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KANSANSHI SET TO CO-HOST GLOBAL MINE RESCUE COMPETITION

Kansanshi Mining Plc has reached an advanced stage of preparedness ahead of the International Mine Rescue Competition (IMRC), positioning itself to successfully co-host the prestigious global event alongside Mopani Copper Mines.

Extensive works have been undertaken at the Kansanshi site to meet international standards, with key facilities and competition areas now nearing completion.

This high level of readiness reflects a strong commitment to safety, operational excellence, and Zambia's growing capacity to host world-class mining events.

Zambia, through the Zambia Chamber of Mines, will host the IMRC for the first time on the African continent, marking a significant milestone for the country's mining industry. The competition will be held at two venues: Kansanshi Mining Plc in Solwezi and the Mopani Central Training Centre in Mufulira.

The event is scheduled to run from 26th April to 5th May 2026. The official opening ceremony will take place at Garden Court in Kitwe, while the closing ceremony will be held in Livingstone on 5th May. Core competition activities are expected to run

from 28th April to 2nd May 2026 across the two host sites.

More than 22 teams from around the world are expected to participate. Zambia will be represented by four teams from Mopani Copper Mines, Konkola Copper Mines (KCM), Lubambe Copper Mine, and NFCA Mining Plc.

Meanwhile, First Quantum Minerals (FQM) Country Manager, Dr. Godwin Beene, has expressed confidence in the level of preparedness following tours of both hosting sites.

Accompanied by a delegation from Mopani Copper Mines, including National Organising Committee member Mr. Maron Chongo, Dr. Beene visited the Kansanshi facility in Solwezi and the Mopani site in Mufulira.

During the visits, he commended the progress made at both locations, noting that the facilities are on track to deliver a successful international competition.

The delegation was taken through the sites by FQM Africa Group Safety Manager, Eric Cousins, who highlighted the key developments undertaken in readiness for the event.



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TRAFO POWERS ZAMBIAN COPPER MINE WITH CUSTOM MINI SUBSTATIONS FOR UNDERGROUND OPERATIONS

Trafo Power Solutions has strengthened its reputation for delivering tailored electrical infrastructure with the supply of 17 custom-designed mini substations to an underground copper mine in Zambia.

The project includes both 800 kVA and 1,000 kVA units, each engineered to meet strict spatial and operational constraints typical of underground mining environments. According to David Claassen, the design process required careful planning to ensure seamless transportation, installation, and reliable performance within confined underground spaces.

Each mini substation integrates medium and low voltage switchgear alongside a transformer, forming a critical component in distributing power to underground mining equipment and infrastructure.

“The first important consideration was the size of the shaft cage used to transport equipment and material underground,” Claassen says. “We understood what the limitations were and carefully designed a solution that would allow easy loading and transportation in the cage to the levels where the units would be deployed.”

Designing compact units, however, introduced challenges around cooling efficiency. Reduced dimensions can restrict airflow, making it more difficult to dissipate heat generated during operation. To address this, Trafo leveraged its extensive experience in transformer design to optimise airflow and maintain performance under specific underground conditions.

“Trafo Power Solutions has many years of experience in technical design, ensuring the optimal performance of enclosed dry-type transformers under a wide range of environmental conditions,” he says. “We were therefore

careful to understand exactly what the ambient conditions would be and then to ensure that the flow of air would match the requirements of the transformers’ particular specifications.”

The engineering approach accounted for transformer energy losses and heat generation, ensuring effective heat extraction under planned operating conditions. From a safety perspective, the use of dry-type transformers is particularly advantageous in underground mining, as they eliminate the risk associated with flammable liquids such as oil.

“The dry-type transformer offers a very robust option for these demanding applications,” Claassen says. “There is no risk of oil leakage as a result of damage, for instance.”

Mobility was another key design consideration. As mining operations progress, equipment must often be relocated to follow the advancing mining face. The compact size of the mini substations allows them to be easily transported on rail cars and repositioned underground as needed.

All units were manufactured in South Africa within a tight production schedule. Factory acceptance testing was successfully completed before shipment, ensuring compliance with project requirements and stakeholder expectations.

In line with its commitment to reliability and long-term support, Trafo Power Solutions will provide ongoing in-country assistance through its local Zambian partner.

“Our local partner in Zambia plays a vital role in supporting our customers there,” Claassen says. “We work closely together in projects like this one, both from a supply and after-sales support perspective.”





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AUROX COMPOSITES AND COMPOUNDS OY APPOINTS SHAWONGA ENTERPRISES LTD. AS DISTRIBUTOR IN ZAMBIA AND THE DRC

AUROX Composites and Compounds Oy announced the appointment of Shawonga Enterprises Ltd. as its official distributor in Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). This marks an important milestone in the expansion of AUROX's global distribution network and strengthens the company's presence in the African market.

