa holds over 40% of global reserves of cobalt, manganese, and platinum, as well as growing deposits of lithium, graphite, and rare earths. Demand for these minerals will intensify as the global energy transition accelerates. The mines that extract them will operate for decades. Your energy strategy should reflect that time horizon.

At Aggreko, we have spent decades powering mining operations in some of Africa's most remote and challenging locations. We understand that reliability is non-negotiable, that every site has its own constraints, and that the shift from diesel-only to hybrid power must be practical, staged, and proven at every step. We design, deploy, and optimise modular hybrid power solutions that pair thermal and renewable assets in configurations you can scale over time, backed by flexible commercial structures and operational support across the continent.

Increasingly, the discussion is shifting from whether hybrid power can work to how to implement it effectively. Many projects are already demonstrating the viability of hybrid approaches. The question is how quickly you can move to protect your operations from the next disruption, the next cost surge, the next shift in investor expectations.

Mines exploring hybrid approaches today may be better positioned for long-term cost stability and resilience.

Aggreko designs, deploys, and optimises engineered energy solutions for mining and industrial operations across Africa. To explore how a hybrid power solution could work for your operation, get in touch at www.aggreko.com.

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GeoMine Consulting Is Redefining What In-Country Expertise Means for Namibia's Exploration Sector

Namibia's geological endowment is extraordinary by any measure. The Damara Orogenic Belt (often simply called the Damara Belt) is widely recognized as one of Africa's most prominent and well-preserved Neoproterozoic tectonic structures. It runs the length of the country, hosting world-class uranium districts, rare earth element (REE) prospects, stratabound copper mineralisation, and, increasingly, lithium pegmatite systems that have drawn the attention of exploration companies from around the world. The raw geological prospectivity is not in question. What has historically been in short supply is capital and something less glamorous but equally critical: the in-country technical expertise to systematically unlock this potential.

That is precisely the gap that GeoMine Consulting was established to fill.

Founded by geoscientists and management experts who spent their careers not merely working 'in' Namibia, but working 'from within it', GeoMine brings something that no fly-in, fly-out international consultancy can reliably offer: continuous, permanent and professionally registered in-country technical presence. The firm is Namibian-owned and operated, with a multidisciplinary team that understands the country's regulatory environment, its geological complexity, its logistical realities, and the stakeholder relationships that determine whether an exploration programme advances or stalls.

"In this industry, local knowledge is not a soft advantage," says Willem Kotze, Chief Consultant and Principal Geologist at GeoMine. "When you understand the structural grain of a terrain, the seasonal access constraints, the metasomatic history of a particular sequence, or how the Ministry of Mines permit process actually works on the ground — those are not things you can take for

granted or replicate from an overseas desk. They are the difference between an efficient programme and an expensive one."

'The Damara Belt has been explored for decades — but it has never been explored systematically, with modern geochemical and structural methods, by people who truly know its architecture.'

A Platform Built for the Critical Minerals Era

GeoMine's service offering is structured around what the firm calls its exploration lifecycle framework: Discover, Define, Develop, Sustain. It is a simple yet effective architecture that covers the full spectrum of technical advisory — from first-pass target generation through to JORC- and SAMREC-compliant resource estimation, project development advisory, mining and responsible closure planning.

At the heart of the firm's technical identity is deep local commodity knowledge across precisely the mineral groups that now sit at the centre of the global energy transition. The commodity range has expanded deliberately to match the demands of the energy transition era. GeoMine has undertaken uranium exploration across the Namib-Naukluft and Huab systems, evaluated coalbed methane potential in northern Namibia, assessed alluvial diamond occurrences at the Kunene River mouth, and carried out cement materials exploration in the Karibib area. Each engagement has deepened the firm's contextual knowledge of Namibia's basement geology — knowledge that is now directly applicable to the lithium pegmatite, rare earth element, and critical mineral targets that are drawing fresh international capital into the country.

"Namibia's known geological systems simply have not been evaluated with the rigour that

today's capital markets demand," Kotze notes. "The Karibib Pegmatite Belt, the Erongo intrusive complex, the Damara copper occurrences — that is exactly the work we do. And we have been doing it here, continuously, for longer than most firms entering this market have been paying attention to Namibia."

Global Standards. Delivered Locally.

For junior exploration companies evaluating Namibia the question of technical standards is not academic. It is commercial. Resource estimates, exploration target statements, and competent person reports filed in support listings must conform to internationally recognised reporting codes — JORC 2012, SAMREC 2016, or NI 43-101 as may be applicable. Errors at this stage do not merely delay programmes — they can invalidate capital raises and destroy investor confidence.

GeoMine's exploration reports are written to the evidentiary standards expected by institutional investors and regulatory authorities. Mapping programmes are executed with rigorous QA/QC protocols — certified reference material insertion, field duplicate sampling, chain-of-custody management — and drilling supervision encompasses collar surveying, down-hole deviation monitoring, and core recovery logging in formats compatible with industry-standard geological modelling software.

"We do not cut corners on documentation," Kotze explains plainly. "Every sample interval is logged. Every QA/QC insertion is tracked. Every structural measurement is recorded with the same discipline whether it is destined for an internal scoping study or a publicly filed technical report. That consistency is what allows our work to withstand scrutiny — and in this industry, scrutiny always comes.."

'For a junior explorer entering Namibia, the question is not whether the geology is there. It

is whether you have the right technical partner to prove it up to a standard the market will accept.'

The Case for an Independent Namibian Advisory Firm

The argument for engaging locally based, independently owned technical advisor comes down to four practical realities that any junior exploration company will encounter quickly in Namibia.

First, *mobilisation*. GeoMine's team is on the ground, permanently. When a drill contractor is ready to turn, when a structural geologist is needed in the field, when an urgent permit clarification requires direct engagement with the Ministry of Mines and Energy then GeoMine responds with insight and precision, not in months.

Second, *regulatory fluency*. Namibia's mining legislative framework has its own rhythm, its own conventions, and its own relationships. GeoMine's team navigates this environment daily with confidence.

Third, *geological context*. Namibia's basement geology, its complex formation history, and the specific structural controls on mineralisation in each of its ore systems require the kind of contextual understanding that only sustained field experience in-country provides.

Fourth, *managing capital and cost efficiency is critical*. A locally-based team eliminates international travel, per diem, and logistical overhead costs, work visas and lengthy processes that accumulate rapidly when a firm is mobilising from overseas for each field campaign.

