Uranium prospects look bright in 2019

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Wesbank Transport Head Office
Tel: +264 (0) 64 216 000
Hanna Mupetami Road, Walvis Bay, Namibia
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**Editor**

editor@namibianminingnews.com

**Editorial Contributor(s)**

Gosego Galetshetse | gosegog@mtimedia.co.za  
BA – Humanities (UB, Botswana)  
BA – Social Sciences (UB, Botswana)

**Graphics and Productions**

Merlin Wilson (Pty) Ltd  
Rekai Musari Mutisi – Layout

**Advertisement Sales**

Nkosana Mkhize: nkosana@namibianminingnews.com  
Eugene Dube: eugene.dube@namibianminingnews.com  
Happiness Mpolu: happinessm@namibianminingnews.com  
Similo Ngwenya: similon@namibianminingnews.com  
Percy Dube: percyd@namibianminingnews.com

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15 Veronica Street  
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**Postal Address:**

P.O Box 136, Windhoek, Namibia

**Tel:** +264 81 265 2004 | **Fax:** +264 81 265 2005 | **Email:** info@mtimedia.co.za | **Website:** www.namibianminingnews.com

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Welcome again to another year that looks fruitful for the country’s mining sector, unless unforeseen challenges dent the ship. Forecast indicate that uranium has potential to prop up the national mining sector, as one of the longest running and largest open pit uranium mines in the world Rössing Uranium Mine has announced positive prospects.

Latest figures from the company indicate that a 17 percent increase was recorded for the 2018 uranium production compared to 2017, as a result of higher milling grades.

The upward production comes amid reports that Rio Tinto is selling its stake in Rössing to the China National Uranium Corporation (CNUC).

Reports of Rio Tinto’s plans to divest from the mine could possible spell a brighter future for the mine, as the management of the mine sounds unfazed but ready to continue the good work of 2018.

Richard Storrie, Rössing Managing Director says despite the sale deal, the top priority for him and the team remains operating a safe and productive mine that continues to meet the needs of our customers.

Storrie’s sentiments indicate that he believes in abilities of his team and is ready to deliver more. Let no divesting plans disturbance his touch!

On the other hand Marenica Energy continues to expand its tenement footprint in uranium.

The company has already applied for five tenement applications, which it believes to be prospective for calcrete-hosted uranium mineralisation.

With such development news, prospects are high that uranium will make a great impact on the economy in the year 2019.

Analyst forecast have also already predicted a positive year for the mining industry, the mining sector is to continue to record positive growth mainly attributed to diamond, copper and uranium production which increased significantly over the past year.

Enjoy the read and remember to send us your enquiries and comments!
Deep Yellow drilling intersect thin uranium

Deep Yellow drilled a total 4,874m and involved 122 RC holes last year Nova Joint Venture project, where Japanese Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) is earning a 39.5 percent interest on expenditure of A$4.5M.

The overall drilling campaign was designed to follow up encouraging drilling results from 2017 at the Namaqua palaeochannel and to test other channels in addition to various basement targets defined by the 2018 airborne spectrometric and magnetic survey.

Four basement targets and six palaeochannels including Namaqua were targeted for this investigation.

Meanwhile results of drilling at Bungarra, Monitor and Berger’s Channels along with basement targets at Cape Flat, Agama and Meerkat Hill recorded little or no mineralisation.

The results where notable uranium mineralisation was encountered are in the Namaqua, Bowsprit and Day Gecko palaeochannel areas as well as the Iguana Basement target.

Desert Lion Energy completes acquisition

Lithium developer Desert Lion Energy has completed acquisition of exclusive prospecting license (EPL) 5718.

The EPL 5718 covers an area of 200km2 and is located immediately adjacent to and south of Desert Lion’s existing EPL 5439 and contains several priority structural targets that are considered to host Lithium – Caesium – Tantalum (LCT) type pegmatites.