Founded over 30 years ago and headquartered in Kitwe, Copperbelt (Zambia), Shawonga Enterprises Ltd. is a leading engineering, electrical, and mechanical supplier to the mining industry. The company has built a strong reputation as a reliable partner, delivering high-quality equipment, technical expertise, and comprehensive service solutions to mining operations across the region.

Shawonga maintains partnerships with globally recognised manufacturers, including BTI Rock Breakers, Astec (Osborn), and other leading equipment providers. The company operates according to ISO standards, ensuring consistent quality across its product range and services. Its experienced, factory-trained technical team provides installation, maintenance, and training, as well as full after-sales support and spare parts supply—critical for maintaining uninterrupted mining operations.

The Copperbelt region of Zambia, along with major mining

projects in the DRC, represents a strategically important market for AUROX. These regions host some of the world's largest copper mining operations, where performance, durability, and reliability of materials are essential.

AUROX epoxy compounds are specifically designed to perform in demanding environments, including hot and harsh climatic conditions typical for Central Africa. Their durability, resistance, and long service life make them an ideal solution for mining and heavy industry applications.

"We are excited to begin our cooperation with Shawonga Enterprises Ltd.," said the AUROX team. "This partnership allows us to better support our customers in Zambia and the DRC and represents an important step in our continued growth across Africa."

AUROX looks forward to a successful collaboration with Shawonga and to further expanding its footprint across the African continent.

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ZAMBIA STARTS BUILDING FIRST REFINERY IN \$1.1 BILLION PROJECT TO REDUCE FUEL IMPORTS

Zambia began construction of a \$1.1 billion oil refinery on Friday, April 10, aiming to meet domestic fuel demand and support industrial development. The refinery will be built in Ndola, a major industrial and mining hub in Copperbelt province near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. It will be developed by the Zambia Petrochemical Energy Company (ZPEC), a joint venture between China's Fujian Xiang Xin Corporation and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC).

Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2028. The building phase is projected to create more than 2,200 jobs, while operations are expected to generate more than 600 direct and over 2,000 indirect jobs once the facility becomes operational.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, Energy Minister Makozo Chikote said the refinery will have a processing capacity of 3 million metric tons per year, or roughly 60,000 barrels per day. He added that it is expected to support key sectors such as mining and other fuel-intensive industries.

This capacity should be sufficient to meet the country's current fuel demand. In a statement after signing the agreement with Fujian Xiang Xin Corporation, the government said the facility could also export part of its output to neighboring countries in the long term.

Chikote said the integrated energy complex will include liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) bottling, bitumen production and lubricant blending, increasing value-added activities and supporting industrial growth. "This transformative project reflects strong investor confidence in the country's business-friendly environment," he said, urging developers to prioritize skills transfer and training for Zambians.

In 2024, Zambia imported \$2.11 billion worth of refined petroleum products, according to the Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC).

Key suppliers included Singapore (\$426 million), Tanzania (\$387 million) and the United Arab Emirates (\$335 million), making fuel imports the country's largest source of foreign exchange outflows.

TOTAL ENERGIES DISCOVERS 100 MILLION BARREL HYDROCARBON RESOURCE AT CONGO'S MOHO LICENSE

TotalEnergies EP Congo, which holds at least 63.5% shares as an operator, has announced a significant hydrocarbon discovery in the Moho license, offshore the Democratic Republic of Congo. This comes after the successful drilling of the MHNM-6 NFW exploration well, which targeted the Moho G structure.

The well encountered a hydrocarbon column of approximately 160 metres within high-quality Albion reservoirs. This marks a substantial addition to the asset's resource base.

The company states that an extensive data acquisition and sampling program has been completed to support detailed subsurface analysis and guide future development plans. Together with the previously identified Moho F structure, the discovery is estimated to hold nearly 100 million barrels of recoverable resources.

Development is expected to proceed through a tie-back to existing Moho production infrastructure, enabling a cost-efficient and accelerated timeline.

"This discovery on the Moho license benefits from its proximity to existing production infrastructure, allowing a short-cycle, cost-effective tie-back development," says Nicola Mavilla, Senior Vice-President Exploration at TotalEnergies.

"By leveraging our technical expertise and existing infrastructure, we are creating the conditions for future value-accretive production for the company."

The find also reinforces TotalEnergies' strategic positioning in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In April 2024, the company signed an agreement with Trident Energy to acquire an additional 10% interest in the Moho license, while divesting its 53.5% stake in the Nkossa and Nsoko II licenses.