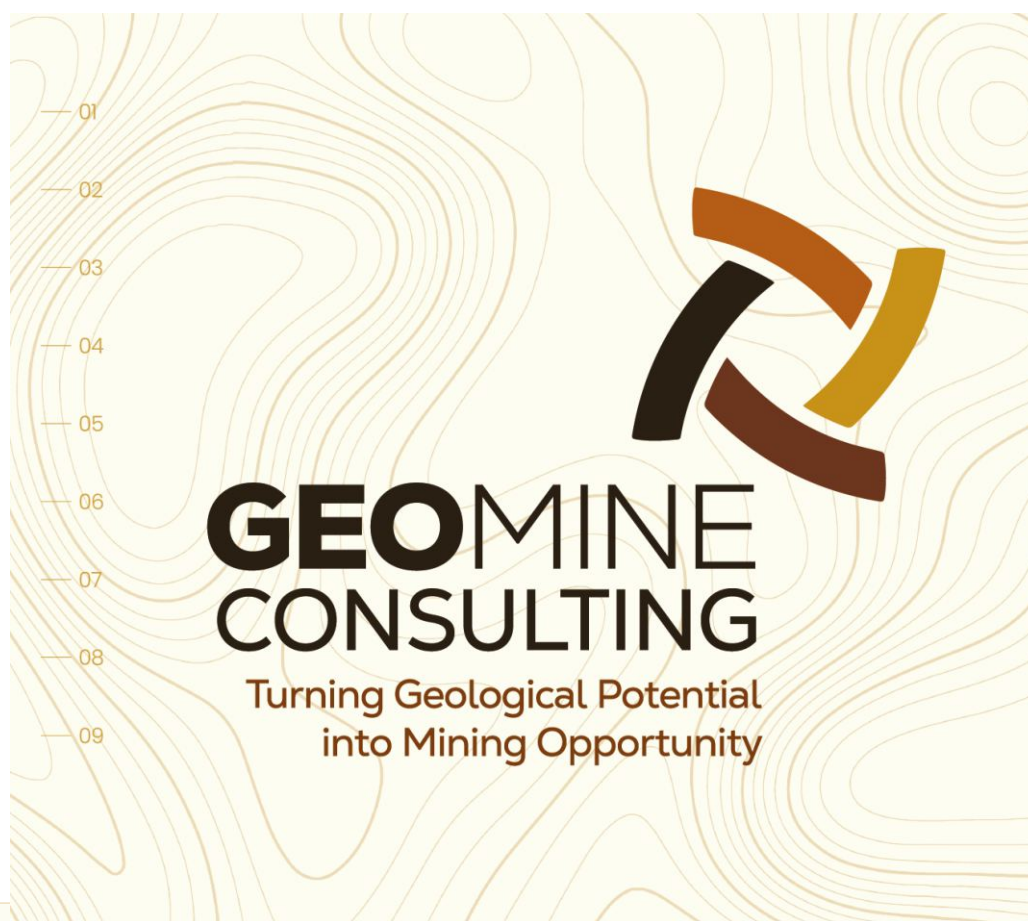
Building Namibia's Mining Future From Within

GeoMine Consulting is built for this moment in Namibia's mineral development story. At a point when global capital is actively seeking exposure to critical minerals that underpin the energy transition, the country's exploration sector seeks to build and strengthen technical advisory capacity and employment opportunities that matches the pace and standard of international investment.

Beyond the commercial logic, GeoMine carries a commitment that shapes everything it does:

investing in and empowering Namibian geoscientists. Building the country's next generation of exploration professionals is not a corporate responsibility footnote — it is the firm's founding purpose, and it is what makes GeoMine's presence in Namibia's mining future something more than commercial.

"Geology creates opportunity," says Kotze. "But people create mines. The right team, with the right local knowledge and the right professional standards, is the difference between a prospect and a project. That is the work we are here to do."



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For Junior Exploration Companies entering Namibia, GeoMine Consulting is Namibia's independent geoscience advisory firm — permanently based, locally owned, and delivering JORC and SAMREC-compliant exploration services at global technical standards. We turn promising ground into credible projects. We know this geology from the inside. And we know what investors, stock exchanges, and development partners need to see before capital follows conviction. Speak to us.



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Port of Walvis Bay **Future Master Plan**

Walvis Bay is set to become a key regional logistics hub, driven by major port expansions and modern infrastructure.

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- ◯ Enhanced railway marshalling yard for improved intermodal links
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- ◯ Green Hydrogen facilities
- ◯ Multipurpose and logistics terminals
- ◯ Dry bulk handling zones

Namport is investing in administrative and digital upgrades to boost efficiency and cement Walvis Bay's role as a strategic trade gateway for Southern Africa, while advancing the Port of Lüderitz master plan to expand capacity and support emerging industries such as oil, gas, and green hydrogen.

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Koryx Copper Appoints Country Manager as Haib Copper Project Advances Toward Pre-Feasibility Study

A century in the waiting, now being developed at pace, with strengthened Namibian leadership on the ground

Windhoek, Namibia: As the Haib Copper Project moves through one of the most active phases in its long history, Koryx Copper (TSX-V:KRY; NSX:KYX) has appointed Lionel Coetzee to the newly created role of Country Manager, strengthening in-country leadership and stakeholder engagement alongside an already accomplished team. The appointment comes as the company advances toward publication of an upsized, de-risked Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS) before the end of 2026.

Haib: A Century in Waiting

The Haib copper-molybdenum-gold deposit, located near Noordoewer in southern Namibia, has attracted the attention of major mining companies for the better part of a century. More than 70,000 metres of historical drilling has been completed at Haib since the 1970s, including significant exploration campaigns and project development studies by Rio Tinto and Teck. Through these efforts, no operator succeeded in developing a strategy to economically extract the copper at an acceptable level of technical risk. The deposit's scale was always clear, but the pathway to a bankable, de-risked project was not.

That changed when Koryx Copper assumed ownership of Haib and began rebuilding confidence in the project through a disciplined technical strategy, resting on three priorities: right sizing the operation by significantly increasing planned annual throughput; reducing metallurgical risk by returning to conventional, well-understood milling and flotation processes; and improving project economics through low-grade processing solutions and the recovery of gold and molybdenum by-products.

A Preliminary Economic Assessment That Illustrates the Opportunity

Koryx published a Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) in September 2025, illustrating the attractiveness of the Haib project and why it matters well beyond its shareholders. Over the life of the mine, Haib is projected to contribute roughly N\$55 billion in fiscal terms (royalties, export levy and tax), alongside a further N\$179 billion in non-fiscal economic contribution through employment and local procurement.