As part of the transfer agreement, Desert Lion paid approximately C$130,000 cash and 80,906 common shares of the Company, of which C$30,000 was paid in cash on execution of the transfer agreement.

On the other hand an additional cash payment of approximately C$100,000 was paid upon completion of the transfer to Desert Lion.

Desert Lion is currently in the process of completing the acquisition of an additional EPL EPL 5555 that covers an area of 553 km2.

EPL 5555 is located adjacent to and immediately west of EPL 5439 and is known to contain several LCT type pegmatite occurrences and workings.

In addition, the company has also fulfilled its commitments in connection with the issuance of the phase two mining license - ML204.

Desert Lion Energy is an emerging lithium development company focused on building Namibia’s first large-scale lithium mine.

Geology school move opposed

Government has joined the chorus opposing by the University of Namibia (UNAM) to move the Geology Department to its Southern Campus.

Simeon Negumbo, the Mines Permanent Secretary said moving the school will weaken geoscience education, geoscience research and the geoscience community service.

Negumbo questioned why UNAM is going ahead with the move when most stake holders are opposed to the idea.

Late last year, the Chamber of Mines of Namibia expressed its opposition to plans by the University of Namibia (UNAM) to move its Geology Department from the Windhoek Campus to Keetmanshoop.

Veston Malango, Chamber Chief Executive Officer said UNAM has made a decision to relocate the Geology Department from Windhoek to Keetmanshoop against all expert advice.

According to Malango, the decision to move the department to Keetmanshoop was taken with total disregard of the recommendations of the External Advisory Committee.

Mining continue to spur

Economic analyst at Simonis Storm (SS) have highlighted that looming threats to the mining sector are fuel costs, utility accessibility, and cost challenges moving against the industry.

However the weaker rand is expected to support the mines.

“There have been high expectations for a recovery in commodity prices, which could result into a significant catalyst for economic growth, if it materialises.

We highlight seven key projects and new developments in the mining sector, affirming the positive outlook on the sector,” said the researchers at SS, highlighting that the sector recorded growth of 7.8 percent during the third quarter of 2018.

The growth was recorded despite most sectors being in a depression and struggling, the mining, however, continued to record positive growth mainly attributed to diamond, copper and uranium production which increased significantly.

Mining’s local economy drive continues

Namibia University of Science and Technology has applauded the mining industry’s continued driver as a significant driver of domestic economic growth.

Statistics from Chamber of Mines of Namibia indicate that during the last four years over N$32 billion has been invested in new mines and reinvestments.

“Local procurement promotes local participation in the mainstream economy and advances the socio-economic benefits that are derived from the mining industry,” said Namibia University of Science and Technology (Nust) vice-chancellor, Prof Tjama Tjivikua, during a forum hosted by the institution on ‘Supporting Effective Mining: Local Procurement Strategies and Best Practices in Namibia’.

“Moreover, it can bolster much-needed local employment creation and promote the development of vital skills and actuate technology transfer,” he added.

Operations at Kareevlei temporary suspended

BlueRock Diamonds developers of has temporarily suspended operations at its BlueRock temporarily suspends operations at Kareevlei.

The company does not expect the temporary suspension to impact on its volume guidance for the year.

BlueRock met with the DMR this week to discuss the matter and was amending its code of practice as required.

The Section 54 notice is in relation to the code of practice relating to the operation of trackless mining machines only and was invoked on the mine following an accident at the mine involving an external contractor.

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Uncertainties surrounding Rossing Uranium Mine’s operations have not dented the mine’s production.

Latest figures from the company indicate that a 17 percent increase was recorded for the 2018 uranium production compared to 2017, as a result of higher milling grades.

The upward production is amid reports that Rio Tinto is selling its stake in Rössing to the China National Uranium Corporation (CNUC).

The open-pit mine produced 2479 tonnes for 2018, 369 tonnes more than the 2110 tonnes produced during 2017.