This success at Moho comes after the unsuccessful drilling of an exploration well on the Marine XX license in 2024, underscoring the importance of the latest results.

MUMBWA'S NEW MINERAL MARKET CENTRE COMPLETED, SET TO FORMALIZE GOLD TRADE

THE construction of the Mumbwa Mineral Market Centre in Central Province has been completed, with authorities now preparing the facility for official commissioning and operations.

The project, whose construction began last year, is expected to play a key role in formalising gold trade in the district and enhancing benefits for artisanal and small-scale miners.

Minerals Regulation Commission (MRC) Director of Mine Regulation and Standards, Desiderius Chapewa, confirmed the development during an inspection of the facility in Mumbwa district.

Mr Chapewa said the centre is designed to unlock the full potential of the mining sector while ensuring that citizens benefit fairly from mineral resources.

He stated the objective is to provide an organised and regulated marketplace where miners can sell their gold through official channels.

“This integrated approach is expected to promote transparency, accountability, and efficiency in gold trading,” he said.



EPIROC SECURES MAJOR 2026 EQUIPMENT ORDER FROM MOPANI COPPER MINES



Epiroc AB, a leading productivity and sustainability partner for the mining and infrastructure industries, has won a large order for mining equipment from Mopani Copper Mines Plc. The equipment will strengthen productivity and safety at two underground copper mines.

Mopani Copper Mines has ordered a fleet of Epiroc's Minetruck haulers and Scooptram loaders. The machines will be used to boost production capacity at the mining company's Nkana and Mufulira mines, which both were formed almost a century ago.

The order is valued at around USD \$20 million and was booked in the first quarter 2026. Epiroc will also provide service on the machines.

"Epiroc has a long history of delivering equipment and services to Mopani Copper Mines," says Helena Hedblom, Epiroc's President and CEO.

"We look forward to continue supporting Mopani to optimize their operations, this time with our advanced mine trucks and loaders."

The ordered equipment consists of Minetruck MT436 and Minetruck MT42 S haulers as well as Scooptram ST14 S and Scooptram ST1030 loaders.

Delivery of the equipment has just begun and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

UNLOCK KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY: FREE INDUSTRY SEMINARS AT CAMINEX 2026

The Copperbelt Agricultural, Mining and Industrial Networking Expo (CAMINEX) will once again provide a powerful platform for knowledge-sharing and industry growth through its **free-to-attend seminar programme**, running throughout the exhibition from **19th to 21st May 2026**.

The seminars will be **led by industry experts, thought leaders, and experienced professionals** from the mining, agriculture, energy, manufacturing, logistics, and industrial sectors. Designed to inform, inspire, and equip attendees with practical insights, these sessions are open to **anyone willing to attend**, at no cost.

The CAMINEX seminar programme is tailored to address current industry trends, challenges, and innovations shaping Zambia's economic landscape. Participants will gain valuable knowledge on topics such as new technologies, sustainability, skills development, operational efficiency, policy updates, and market opportunities.

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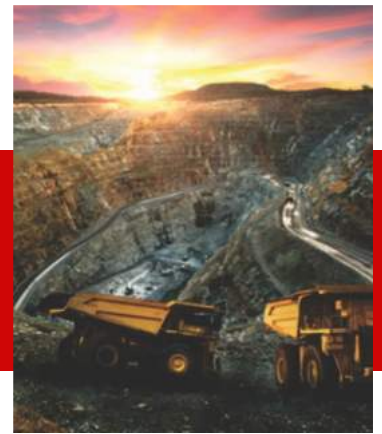
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- Gaining insights that can support business growth, career development, and informed decision-making

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visitors are encouraged to register in advance as official attendees. Visitor registration is quick, free, and ensures you stay updated on seminar schedules, speakers, and key event highlights ahead of the expo taking place from 19th to 21st May.



Whether you are a business owner, professional, student, entrepreneur, policymaker, or industry stakeholder, the CAMINEX seminars offer a unique opportunity to learn, connect, and stay ahead in a rapidly evolving industrial environment.

With seminars running **daily for the full duration of CAMINEX (19th-21st May)**, attendees can conveniently plan their participation while exploring the exhibition floor, engaging exhibitors, and building meaningful partnerships.

CAMINEX continues to reaffirm its commitment to driving industrial development and knowledge exchange in Zambia by making these high-impact seminars accessible to all.

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MANONO, KOBOLD, AND THE NEW GEOPOLITICS OF LITHIUM IN THE DRC

The race for Congo's lithium is no longer just commercial. It is strategic, geopolitical, and increasingly central to the future of critical mineral supply chains. The Democratic Republic of Congo is entering a new phase in the global critical minerals economy.