Infrastructure investment of approximately N\$6 billion will be required to support operations, including power, water and rail

upgrades, as well as a housing development intended to anchor the growth of Noordoewer. This infrastructure is being planned and advanced in partnership with national utilities. Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with both NamWater and NamPower, and the infrastructure developed for the project will be handed over to the utilities to operate and maintain, strengthening regional infrastructure well beyond the life of the mine.

The project is expected to require around 5,000 people during construction and 1,350 during operations. Applying the Chamber of Mines of Namibia's estimated multiplier of seven indirect jobs per direct mining job, Haib could ultimately support close to 9,500 new jobs across the Namibian economy. Beyond direct employment, the project has the potential to transform the nearby town of Noordoewer into a sustainable economic hub.

Progressing Toward the Pre-Feasibility Study in Late 2026

Since publishing the PEA, the team has been executing a N\$600 million work program, including a further 55,000 metres of drilling, mineral resource updates, technical studies, and infrastructure development and design.

Koryx has substantially optimised Haib's processing strategy ahead of the PFS driven by the improved mineral resource, an optimised mine plan plus flowsheet enhancements.

"We recently completed an optimised process flow sheet with higher processing plant throughput, the application of Coarse Particle Flotation, a simplification of the flowsheet, and an enhanced mine plan with lower cut-off grades and higher grades earlier," said Heye Daun, Koryx Copper's President and CEO. "We expect our upcoming PFS to demonstrate increased revenue and reduced operating costs and therefore improved project economics, while also reducing technical risk."

"We are also delighted to have been able to attract Lionel Coetzee as our new Country Manager. Lionel is a high-caliber Namibian metallurgical engineer with significant project management experience and joins us from Namdeb, where he spent the last 20 years building and growing his career. Lionel's role will be to consolidate our local management with a view to growing our Namibian team and preparing the project up for the construction phase".

Infrastructure planning and environmental clearances have advanced in step with metallurgical work. Power planning includes a new 220kV grid connection from NamPower's Harib substation, supported by solar power and battery storage, with capacity for future electrified mining equipment. Water supply planning is focused on an Orange River offtake with storage to manage seasonal variability, while a longer-term Neckartal Dam pipeline option remains under review. Environmental and social permitting is progressing in parallel, with baseline studies completed, the Mining Licence application submitted, stakeholder engagement underway, and Environmental Clearance targeted for submission in Q3 2026.

Taken together, this work keeps Koryx on track for its central near-term milestone: publication of a substantially de-risked, upsized PFS before the end of 2026, ahead of financing, permitting and a Definitive Feasibility Study in 2027.

Koryx expects to demonstrate in the PFS that the annual copper production will increase from ~90ktpa to ~120ktpa (Years 1–10), and the life of mine to increase from 23 to 33 years, as compared to the PEA report. This is made possible by increasing the processing throughput from 35 to 40 million tons per annum at the reduced cut-off grade, made possible through the inclusion of Coarse Particle Flotation.

Namibia: A Proven Mining Investment Destination

Haib's progress is underpinned by the strength of the jurisdiction in which it sits. Namibia is one of Africa's most established mining jurisdictions, with more than 120 years of continuous mining history and active mines in diamonds, uranium, gold and copper. It is a stable, transparent and proven place to do business, where large-scale mining projects can move from exploration to development with confidence, and its geological potential remains underexplored relative to other

mining jurisdictions leaving substantial upside for new discoveries and project development. Mining is a cornerstone of the Namibian economy, ranking among the country's largest contributors to GDP, exports and government revenue, and has supported national economic development for decades.

"Namibia is a world-class jurisdiction for a project like this," said Daun, pointing to the country's political stability, mining-friendly regulatory environment and strong existing infrastructure as key advantages. "Combined with a highly capable technical team with deep Namibian roots and a pedigreed, long-life, large-scale asset, we believe Haib is well positioned to become one of the country's next major mining developments."

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Lionel Coetzee, Country Manager, Koryx Copper

Strengthening Namibian Leadership on the Ground

Coetzee's appointment reflects Koryx's recognition that a project of Haib's scale and significance needs dedicated in-country leadership, both to guide stakeholder engagement and to complement the strength already present in the technical team. He took up the newly created role in early April 2026.

Coetzee brings 24 years of mining industry experience, and joined Koryx from Namdeb Diamond Corporation, where he served as Portfolio Manager: Strategic Projects and played a leading role in the 20-year life-of-mine extension announced in 2021.

"I took this role because Haib represents something rare: a world-class asset in the //Kharas Region, where I was born and raised, at exactly the stage where the right leadership on the ground can make the difference between potential and delivery," Coetzee said. "This is also fundamentally about Namibianisation and building local leadership

capacity into a project of national significance from the earliest stages, so that Namibians are shaping this project's future and sharing meaningfully in its success.

"Having spent my career in Namibian mining, I understand both the technical rigour this project demands and the trust that must be built with communities, government and partners for a project like this to succeed. I'm looking forward to helping guide Haib through this next critical phase, and to joining Heye and his technical team, a team with credibility because they have done this before, and one I can learn from as I add to my own skill set."

Coetzee's appointment adds to a leadership team anchored by President and CEO Heye Daun, a Namibian mining engineer and company builder with more than 25 years of experience across mining and public markets. Daun has led three successful company exits to responsible operators, two of them in Namibia: The Otjikoto gold project, built and operated by B2Gold from 2011, and the Twin

Hills gold project, advanced to construction under new ownership in 2024. His career began with a decade at Rio Tinto, AngloGold and Gold Fields, building and operating mines across Africa, before he moved into banking and fund management in South Africa.

"Lionel's appointment reflects exactly the kind of in-country leadership capability we set out to build at Koryx," Daun said. "Combining deep technical grounding with strategic and stakeholder experience at executive level, he strengthens our ability to advance Haib responsibly and in close partnership with Namibia."

Closing

For Namibia's mining industry, Haib is more than a large copper deposit returning to the development pipeline. With an upsized and de-risked PFS targeted for late 2026 and a strengthened local leadership presence, Koryx is positioning Haib not only as its flagship asset, but as one of the country's most significant next-generation mining opportunities.

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Ore in the Ground Is a Resource. Ore Processed Is an Economy.

Every mining conversation in Namibia eventually arrives at the same aspiration: stop exporting rock, start exporting value. It's the right instinct. Ore in the ground is a resource. Ore processed, certified, and sold at a premium is an economy. The distance between those two things is exactly what "delivery" needs to close — and this year's Mining Expo theme, "From Dialogue to Delivery," is really just asking one honest question: how much of that distance have we actually closed?

The answer isn't a single fix. Closing this gap means four things happening roughly at the same time, because each one is currently a bottleneck for the others.