Richard Storrie, Rössing Managing Director recently said the sale process continues and positive discussions have been held with CNUC.

“They have stressed their intention to develop the mine as a sustainable business into the future. However, the top priority for me and the team remains operating a safe and productive mine that continues to meet the needs of our customers,” said Storrie.

However, the Ministry of Mines and Energy said the board of directors or management of Rössing Uranium Limited have not informed authorities about the pending sale.

Simeon Negumbo, permanent secretary revealed that the mines ministry has been inundated with questions over the reported sale of the Rössing Uranium Mine to China National Uranium Corporation Limited.

“The ministry can furthermore not speculate on any conditions that may be imposed on the transaction until it has studied the agreement and subjected it to the relevant laws.

‘Where it is required by law, or within reasonable public interest and expectations to make further announcements, the ministry will endeavour to publish such information accordingly,’ Negumbo stated.

Global mining giant, Rio Tinto, decided some years ago to divest its interest from energy minerals, particularly from the coal and uranium businesses, including the Rössing Uranium Mine, which is the longest running and one of the largest open pit uranium mines in the world. The Namibian government owns 3.42 percent and the other shareholders, Iranian Foreign Investment Company (15.29 percent), Industrial Development Company (IDC) of South Africa (10.22 percent) and the other minority shareholders (2.45 percent) have been aware of Rio Tinto’s intention to sell its 68.62 percent interest in Rössing Uranium Limited, and to exit the business.

State-owned mining company, Epangelo Mining has expressed interest to increase government’s three percent stake in Rössing Uranium. Epangelo made a bid in 2017 to buy a 10 percent stake owned by IDC in Rössing but did not get approval from the Cabinet Committee on Economic/Financial Affairs to pursue this deal.

Epangelo has also admitted that while it does not have financial resources to buy all or some of the Rio Tinto shares in Rossing Uranium, it is capable of mobilising such resources, should an opportunity arise and should the project be profitable.

Rössing, the world’s longest-running open pit uranium mine has been operating since 1976.

Meanwhile, 2018 also ended on a positive note for the mine, with strong safety performance and zero injuries in December.

Storrie applauds Rössing workers and management for their diligence and focus over the past few months, which has led to this excellent operational and safety performance.

Meanwhile Marenica Energy continues to expand its tenement footprint in uranium. It has now applied for five tenement applications in Namibia, which it believes to be prospective for calcrite-hosted uranium mineralisation.

All tenement applications are currently undergoing due process with Namibia’s Ministry of Mines and Energy.

These applications complement Marenica’s namesake project and the recently acquired Mile 72 project in Namibia.

Marenica announced that the company is debt free, having eliminated debt of $1.65 million by the issue of 2.85 million shares to Hanlong Energy at the pre-agreed price of $0.58 per share.

Marenica also placed 3 170 326 shares to raise $317 032.60 in tranche 2 of a capital raising announced in September. In total the placement raised $1 178 000 before costs.
Namdeb’s diamond production increased three per cent to 505,000 carats, driven by the Mafuta crawler vessel at Debsmarine Namibia spending fewer days in port during the last quarter of the year.

According to De Beers’ part shareholders of Namdeb, the production was partly offset by the land operations following the transition of Elizabeth Bay to care and maintenance.

De Beers indicates that its rough diamond production increased 12 per cent to 9.1 million carats, bringing total production for 2018 to 35.3 million carats due to a planned production increase at Orapa2 mine.

However, this was in the lower half of the production guidance range of 35 to 36 million carats.

In Botswana production increased 15 per cent to 6.3 million carats, as Orapa2 production increased 20 per cent to 3.6 million carats, driven by planned favourable grade and higher plant utilisation.

Meanwhile Jwaneng production increased nine per cent following an increase in tonnes treated.

In South Africa, De Beers’ consolidated mines’ production increased seven per cent to 1.2 million carats as a result of planned higher grade ore at Venetia.