Long associated with cobalt and copper, the country is now becoming a serious battleground in the race for lithium — one of the most consequential inputs in the energy transition, battery storage, defense technologies, and advanced manufacturing.

Recent developments in Manono and the broader lithium corridor of southeastern DRC make clear that the contest is no longer only about geology. It is about influence, industrial positioning, and control over future supply chains.

KoBold Metals, the U.S.-backed, AI-driven exploration company supported by investors including Bill Gates and Andreessen Horowitz, has launched what it describes as the largest lithium exploration campaign ever undertaken in the DRC.

The company has secured 13 licenses in southeastern Congo and plans to spend roughly \$50 million by the end of the first quarter of 2027 across permit acquisition, exploration, and aerial geological work spanning approximately 30,000 square kilometers.

The scale alone is notable. But the deeper signal is what it reflects: growing American seriousness about upstream resource access in one of the world's most underexplored yet mineral-rich jurisdictions.

That expansion follows the minerals partnership signed between the United States and the DRC — a framework

designed to increase American participation in Congo's strategic mineral sector.

The timing is not incidental. Washington is moving to reduce dependence on Chinese-controlled supply chains, and the DRC has become one of the key theaters where that strategy is now being tested. KoBold's campaign is less an exploration story than an early signal of a broader U.S. push to establish long-term positioning in Congo's mineral landscape before the critical windows close.

At the center of this story sits Manono, one of the world's most significant hard-rock lithium deposits.

Zijin Mining is moving toward commissioning its portion of the project, with projected annual capacity of 130,000 tons of lithium carbonate equivalent at full production — a figure that would rank it among the world's largest lithium operations. The company is investing approximately \$1.4 billion and building supporting infrastructure, including processing capability and an export route through Kalemie on Lake Tanganyika. This is not a speculative position. It is a major industrial commitment.

Manono is also a story of contested ownership and geopolitical pressure. Australia's AVZ Minerals continues to challenge the cancellation of its rights through international arbitration, while KoBold has signaled interest in the project's southern section.

Reports that Trump administration officials encouraged AVZ toward a commercially responsible sale to an American company mark a notable escalation in tone.

The United States appears increasingly willing to intervene directly where strategic mineral assets are at stake — particularly where Chinese influence is

already embedded.

For years, Western engagement in African minerals too often emphasized development language and ESG narratives without matching China's speed, capital deployment, or industrial follow-through. That appears to be changing. The tone now emerging from Washington suggests a more assertive model, one in which diplomacy, security cooperation, and economic access are being explicitly linked. Critical minerals are no longer being handled as a trade category. They are being handled as national security assets.

For the DRC, this creates both opportunity and real responsibility. The country now holds credible geological leverage across cobalt, copper, lithium, and tantalum — a combination few jurisdictions can match. But strategic importance does not automatically translate into durable national value. Converting this moment into long-term economic gain will require more than foreign interest.

It will require disciplined structuring, institutional clarity, and execution frameworks capable of turning mineral endowment into industrial and fiscal outcomes that actually compound.

That is the distinction worth making. The next chapter in Congo's mining story should not be framed solely around who acquires the asset or wins the arbitration.

The more important question is whether these projects can be embedded in systems that generate lasting value: reliable energy, functioning logistics, domestic processing capacity, and bankable operating environments.

Without those conditions, even world-class deposits risk becoming isolated extraction events rather than platforms for industrial transformation.

The Manono case exposes a deeper truth about the global critical minerals race: capital is available, technology is available, and geopolitical interest is clearly rising.

What remains scarce is credible execution in frontier settings. The winners in the DRC will not be defined by headline commitments or loudest narratives. They will be those who can align complex projects to institutional standards, navigate uncertainty with discipline, and convert strategic intent into operational reality.

For Congo, lithium is becoming more than a commodity. It is becoming a test of whether the country can move from geological significance to genuine strategic market power. For the United

States and China, Manono is a window into a competition over who will shape the next generation of critical mineral supply chains. And for investors watching closely, the message is becoming clear: the DRC is no longer peripheral to the future of energy transition materials. It is increasingly central to it.

The global race for lithium is accelerating. In the DRC, the question is no longer whether the world is interested. It is who will structure, secure, and execute the next era of mineral power.

The global race for lithium is accelerating but access alone will not define the winners. In the Democratic Republic of Congo,

the next phase will be determined by who can translate geological advantage into structured, bankable, and operationally resilient systems. Capital is present. Technology is advancing. Geopolitical intent is unmistakable. What remains scarce is the ability to align all three into execution that holds under real conditions.