First, the economics of processing have to work before anyone invests in it.

Industrial electricity in Namibia runs 35–40% above the regional average. The corporate tax rate, at 37.5%, is among the highest in Southern Africa, with no structured incentive framework to soften it — compare that to Botswana's 22% or Mauritius's 15%. Nobody builds a smelter or a cutting-and-polishing facility on those terms, no matter how good the geology looks. The fix isn't a blanket subsidy; it's tiering — a lower effective tax rate for qualifying processing investment, and industrial tariffs that make a Namibian facility genuinely competitive with one in Zambia or South Africa. This decision sits above the



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mining sector, in Cabinet, which is exactly why it tends to stall.

Second, the legal and licensing infrastructure has to move out of draft form. Capital is unlikely to flow into a beneficiation hub while the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) regulations, the Minerals Bill, and the ownership frameworks remain unresolved. Investors typically price regulatory uncertainty as risk, and the absence of clear implementation timelines can delay investment decisions. The path forward is relatively straightforward: promulgate the SEZ regulations, get the digital e-licensing and cadastre system live, and clear the backlog of pending approvals on a fixed timeline. None of this requires new money. It requires sequencing and political will to complete what's already been drafted.

Third, traceability and certification need to be built as infrastructure, not treated as paperwork.

This is where the "premium" half of the equation is actually earned. Luxury and technology buyers pay more for provenance because they can prove it, chain of custody, credible due diligence, sometimes digital tracking. Namibia's gemstone sector is currently moving in the opposite direction: raw stone exports have grown faster than processed value, which means stones are leaving the country before anyone captures the certification premium they carry. The concrete answer already exists on paper. Regional lapidary and certification centres in places like Erongo and //Karas, run in partnership with local institutions, backed by a

national quality infrastructure programme so certification happens domestically instead of being outsourced abroad at a steep cost premium. A stamp of certification means little without the domestic capacity to process what's being certified.

Fourth, financing must be directed towards the stages of the value chain that private markets are often unwilling to fund independently. Global mining capital right now is chasing production-stage assets, not exploration or early-stage processing. Namibia can't out-compete that trend, it has to work around it. This requires strengthening development finance mechanisms that support exploration, geological mapping, equipment leasing and the formalisation of small-scale mining activities. It also requires greater use of blended finance structures, combining concessional and commercial capital, to reduce the risks associated with pre-commercial beneficiation projects that are often too early-stage for purely private sector funding. International processing capital pledged toward Namibia is a genuine opportunity, but it's also a caution: processing capital that arrives ahead of the mines meant to feed it risks sitting idle. The ore supply and the processing capacity need to be funded together, not one after the other.

Here's why all four have to move together. A tax incentive is meaningless if the regulation authorising it hasn't been signed. A certification centre creates no premium if the underlying mining licence took eighteen months to clear. Capital won't flow into exploration if the fiscal terms downstream make the eventual processing plant unbankable. This is the real mechanism behind the sentence this piece opened with, it isn't one missing ingredient, it's four half-finished systems that only generate value once they're running in parallel.

The real measure of progress at this Mining Expo is not whether beneficiation is a shared priority. There is already broad consensus on that. The question is whether the enabling pieces are being put in place. Has the tax framework been enacted? Have the SEZ regulations been signed? Has a certification centre broken ground? Has the development fund received its committed capital?

These are not abstract policy debates; they are practical milestones. Ultimately, Namibia's beneficiation ambitions will be judged not by the quality of its plans, but by the speed and consistency of its execution. The goal is straightforward: to replace "in progress" with "done".



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Namibia Oil and Gas Conference 2026 Expands Programme to Drive Inclusive Growth, Local Participation and Industry Collaboration

The 4th edition of the Namibia Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition (NOGC) returns to Windhoek from 18–20 August 2026 with an expanded programme focused on collaboration, local opportunity and Namibia's evolving energy sector.

Hosted by the Economic Association of Namibia (EAN), in partnership with the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) and the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), with strategic partners National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR), SNC Incorporated and Rhino Resources, the conference is officially endorsed by Namibia's Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy.

Under the theme, "From Decision to Dividend: Making Namibia's Oil Work for Namibians", the conference serves as a platform for inclusion, partnership and sustainable economic development.

The 2026 edition features an expanded exhibition and enhanced networking, including a new pre-event golf tournament on 17 August to strengthen collaboration across the sector.

Pre-conference masterclasses and engagement sessions on 18 August will focus on local participation, entrepreneurship and workforce development. Highlights include local content panel discussions and Local Content Pitching Sessions hosted by NIPDB, showcasing innovative Namibian businesses seeking opportunities in the oil and gas value chain.

The pre-conference programme will also include a speed networking session and a dedicated Future Generations session focused on youth skills development and industry engagement.

The main strategic and technical conference programmes, running from 19–20 August, will feature keynote addresses from government, industry and sector leaders, followed by discussions on Namibia's evolving energy landscape.

Day one, themed "Industry in Action: Operators, Independents and Finance", will focus on project development, investment opportunities and upstream collaboration. Day two, "SMEs, Finance, Servicing and Critical Infrastructure to Develop a

Sustainable Energy Mix", will explore local business participation, infrastructure development and long-term energy sustainability.

Alongside the strategic programme, the two-day technical conference will feature presentations on emerging trends, innovation and policy developments. New for 2026, NIPDB-hosted supplier workshops will create opportunities for engagement between operators, suppliers and entrepreneurs.

Speaking at the launch, Jason Kasuto, Chairperson of the EAN and Managing Director of Monasa Advisories and Associates, said: "The conference will once again provide a platform for discussion. Namibia's energy future will be shaped through collaboration between local and international stakeholders, established operators, emerging enterprises, policymakers and communities. Above all, it requires a shared commitment to sustainable, inclusive growth."

"It is my pleasure to officially unveil the theme of the fourth Namibia Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition, which is 'From Decision to Dividend: Making Namibia's Oil Work for Namibians'. This theme reflects a deliberate shift in focus," he noted.

Kasuto further elaborated on the theme and its importance for Namibia's youth. "The conference will be the catalyst for taking real training capacity to where the work is and to the coastal towns. This way our young people are equipped, on their own doorstep, with the technical skills this industry demands, rather than travelling only to the capital or watching the jobs go to others."

He added, "History will ask not how much oil we produced but what we did with it. Did we make this oil work for our people? Together with our operators, training institutions and international partners, we are setting a very bold target. We will not import a workforce, which is very important for the skills it brings, but we will build one here at home. Whether it's in Lüderitz or Walvis Bay, we are going to build it here."