The production increased five per cent to 1.0 million carats due to higher grades at Victor as it reaches the end of its life. This was partially offset by planned lower grades at Gahcho Kué.

On rough diamond sales volumes totaled 9.9 million carats (9.2 million carats on a consolidated basis3) from three sales cycles, compared with 8.2 million carats (7.5 million carats on a consolidated basis3) from the same number of sales cycles during the equivalent period in 2017.

De Beers says its full year, rough diamond sales volumes were four per cent lower at 33.7 million carats (31.6 million carats on a consolidated basis) compared with 35.1 million carats (33.1 million carats on a consolidated basis) in 2017.

In 2018 sales volumes were also lower than production, driven by lower demand for lower value rough diamonds in the second half of 2018.
Germany government recently announced funding water treatment plant at the Namibian Institute of Mines and Technology (NIMT).

The waste water treatment plant is inaugurated on one of the campuses of the training school based in Arandis, in the Erongo region.

Official at the Institute said the plant allows the training school to save money in terms of water consumption, some of which is now reused.

The plant comprises of two containerized units installed in Arandis, two others in Keetmanshoop and one in Tsumeb, each unit can produce 20,000 litres of purified waste water per day.

According to Gabi Schneider, the chairman of the school’s board of directors, who trains Namibia’s mining operators, the new sanitation infrastructure will mainly lead to savings on water consumption and reduce the institution’s bills.

More importantly, the waste water treatment plant will facilitate training and “capacity building while promoting local development”.

The waste water treatment plant therefore has a total capacity of 40,000 m³ per day. This water is then reused for grey water, toilet flushing, car washing and gardening. These reuse services will be provided at NIMT’s three campuses.

The new infrastructure is worth $10 million is expected to boost Namibia’s water reuse capacity.

Plant saves NIMT’s money and water
Government recently endorsed shipment of a 22,166.81 carat parcel of gross weight unpolished rough diamonds by Diamond Fields Resources (DFR).

The diamonds recovered from the ML111 licence offshore December and January have been shipped to Europe for independent valuation, processing and final sorting.

Diamond Field says the parcel will be mixed with those previously shipped in December in preparation for sale during February 2019.

In total, the company has exported 47,318.41 carats of diamonds after 65 days of mining between November 10, 2018 and January 13, 2019.

Meanwhile as per the announcement last year, DFR will now commence a review of operational performance during the period with International Mining and Dredging Holdings (Pty) Limited, which operated the campaign via its subsidiary NUTAM Operations (Pty) Ltd.

Information obtained during the period will be used to determine the future mine plan in order to optimize potential returns from the ML111 resource.

The remainder of the initial six months, non-continuous mining program is expected to resume later in 2019.

DFR is an exploration and mine development company with assets in Madagascar and Namibia.

Other developments of DFR include developing the Beravina Project, an advanced high grade hard rock zircon exploration prospect located in the west of Madagascar, approximately 220km east of the port of Maintirano and near a state road.

Local, International Mining and Dredging Holdings (Pty) Limited is undertaking an initial six month non-continuous offshore diamond mining program on DFR’s ML 111 licence area.

The ML 111 concession has a ten year mining licence, effective until 4 December 2025, and lies within Luderitz Bay between Diaz Point in the south and Marshall Rocks in the north and at depths of 15 to 70 metres.
AfriTin has completed its first large-scale blasting of ore at Uis tin mine which marks the first blasting of ore since the mine closed down in 1991.

According to the tin mining company, the blast and first ore at AfriTin’s Uis mine signals the commencement of ore preparation and stockpiling in anticipation of the completion of the Phase 1 pilot plant.

“We are very excited to start stockpiling ore and begin the production activities of Phase 1 in anticipation of the pilot processing plant being completed.

“Our vision of bringing this iconic mine back into production and generating revenues has taken a big step forward today,” said AfriTin Chief Executive Officer, Anthony Viljoen.