Manono is not just a project. It is a proving ground.

It will test whether strategic minerals can be converted into durable industrial platforms, whether partnerships can move beyond access into value creation, and whether frontier markets can meet institutional expectations at scale.

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ZAMBIA ON TRACK TO REACH 1 MILLION METRIC TON COPPER TARGET

Government has expressed confidence that Zambia is on course to achieve one million metric tons of copper production following record-breaking output in 2025.

Speaking during the Public Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF) Mining Technical Working Group meeting held at Mulungushi International Conference Centre, Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development Permanent Secretary, Hapenga Kabeta said last year marked a historic milestone for the sector.

“Our production figures for copper reached about 891,000 metric tons by the end of 2025, the highest ever recorded since Zambia’s independence,” Dr Kabeta said.

He noted that the achievement reflects the positive impact of ongoing reforms and strengthened collaboration between government and the private sector.

“We are optimistic that, working together with the private sector, we shall achieve the one million metric tons target, as indications show that we are on course,” he said.

Dr Kabeta further highlighted key legislative reforms undertaken in 2025, including the enactment of the Minerals Regulation Commission Act and the Geological and Minerals Development Act.

“These reforms have strengthened governance in the sector and created a more predictable and transparent operating environment,” he said.

He added that the introduction of local content regulations is expected to increase participation of Zambians in the mining value chain.

“The local content framework ensures that local suppliers and businesses actively benefit from mining activities,” he said.

Meanwhile, Acting Director of Strategic Communication and Partnerships at PPDF, Francesca Phiri said the forum remains committed to facilitating dialogue aimed at addressing challenges in the mining sector.

“The PPDF continues to provide a platform for structured engagement between the government and the private sector to unlock bottlenecks affecting the industry,” Ms Phiri said.

She identified key challenges affecting the sector as regulatory inefficiencies, licensing delays, infrastructure limitations, and limited access to finance.

“These issues are being systematically reviewed and prioritized to ensure timely policy interventions and improved sector performance,” she said.

Ms Phiri added that the forum is working to enhance coordination among stakeholders and support implementation of agreed reforms.

“Our goal is to improve the business environment, enhance transparency, and unlock the full potential of the mining sector as a driver of economic growth and job creation,” she said.

The meeting also emphasised the need for predictable policy reforms and sustained collaboration to maintain the sector’s growth trajectory.



BMG EXPANDS DRIVE SOLUTIONS WITH LOCALLY ASSEMBLED NORD MAXXDRIVE XC GEAR UNITS



Bearing Man Group (BMG) is expanding its industrial drive solutions following the launch of a locally assembled and stocked Nord MAXXDRIVE XC industrial gear units – a development designed to improve availability, reduce lead times and support high-torque applications in Africa.

The MAXXDRIVE XC series forms part of the brand's large industrial gear unit range, engineered by NORD DRIVESYSTEMS for demanding applications where durability, high load capacity and operational reliability are essential.

"To introduce our expanded Nord offering, BMG recently hosted a series of MAXXDRIVE roadshows in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg, providing industry professionals with an opportunity to explore the advanced technology and diverse applications," says Barry Stoltz, BMG's Gears Regional Manager, Electro-Mechanical division. "Our events showcased the capabilities of the MAXXDRIVE range and highlighted the advantages of BMG's local assembly and stock availability."

These industrial gear units are available in both parallel-shaft and right-angle configurations, offering flexibility for a wide range of installations. The design supports very high ratios

and can be combined with other NORD gear technologies to extend capability in heavy-duty drive systems.

This new addition to the gear units features optimised internal geometries and precise shaft alignment, which together contribute to high load-bearing capacity, low operating noise, and reliable lubrication performance in demanding environments.

A key highlight of the design is Nord's modular Unicas housing concept. Unlike traditional split housings, this design ensures accurate alignment and rigidity, which improves gear tooth contact and enhances operational reliability.

Additionally, this configuration simplifies both assembly and maintenance procedures while maintaining precise tolerances across the gear unit.

For customers, this design means improved serviceability and reduced downtime. The assembly process is significantly faster compared to conventional designs, allowing for quicker turnarounds during maintenance or repairs. This system supports continuous production operations in various industries, including mining, cement, materials handling, and processing.

HOW INTEGRATED EMS PLATFORMS ARE REDEFINING RISK MANAGEMENT IN MINING



As mining operations become deeper, more mechanised and increasingly data-driven, the role of technology in safeguarding workers and ensuring regulatory compliance has never been more critical. For proudly South African industrial software leader Adroit Technologies, this shift has driven the evolution of its Environmental Management and Safety (EMS) system into a fully integrated, enterprise-level platform that supports both real-time safety and long-term occupational health.