Utaara Hoveka, Communications & Public Relations Specialist at National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR), reflected on the 2025 conference.

"The 2025 Namibia Oil and Gas Conference was held in Windhoek under the theme 'From Exploration to Action: Positioning Namibia as the Next Frontier'. It brought together government, industry and civil society to discuss the next phase of Namibia's petroleum industry. We had 73 exhibition stands and close to 2,000 delegates. The conference also explored how petroleum development can support broader industrial growth, ensuring the benefits of the sector are shared across Namibia."

Cons Karamata, CEO of the EAN, spoke on the importance of the theme. "Its success cannot be measured solely by discoveries, investment announcements or production figures. It will ultimately be measured by its impact on people's lives. It will be measured by opportunities for young Namibians, the growth of local businesses and entrepreneurs, and stronger skills, institutions and communities," he stated.

NOGC 2026 is expected to attract close to 2,000 delegates from government, industry, academia, civil society and the international energy community.

Through its focus on inclusion, workforce development, local procurement and dialogue, NOGC 2026 aims to ensure Namibia's energy growth supports long-term prosperity and sustainable economic transformation.

For further details on the programme or to book a delegate place, visit www.namibiaoilandgasconf.com

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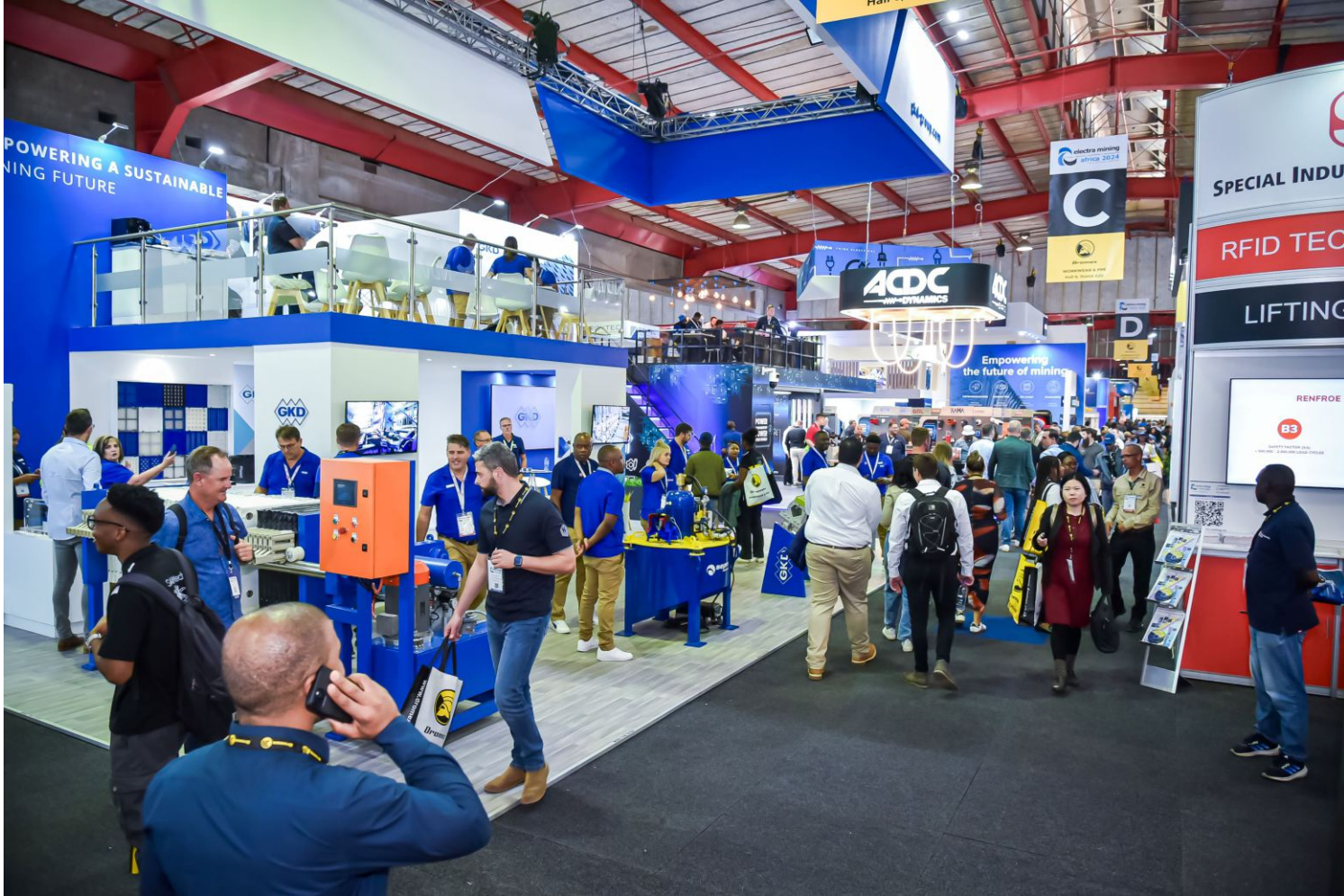
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Local manufacturing showcased at Electra Mining Africa

The South African manufacturing sector currently produces below installed capacity levels, resulting in manufacturing firms not benefiting from economies of scale and competitive advantages that they would enjoy if they were operating at manufacturing capacity. Low demand, stagnant domestic growth, competition from imports and high input costs are all contributing to the strain on the manufacturing sectors growth prospects.

Despite these challenges, local manufacturers possess world-class technical and problem-solving capabilities. The extensive and well-developed human resources and know-how within the industry make it an invaluable key economic enabler of growth and job creation in the country as it supports broad employment and skills development goals. Also, local manufacturing can ramp up capacity whenever strategic opportunities arise,

leading to fast turnaround times and market flexibility.

Local manufacturers will be on the look-out for new business opportunities and strategic industry partnerships at this year's Electra Mining Africa and co-located Local Southern African Manufacturing Expo taking place later this year. The exhibition provides an ideal opportunity for local manufacturing companies to build relationships and source new clients as they look for ways to ramp up manufacturing capacity and increase competitiveness. "Local manufacturing firms will take advantage of the marketing opportunity to generate business leads and develop industry partnerships, which have been shown to boost sales for the 12-18 months following the event," says Charlene Hefer, Portfolio Director at Montgomery Group Africa, organisers of the show.