The development comes following the start of the civil construction works in June 2018, the company has been preparing and rehabilitating the Uis mine site for the commencement of Phase 1 pilot plant commissioning and production of tin concentrate.

Uis is formerly the world’s largest hard-rock tin mine and the mine’s phase one pilot processing plant is designed to process approximately 500 000 tpa producing approximately 60 t of tin concentrate per month.

The phase two will comprise a planned operation of a 3 Mtpa processing facility, producing approximately 5 000 tpa of tin concentrate.

Previously Uis tin mine operated for over four decades, putting the country on the global stage for tin production and significant economic benefits to the Kunana region.
Namibia Critical Metals has confirmed cobalt and copper mineralization in first two targets at Kunene.

The drill results are reported from two diamond core holes on the Dolomite Ore Formation (DOF) extension target, confirmed the continuation of stratabound Co-Cu mineralization, similar to Celsius Resources’ Opuwo Co-Cu-Zn deposit on to Namibia Critical Metals’ land holdings.

In addition to the Co-Cu horizons, two vanadium-enriched horizons have been intersected within the same stratigraphic sequence.

The results from the first three reverse circulation holes on the Okanihova Central target have confirmed widespread copper mineralization in the sedimentary strata in the hanging wall of the Okanihova lineament.

“Our objective in this first phase of drilling was to test as many accessible priority target areas as rapidly as possible.

“The results from the two holes on the DOF extension have confirmed that the mineralizing system which hosts the Opuwo Co-Cu-Zn deposit extends on to Namibia Critical Metals’ ground,” said Don Burton, President of Namibia Critical Metals.

Burton further said the company has intersected two unexpected vanadium horizons and the DOF extension has been interpreted over a strike length of 20 kilometers.

“The widespread copper and anomalous cobalt mineralization along the Okanihova Lineament are clearly related to a major structural feature which extends for over 15 kilometers and points to a very large mineralizing system which we are now focused on. The cobalt soil anomaly and associated IP targets within the Western Magnetic Anomaly represent a significant developing target over a strike length of seven kilometers,” Burton said.

So far, a total of six diamond drill holes and fifteen reverse circulation holes have been completed on various targets. Results from 17 holes remain pending.

According to the company, the drilling resume again mid-January once all results have been received and evaluated.

The company further said the objective of these first holes on the DOF extension target was to confirm the stratigraphic position of the DOF on a single section on Namibia Critical Metals’ ground.

Vanadium horizons intersected at Kunene
MONTERO MINING has signed a non-binding letter of intent (LOI) with Gravity Worx Mining Solutions to provide technical services for the development of the Uis Lithium Tin tailings project.

The deal includes metallurgical and engineering consulting services at no cost to Montero. However, allow Gravity Worx to develop a non-binding proposal to Montero to supply a metallurgical process plant to process tailings material containing lithium and tin and operational services on a build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) basis.

Gravity Worx is currently finalising a non-compliant Scoping Study on the project.

Dr. Tony Harwood, President and Chief Executive Officer of Montero said the non-binding letter of intent with Gravity Worx is to assist the potential development of the Uis Lithium Tin Tailings project.

Gravity Worx is a specialist engineering company that provides fit for purpose engineering and operational solutions to the minerals sector.

Under the deal Gravity Worx will provide consulting services at no cost to Montero in order to be granted the opportunity to present a non-binding proposal for a Build Own Operate and Transfer solution.

The Uis Lithium Tin Tailings project has a NI43-101 Inferred Mineral Resource of 14.4 million tonnes at 0.37 percent lithium (Li2O) and 17.1 million tonnes at 0.05% tin (SnO2) in coarse and fine tailings material.

“Montero and Gravity Worx are currently evaluating the metallurgy characteristics of the tailings in order to cost and design a lithium and tin process plant,” said Dr Harwood.