According to **Hugo Pienaar**, Director of Digital Services at Adroit Technologies, the company's journey in mining safety is rooted in decades of industry transformation.

“We have traditionally played a large role in the mining industry from a SCADA and automation perspective,” he explains. “These systems have always enabled real-time monitoring, particularly around critical safety elements like fire detection.”

From legacy systems to integrated intelligence

South Africa's mining sector has a unique history in safety innovation, particularly in underground environments. Early developments, many pioneered by large mining houses, laid the foundation for modern fire detection and monitoring systems. However, as ownership structures changed and in-house R&D declined, many operations were left with fragmented, unsupported legacy systems.

Adroit identified this gap and worked to bridge it. “We were approached to integrate legacy systems onto a modern platform and make provision for new technologies,” says Pienaar. “What we developed was not just a replacement, but a scalable, standardised EMS solution.”

At the core of this approach is flexibility. The system allows mines to integrate a wide range of sensors and equipment through configurable plug-ins, regardless of manufacturer. “Irrespective of the equipment, we provide a platform that communicates with those devices,” notes Pienaar. “It becomes a standardised layer across very diverse operations.”

Safety as a catalyst for technological advancement

The modernisation of mining safety cannot be separated from regulatory pressure and industry-wide reform. South Africa's push to reduce fatalities, particularly during the early 2000s, was a turning point.

“There was a very distinct drive around mine safety,” Pienaar says. “Fatalities were extremely high at one stage, and that forced a major shift in how safety systems were implemented and monitored.”

Today, that legacy continues, but with new dimensions. While acute risks such as fire and gas detection remain critical, there is growing emphasis on occupational health, environmental exposure, and the integration of digital technologies across the mining value chain.

This shift is also reflected in the rise of Adroit's Smart Mine initiative, where real-time data, automation and connected systems are used to improve both safety and operational efficiency. By integrating EMS capabilities into a broader digital ecosystem, mines can move beyond reactive safety measures towards predictive risk management, enabling faster decision-making and greater visibility across the entire operation..

"The onus has shifted," explains Pienaar. "Operations now need to prove that workers were not exposed to harmful conditions, rather than the other way around. That requires deep, continuous data recording and analysis."

Expanding into occupational health and environmental monitoring

Adroit's EMS platform has evolved to address these emerging requirements. Beyond real-time alerts, it now incorporates advanced reporting and decision-support tools that track long-term exposure to factors such as dust, noise and diesel particulates.

"These are now part of mining licences and social responsibility frameworks," says Pienaar.

"There is no option as mines must monitor and report on these conditions." The system captures and aggregates data from both fixed and portable sensors, enabling comprehensive exposure analysis.

"We are extending the system to record and analyse long-term, time-weighted exposure data," he adds.

"That is essential for compliance and for protecting worker health."

Enabling the future of autonomous and connected mining

As mining operations become more automated, the reliance on digital systems intensifies.

Mechanised and autonomous mining environments introduce new risks but also new opportunities for integrated monitoring.

"In autonomous mining, you are relying on systems 100% as there is no human intervention," says Pienaar.

"That increases the importance of robust detection and monitoring platforms."

At the same time, the rise of industrial IoT is expanding the scope of EMS systems.

"You now have asset tracking, people tracking, and a wide range of connected devices feeding into the system," he says. "It creates a far more comprehensive view of the operation."

Adroit's platform is designed to accommodate this complexity, functioning not only as a safety system but as a broader information management solution.

"It is not just an EMS system but a full enterprise suite," adds Pienaar.

"We can integrate safety data with operational systems, enabling better decision-making across the mine."

Driving standardisation in a fragmented industry

One of the key challenges in mining remains the lack of uniform standards, particularly in emerging areas such as environmental exposure monitoring.

"We have been involved in standards development, including SANS 1515 for underground early warning systems," says Pienaar.

"But in some areas, regulation is still catching up."

In this context, technology providers play an important role in shaping best practice.

"We are effectively helping to establish a standard through the platform itself," he notes.

"It provides consistency across operations, even as ownership and personnel change."

A scalable solution for a changing industry

As the mining sector diversifies, with a growing number of junior and independent operators, accessibility and scalability have become critical. Adroit's EMS system is designed to be equally applicable to large mining houses and smaller operations.

"Our pricing model is consistent, and we don't differentiate based on device type," says Pienaar.

"That makes the system accessible and scalable across the industry."

Importantly, the platform is built to evolve alongside technological advances.