Local manufacturers represented at the show include suppliers from across the mining, industrial, electrical, power, automation and transportation sectors, including the latest in mine ventilation monitoring solutions and noise reduction technology suppliers. Locally produced consumables and critical spares suppliers showing how local manufacturers can partner with local companies to solve problems and keep production plants running smoothly and efficiently. Local manufacturers delivering practical, performance-driven engineering for metallurgical applications, including slurry control dart valves, high-pressure enclosed pinch valves, dosing systems, distribution boxes and process samplers tailored to metallurgical applications. Together with local water storage solutions suppliers for mining applications that boost productivity and ensure a steady water supply.

Exhibitors will be showcasing all the latest innovations, advances in technology and breakthrough solutions, including the latest local solutions for retrofitting Tier 2 and 3 engines with Diesel Particulate Filter systems which can enable mines to comply with new mine health and safety regulations relating to diesel particulate matter. The locally developed solution helps to improve air quality in worker health, without requiring mines to replace their entire fleet of old engines.

Many South African manufacturers have been able to overcome growth constraints by growing their businesses beyond the country's borders. While the local demand for manufactured goods has been stunted, demand in the rest of Africa for locally manufactured goods has been growing, which is one way that local manufacturers are able to grow their operations. Visitors to Electra Mining Africa 2026 will be able to see many of these locally produced components that are exported all over Africa and the world, including industrial agitator sand gearboxes built for the harsh operating conditions of the local mining industry which are now exported to the UK, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, the US and Chile.

Visitors will also be able to see innovative pumps specifically designed for the agricultural and construction sectors to provide solutions that don't rely on electricity, while reducing cost of ownership to the client.

The exhibition is an opportunity to showcase the excellence and innovation of locally designed and manufactured parts and components for the local and international market. Locally designed and manufactured Neutral Earthing Compensator Resister Transformers (NECRTs) that provide reliable earthfault management for transformers will be on show. These and other locally made components strengthen South African manufacturing capability and ensure critical protection equipment is produced, supported and maintained locally. Also on show will be locally assembled new industrial gear units

designed to improve availability, reduce lead times and support high-torque applications in Africa. The new design will improve serviceability and reduce downtime, expanding the options available to engineers and plant operators seeking robust solutions for conveyors, crushers, mixers and other heavy-duty systems.

"Beyond the exhibition floor, as part of its commitment to delivering high-value, free-to-attend content, the Southern African Institute

of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) will host the Seminar Theatre at Electra Mining Africa," says Hefer. "In addition, the Society for Automation Instrumentation Mechatronics and Computer Engineering (SAIMC) will present valuable industry workshops on the second day of the show."

Electra Mining Africa will take place at Nasrec, Johannesburg between 7-11 September 2026. Visitors can register at www.electramining.co.za



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Engineering the Future: The Growing Role of Women in Industrial Transformation

Traditionally, the engineering industry was characterized by heavy machinery, industrial sites, and physical endurance. Today, it is fundamentally reshaped by artificial intelligence (AI), automation, advanced analytics, and digital technologies that are transforming how industries operate. This shift is creating new pathways for women to enter, grow, and lead in the profession.

According to the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025, technological advancements are expected to create 170 million jobs, equivalent to 14% of today's total employment, and to transform the skills required across existing roles, creating opportunities globally. Engineering sits at the center of this change, with growing demand for professionals who can interpret and optimize data, streamline complex systems, and drive intelligent decision-making.

As these technologies transform how industries operate, the qualities that define engineering excellence are expanding. Technical expertise remains critical, but as engineering challenges become more complex, professionals must continually evolve their skills to remain competitive. Engineers are expected to communicate complex concepts clearly, collaborate across multidisciplinary teams, think strategically, and adapt to rapidly evolving technologies and market demands. Success is increasingly determined not only by an engineer's ability to solve technical problems but also by their ability to align solutions with business objectives, influence decision-making, and drive meaningful outcomes.

Increasingly, engineers are expected to understand how electrical, mechanical, software, and data systems interact to create integrated solutions. A working knowledge of AI and machine learning is becoming increasingly valuable as industries adopt



Zanele Petane

predictive maintenance, optimization, and intelligent automation.

"The most profound shift is the move from 'fix-it-when-it-breaks' to 'predict-before-it-fails'," says **Zanele Petane, Sales Specialist and Electrical Engineer at ABB**. "Engineers are increasingly using data, digital technologies, and predictive analytics to optimize performance and prevent failures before they occur."

At the same time, growing connectivity across operational technology systems is elevating the importance of cybersecurity awareness, while technologies such as digital twins, simulation software, PLCs, and SCADA systems are becoming integrated across modern

engineering environments rather than being treated as specialist tools.

For women, these developments are creating significant opportunities. Emerging fields such as automation, AI, cybersecurity, digitalization, systems integration, and advanced analytics are broadening the scope of engineering careers and creating exciting new avenues for growth.

For Sharon Bam, Mechanical Engineer at ABB, these developments signal an exciting future for the profession. "The engineering profession continues to present limitless opportunities for growth and development. As technology reshapes industries, women have an opportunity to build expertise in emerging

fields that will define the future of engineering," she notes.

While progress has been made, women still account for between 16% - 23% of South Africa's engineering workforce and remain underrepresented in senior leadership positions. As the industry evolves and new career opportunities emerge, there is a significant opportunity to strengthen the pipeline of female engineering talent and support more women in progressing into the leadership roles where they can shape innovation, influence decision-making, and help drive Africa's industrial transformation.

"At ABB, diversity and inclusion are viewed as

essential drivers of innovation and business success. We have set an ambitious goal of achieving 50% representation of women in senior leadership positions because diverse teams bring broader perspectives, stronger decision-making capabilities, and better outcomes for customers and communities alike," says Petane.

The importance of expanding opportunities in engineering extends beyond individual careers and organizations. As countries across Africa strengthen energy security, modernize infrastructure, and accelerate industrial growth, engineering talent will be critical to building resilient economies and sustainable communities. Intelligent engineering solutions

powered by data, automation, and digital technologies will play a central role in shaping the continent's future, creating significant opportunities for the next generation of engineers to drive innovation and progress.

This International Women in Engineering Day, we celebrate the women already shaping Africa's future while inspiring the next generation to imagine themselves at the forefront of engineering's next chapter. Under the theme "Engineering Intelligence", this year's commemoration highlights the growing role women are playing in shaping a profession that is becoming smarter, more connected, and increasingly central to Africa's industrial transformation.

Rare Earth Explorer Launches Massive Namibia Drill Drive with Toyota, Japan Backing

Namibia Critical Metals Inc. has kicked off a major drilling campaign at its flagship Lofdal heavy rare-earth project, a move aimed at significantly expanding the deposit's footprint as global competition for critical minerals intensifies.

The Toronto-venture-listed explorer commenced the campaign on June 3, targeting a first-ever resource estimate for a 1.5-kilometer-long mineralised system known as Area 5. The zone sits strategically between the project's existing Area 4 and Area 2B planned mining pits.

The five-month program will deploy two rigs to drill 83 reverse-circulation holes, totaling roughly 13,000 meters. The project is being developed in partnership with the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) and Toyota Tsusho Corp., the trading arm of the Japanese automotive giant, as Japan moves to secure supply chains for electric vehicles and wind turbines outside of China.

The explorer is also pivoting toward long-term scale, aiming to drill a deep core hole to

test whether the Area 4 deposit extends to a vertical depth of 800 meters, a milestone that could pave the way for a future underground operation.

"We are excited about the potential impact of this drilling campaign of not only expanding resources in our deposits with already existing mine plans but also stepping into potential additional satellite resources at Area 5," Darrin Campbell, president of Namibia Critical Metals, said in a statement.

The upcoming drilling will primarily focus on infill and expansion work to upgrade the project's "measured and indicated" resources, which are higher-confidence regulatory categories required to secure project financing. We will dedicate 5,670 meters of the program to the newly targeted Area 5 system.

The deep-drilling initiative at Area 4 represents the project's highest-upside gamble. If successful, it could drastically alter the economics of the asset by stretching the anticipated life of the mine or allowing for higher processing volumes.



"Testing the extension of the Area 4 deposit to a depth of about 800 meters has the biggest potential impact for further mine life or increased throughput," Campbell said. "Our experts in underground mining design are on standby to potentially guide the project to a significant expansion of the mine."

The announcement follows a high-level site visit to the Lofdal project by senior executives from JOGMEC and Toyota Tsusho. The joint-venture partners held a series of stakeholder and update meetings with local communities and senior Namibian government officials, anchoring the project's regulatory and social standing as operations ramp up.

Navachab Gold Mine Moves Deep as QKR Pushes Past Open Pits in Namibia

QKR Namibia is shifting its strategy at the historic Navachab gold mine, driving underground tunnels beneath its traditional open pits to unlock a deep-seated deposit that was once out of economic reach.

The mining operator is advancing a critical development phase targeting deep mineralization at the site near Karibib, according to a corporate statement. The push underground follows a successful trial mining run and encouraging structural data, signaling that one of Namibia's oldest gold assets is preparing for a significantly extended lifespan.

"QKR Namibia Navachab Gold Mine is currently assessing the potential for a full underground mining operation following a successful trial mining phase conducted a few years ago," said Venancio Guchu, the project's underground mining manager. "The geological continuity and geotechnical evaluations produced encouraging results."

The pivot comes at a critical time for African gold producers, who are increasingly forced to invest in complex underground engineering as easy-to-reach surface reserves deplete. At Navachab, crews are focusing development on the Main Shoot and North Shoot zones, located just north of the active open pits. Because the orebody remains open at depth, further exploratory success could dramatically alter the mine's long-term production profile.

Contractors have already carved out roughly 390 meters along the Main Shoot decline. While crews executed the initial blast for this phase in December 2025, the real test of the deposit's viability will begin later this year when exploration rigs spin up.

"The current phase of development is focused on creating access for exploration drilling and to gather critical geological data required for future mining decisions," Guchu said, adding that specialized exploration drilling is scheduled to commence during the third quarter of 2026.

Mining deeper introduces severe technical pressure, particularly regarding wall stability and seismic risks. To mitigate these hazards, QKR is deploying controlled blasting techniques and automated, continuous rock-mechanics monitoring to protect crews working hundreds of meters below the surface.

"We continue to conduct geotechnical drilling and analysis to ensure that our underground designs remain safe and reliable," Guchu said. "By continuously focusing on safety, we ensure that underground operations are carefully managed and that employees are always protected."

To execute the specialised engineering, QKR partnered with international underground contractor Byrnegut. The expansion has created immediate domestic employment, with the project currently hiring 58 Namibian nationals, including 30 workers sourced directly from the local Karibib community.

Serval Resources Confirms Surface Copper-Silver Potential in Namibia

Serval Resources Plc (AIM:SRVL) has identified widespread copper-silver mineralisation at surface during a geological mapping campaign across two exclusive prospecting licences in Namibia's emerging Kaoko Basin.

The London-listed explorer confirmed Tuesday that the program verified multiple historically logged copper showings in outcrops and uncovered newly exposed surface mineralisation across both exclusive prospecting licences (EPLs). Notably, at EPL 7079, geologists identified a redox boundary setting—a geological environment closely linked to the nearby Okohongo copper-silver

deposit.

The findings underscore the potential of northwestern Namibia, a region increasingly viewed by geologists as the structural extension of the prolific Central African Copper Belt, which hosts some of the world's highest-grade copper deposits across Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Robin Birchall, Chief Executive Officer of Serval Resources, noted that the sheer scale of the company's land package presents a unique operational hurdle that requires a methodical exploration strategy.

"The land package is large, which offers a positive challenge of target generation that will be addressed with a systematic approach to exploration," Birchall said. "Geological mapping is an important component of this, as it can be used to refine geological interpretations and identify priority zones for follow-up geophysical and soil sampling programs, before future drilling to expand the known mineralisation."

Serval's footprint in the Kaoko Basin spans four distinct exploration licences encompassing 788.79 square kilometres.

Management intends to use the newly acquired mapping data to high-grade targets for secondary geophysical surveying and soil geochemical testing ahead of an eventual maiden drilling campaign.

The successful surface campaign marks an early milestone for the independent copper developer as it seeks to position itself at the forefront of African base metal discoveries

amidst tightening global copper supplies. "In terms of the findings of this initial program, it has confirmed the prospectivity of these EPLs and it is of course encouraging to see extensive copper mineralisation at surface," Birchall added.

Namibia Re-Engineers Oil Frontier with 'Digital Twin' Revolution

Namibia is shifting its approach from standard resource extraction to a highly tech-driven methodology as it prepares to enter the global league of major oil producers. With massive offshore discoveries by energy giants like Shell Plc and TotalEnergies SE poised to potentially double the country's gross domestic product by 2040, the state is aggressively integrating automation, artificial intelligence, and next-generation networks across its entire energy value chain.

The digital overhaul spans from deep-water exploration platforms in the Orange Basin to the automated fuel racks of the Walvis Bay distribution terminal. Industry executives and state regulators argue that the transition to automated, remote operations is no longer an optional upgrade, but an absolute operational necessity to make Namibia's upcoming production globally competitive.