"We do not replace systems; we extend them," says Pienaar.

"Whether it is edge computing, IoT, or future AI capabilities, it is about adding value to what already exists."

Safety, data and the bottom line

While safety remains the primary driver, the business case for advanced EMS systems is equally compelling. Downtime resulting from safety incidents can have severe financial consequences.

"If a safety system fails, operations can be stopped and evacuated," says Pienaar. "In some cases, that can wipe out margins for the year."

By contrast, improved monitoring and early detection not only enhance safety but also support operational continuity and efficiency.

"Data is gold. It drives both safety and performance." Ultimately, the evolution of mining safety is not a one-off transformation but an ongoing process.

"It is a journey. We work with our clients to manage that journey, adapting to new risks, new technologies, and new regulatory requirements," concludes Pienaar.

As the industry continues to modernise, integrated EMS platforms like Adroit's are set to play a central role, ensuring that safety, sustainability and productivity advance together.



FIRST QUANTUM AND HITACHI LAUNCH WORLD'S FIRST BATTERY ELECTRIC MINING TRUCK AT KANSANSHI MINE IN ZAMBIA

First Quantum Minerals (FQM) has partnered with Hitachi Construction Machinery to commission the world's first ultra-large battery electric vehicle (BEV) mining truck at its Kansanshi copper and gold mine. The initiative underscores FQM's commitment to innovation, energy efficiency, reduced reliance on fossil fuels, and lower carbon emissions across its mining operations. The all-electric Hitachi EH4000 truck, which integrates advanced battery technology with trolley-assist systems, was commissioned at the Kansanshi site. This milestone represents a significant step towards decarbonising heavy mining haulage and positions Zambia as a global leader in sustainable mining technology.

Speaking at the commissioning event, Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development Permanent Secretary Dr Hapenga Kabeta, praised the partnership, saying that the launch of the partnership was very important to the development agenda of Zambia, and that the use of clean energy over fossil fuels is the way forward.

"Environmental stewardship is essential if we are to protect the planet from the rising impacts of climate change. Such strategic partnerships represent the future of responsible and sustainable mining. This collaboration is not accidental but is part of the very DNA of First Quantum Minerals.

It ticks all the boxes, caring for the planet, embracing technology, and acting as a good corporate citizen. This environmental stewardship focuses on the three Ps of the bottom line: profit, people, and the planet. First Quantum Minerals employs a high proportion of Zambian citizens, approximately 96 per cent, including in senior management roles. As a government, we are proud of this achievement," he said.

Dr Kabeta further noted that FQM is not only a leader in copper production in Zambia but also a responsible corporate citizen and a pioneer in technology adoption, driven predominantly by Zambian talent, and that the partnership places Zambia on the map as a leading mining destination where cutting-edge technology drives success.

"It demonstrates that such investments are possible in a stable, predictable, and stakeholder-driven business environment," he continued.

Speaking at the same event, First Quantum Minerals Chief Executive Officer Tristan Pascall, highlighted the collaborative effort: "We are standing at an event where Zambia is right at the forefront of renewable energy and low-emissions technology.

"Today is about what can be achieved when a mining company, a technology partner, and government work together to move the industry forward. Innovation is not simple, but it is significant. The battery electric truck we are commissioning today has been years in the making, involving extensive research, development, and close cooperation. Government remains a key partner through ZCCM-IH's shareholding, and we particularly recognise the Mine Safety Department for enabling safe testing of this new

technology.

This is a strong example of an enabling environment that allows industry to invest in innovation for the betterment of society. Through new technology, First Quantum is creating opportunities for our Zambian employees to lead in battery electric and trolley-assist systems — expertise that is currently unique in the world," he explained.

Mr Pascall further said that the fleet electrification has real potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially at a time of global fuel price pressures, and that the innovation makes business sense, leverages Zambia's abundant hydroelectric renewable energy, and reflects First Quantum's culture of continuous improvement, safety, and adaptation.

"Our long-standing partnership with Hitachi dates back to 2012 with the introduction of trolley-enabled systems. Today's success is the result of that shared vision and commitment," he said.

And Ray Kitic, Vice President of Hitachi's Mining Business Unit, said that the success in the programme stems from the infrastructure, scale, and most importantly, the will of the partner to drive change.

"We value the depth of First Quantum Minerals' commitment to decarbonisation, not just for headlines but for real impact on operations, Zambia, and society at large. Zambia's high proportion of hydroelectric power, up to 85 per cent, makes it an ideal location to demonstrate true decarbonisation across Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions.