"Namibia stands at the threshold of a transformative era," said Helene Vosloo, Executive for Economics and Market Development at the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN). "With major oil and gas discoveries, the country is rapidly emerging as a global energy frontier. Yet, beyond physical resources, it is the power of digitisation that will determine how effectively Namibia harnesses this opportunity."

In the upstream sector, where exploration

costs run into millions of dollars per day, companies are replacing traditional drilling strategies with advanced machine learning algorithms. By combining remote-sensing data with predictive reservoir modeling, operators are identifying deep-water targets with unprecedented precision, cutting down exploration timelines and minimizing expensive dry-hole risks. Farther out at sea, wells are transitioning into "digital oilfields." Utilizing automated geo-steering and measurement-while-drilling technologies, engineers can manipulate drill strings remotely, reducing human exposure to hazardous, deep-ocean environments.

The transformation is equally apparent in the midstream and downstream sectors. At Walvis Bay, software-controlled inventory management systems and Internet of Things (IoT) sensors monitor and coordinate the wholesale movement of fuel imports with minimal manual intervention. State planners are designing future transport links, including subsea pipelines and floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) vessels, to natively embed drone surveillance and satellite-linked pressure sensors capable of detecting structural anomalies before environmental leaks occur.

However, the rapid push for hyper-connectivity comes with significant vulnerabilities. Moving critical infrastructure onto digital networks vastly expands the surface area for cyberattacks,

drawing comparisons to the devastating 2021 ransomware attack on the U.S. Colonial Pipeline. To mitigate these risks, regional regulators are pushing for strict operational firewalls, including mandatory network segmentation and continuous security audits.

"Institutional support is already underway," Vosloo said. "CRAN is playing a key role in developing ICT infrastructure, enabling next-generation networks such as 4G and 5G, and strengthening cybersecurity frameworks. These measures are essential for supporting remote operations and protecting digital systems from emerging threats."

As global markets demand cleaner, tighter margins and more transparent emissions reporting, Namibia's ability to successfully monetize its estimated 11 billion barrels of oil reserves will depend heavily on its digital framework. Regulators maintain that building a sophisticated digital ecosystem from day one will safeguard the country's sovereign assets while driving down structural costs.

"Ultimately, digitisation is not just a technological upgrade but a strategic imperative," Vosloo noted. "As the country prepares to join the ranks of global oil producers, embracing digital innovation will ensure that its resources are managed intelligently, securely, and sustainably."

Shell Hits Most Promising Oil Yet in Namibia

Frontier Rush

33

NEWS

Shell Plc and its partners have discovered high-quality light oil offshore Namibia, marking the most encouraging results yet from a multi-year exploration campaign in one of the world's most closely watched deepwater basins.

The London-based energy giant successfully tapped a lucrative geological zone via the Merlin-1X exploration well in Petroleum Exploration License 0039, according to statements from the joint-venture partners. The discovery yields premium light crude with lower quantities of harder-to-manage associated gas, an outcome that outshines the previous nine wells Shell has drilled within the specific block.

The find injects fresh momentum into Africa's southwest coast, a region rapidly emerging as a world-class hydrocarbon province. The exploration campaign utilized Northern Ocean's Deepsea Mira semi-submersible drilling rig, which spudded the well on April 8. The positive subsurface data has already prompted the operators to consider a broader exploratory appraisal program, including further drilling before the end of the year.

Despite the strong geological signals, Shell is maintaining a conservative, data-heavy approach to the asset before committing to full-scale development. Sub-Saharan African deepwater projects face strict internal competition for capital from major oil companies looking to keep portfolios resilient through the energy transition.

"These are encouraging results that add to our understanding of the Orange Basin potential," Eugene Okpere, Shell's Executive Vice President for Exploration, Strategy and Portfolio, said in a statement. "We are progressing this opportunity through a disciplined, data-led approach to establish commerciality, focusing our investment on options that are material, competitive and

resilient within our portfolio."

Namibia has become a primary target for global exploration as international companies chase massive, untapped deepwater oil plays. State-backed QatarEnergy holds a 45% stake in the PEL 0039 block alongside operator Shell's 45% slice, while Namibia's state-owned oil firm, NAMCOR, retains a 10% carried interest.

The Merlin-1X success adds to a growing string of major offshore finds in the Orange Basin, where rivals TotalEnergies SE and Galp

Energia SGPS SA are also progressing discoveries estimated to hold billions of barrels of oil equivalent.

"These results represent a significant step that further strengthens confidence in the Orange Basin as an emerging world-class hydrocarbon province," said Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs and CEO of QatarEnergy. He noted the find seamlessly aligns with Doha's broader corporate ambition "to expand its international upstream portfolio through high-impact exploration."

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MTC Powers the Future of Mining

Through Intelligent Connectivity

Namibia's mining industry is entering a new era in which productivity, safety, and competitiveness depend on intelligent digital infrastructure. As operations become increasingly connected and data-driven, mining companies need more than reliable networks—they need technology partners that enable smarter, safer and more efficient operations.

Through its strengthened partnership with global technology leader Huawei, MTC is delivering world-class enterprise solutions designed specifically for large-scale industries. These include private LTE networks, machine-to-machine (M2M) connectivity, real-time analytics and communications, cloud services, secure MPLS connectivity, VSAT solutions and remote site support, enabling seamless operations even in the most challenging mining environments.

This capability was recently demonstrated through the successful deployment of four dedicated LTE network sites for Rössing Uranium Limited, significantly improving voice and high-speed data coverage across critical operational areas that previously had limited or no connectivity.

For Rössing Uranium, the private LTE network has become far more than a communications solution—it is a critical enabler of modern mining operations. Speaking at the commissioning, Managing Director Johan Coetzee said:

“Mining is more than heavy machinery. Every truck we dispatch, every drill reading we analyse, and every safety alert depends on reliable communication. Without strong connectivity, we are operating without full visibility.”

MTC Managing Director Dr. Licky Erastus added:

“This project is about enabling safer, smarter and more efficient mining operations. Reliable, high-performance communication empowers teams to make better decisions in real time and operate with greater confidence.”

The Rössing deployment reflects MTC's growing role as a trusted enterprise technology partner. By combining Huawei's global innovation with MTC's local expertise, businesses gain secure, scalable solutions that address today's operational challenges while preparing them for tomorrow.

Whether it's connecting heavy equipment through IoT, enabling real-time operational visibility, or supporting remote mining sites with resilient cloud and communication infrastructure, MTC is helping mining companies unlock greater efficiency, improve safety and accelerate digital transformation.

From mining to every major sector of Namibia's economy, MTC is building the intelligent digital infrastructure that powers the future.



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