Our guiding principles for this project have been clear: the solution must be safe, practical, durable, and commercially viable. We are proud of what has been achieved in a short time and excited about the future. First Quantum Minerals has been an outstanding partner, and we look forward to continuing this journey together for the benefit of society," he said.

First Quantum believes the launch of the BEV truck at its Kansanshi demonstrates how strategic partnerships, enabling government policies, and technological innovation can drive sustainable mining while delivering economic and environmental benefits.





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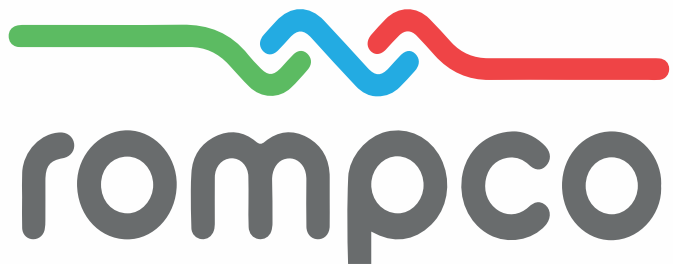


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ELECTRA MINING AFRICA ADDS NEW OUTSIDE EXHIBIT AREA, SHOWCASING TOP OEMS AND LEADING COMPONENT SUPPLIERS

South Africa's mining, power, electrical, automation, industrial, transport, and manufacturing sectors are the engine of the nation's economy. Together, they drive growth, create jobs, and turn raw materials into value-added products that fuel trade and exports.

Electra Mining Africa brings all these industries together in one dynamic trade show, offering a platform for buyers, sellers, and decision-makers to connect, explore innovations, and forge partnerships. With in-person networking and cutting-edge exhibitor content, Electra Mining Africa is where industry collaboration meets business growth.

The biennial show is set to unveil several exciting additions in 2026, among them, a new outside exhibit area located in the Arena at the Expo Centre. According to Montgomery Group Africa portfolio director Charlene Hefer, the introduction of the new Orange Zone comes in direct response to exhibitor demand.

"The new Orange Zone provides the additional space needed to accommodate more companies that want to showcase their equipment and innovations outside," says Hefer. "There will be more original-equipment manufacturers than at previous shows and this level of representation will be of benefit to visitors interested in this particular sector as they are able to view, compare and evaluate the offerings all in one place. The Orange Zone complements the existing Red, Blue, Green, and Yellow Zones, creating an even more dynamic outdoor showcase."

Exhibitors located in the outside exhibit areas will span the full mining and industrial equipment value chain - from global and local OEMs to leading component and service providers. Major OEMs such as South African heavy equipment manufacturer Bell Equipment, global mining and construction machinery OEM

Komatsu, mining equipment and tools OEM Sandvik, drilling, global construction and mining OEM Sany, mining machinery OEM Eickhoff, specialist manufacturer/supplier OEM All Terrain Mining & Tunnelling Machinery, and Shantui (represented by Everstar Industries) will be at the show with complete machinery and technology solutions driving productivity and innovation. Complementing them are distributors, technology partners, and component and service suppliers such as Barloworld Equipment, Egelquip, GHM Machinery, Drilling Mining and Construction, Kappa Engineering, Alpin, and nVolve Solutions, which provide equipment support, automation technologies, parts, systems, and engineering services that enhance OEM performance and operational reliability. Together, this diverse mix ensures a comprehensive showcase of the mining and industrial ecosystem—from original manufacture through to digital integration, distribution, maintenance, and operational excellence.

"The presence of these industry leaders will attract high-level buyers, engineers, and decision-makers seeking reliable, high-performance solutions, while also fostering partnerships, local manufacturing, and skills development," notes Hefer.

Electra Mining Africa 2026 is fully sold out, demonstrating strong industry support for the show and confirming its proven track record as a driver of leads and sales. Various sponsorship options remain available.

Taking place in Nasrec, Johannesburg between 7-11 September 2026, Electra Mining Africa is a 6-in-1 Trade Show, incorporating Electra Mining Africa, Automation Expo, Elenex Africa, PowerEx, Transport Expo and the Local Southern African Manufacturing Expo. It is the largest show of its kind in Southern Africa, and one of the largest mining and industrial shows globally.

"We are really excited about Electra Mining Africa 2026," says Hefer. "Ranked in the top 2% of trade events globally, the 2024 event was the biggest ever show since the inaugural edition in 1972, hosting 950 exhibitors across 6 exhibition halls and 4 outside exhibit areas, with almost 40 000 visitors attending. Now, with the addition of the Orange Zone and other exciting initiatives, Electra Mining Africa 2026 is set to be even bigger! We've already surpassed the 2024 total exhibition floor space!"

For more information, visit www.electramining.co.za



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