The Uis Lithium Tin Tailings Project is located in central Namibia near the town of Uis 220 km north of Walvis Bay, Namibia’s largest commercial deep-water port. The project is in the Erongo Region connected by dirt and asphalt road to the port of Walvis Bay.

The Lithium-Cesium-Tantalum (LCT) pegmatite field that hosts the Uis Tin mine is hosted in metasedimentary units of the Damara Mobile Belt, the northeast-trending branch of the Neo-Proterozoic, Pan African Damara Orogen in Namibia.

The unzoned albite rich pegmatites at the Uis Tin mine belong to a group of highly fractionated, cassiterite and lithium-rich rare metal pegmatites.

The Uis Lithium Tin Tailings project comprises un-weathered surface mine tailings of coarse sand tailings and slimes derived from the Uis Tin mining operation between 1924 and 1990 (Diehl, 1992).
Chinese conglomerate Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group has joined De Beers’ end-to-end diamond industry blockchain traceability platform pilot programme, Tracr.

Chow Tai Fook joins a range of other leading businesses from across the diamond value chain in piloting the next generation asset-tracking platform powered by blockchain and artificial intelligence.

Chow Tai Fook will work with Tracr to support the objective of continuing to enhance consumer assurance over a diamond’s traceability, provenance and authenticity.

According to De Beers, Chow Tai Fook’s participation will further extend the platform’s reach into the Asian diamond sector, in particular in Greater China.

In addition, Chow Tai Fook is expected to help accelerate Tracr’s ability to fulfill its mission of working with the industry to build a digital ledger that spans the entire diamond pipeline, helping to ensure the platform made by the diamond industry meets the needs of all industry participants.

"Chow Tai Fook is one of the world’s leading diamond jewellery retailers, with great experience and expertise in the Asian retail sector.

Chow Tai Fook’s focus on providing their customers with full confidence about their purchases makes them an ideal participant as we continue to develop the Tracr pilot, and we are delighted to welcome them on board," said Bruce Cleaver, Chief Executive of De Beers Group.

Meanwhile Kent Wong, Managing Director, Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group said authenticity, provenance and traceability are increasingly important in the jewellery sector, particularly for consumers who pursue to know the jewellery they purchase supports their values and expectations.

"We are thrilled to join the pilot led by De Beers Group and are committed to continuing to be a leader in uplifting consumer experience and confidence. We believe that our participation in Tracr will help ensure we are at the forefront of this important issue," said Wong.

Tracr is focused on providing consumers with confidence that registered diamonds are natural and conflict-free, improving visibility and trust within the industry and enhancing efficiencies across the diamond value chain. In addition, Tracr will work to complement and support the diamond industry’s existing initiatives and regulations to ensure consumer confidence in diamonds.
ALROSA launches operations in Zimbabwe

ALROSA, the world leader in Russian leading diamond producer ALROSA has announced plans to launch operations in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe’s President Emmerson Mnangagwa said the company will develop new mining operations in the country, with support from his government.

Sergey Ivanov, ALROSA Chief Executive Officer said the company is ready to develop new joint projects for diamond exploration and extraction.

“We also seek to support Zimbabwe in the development of its diamond-mining industry in line with industry’s best practices.

“We are happy to share with our partners a wealth of experience in the field of mineral exploration and diamond mining, including the industry self-regulation and responsible business,” said Ivanov.

The deal comes after negotiations held in 2018 by ALROSA and the leadership of Zimbabwe resulted in a decision to start operations in the country and open ALROSA subsidiary.

ALROSA intends to implement projects for exploration and mining operations with a view to establish joint diamond and other ore mining enterprises.

Within the next month ALROSA’s experts, including geologists and mining engineers will arrive in the country to start the operations.

ALROSA is the world’s leading diamond mining company, accounting for 27% of global rough diamond production in terms of carats.

The company operates 11 kimberlite pipes and 16 alluvial deposits in Yakutia and Arkhangelsk Region of Russia.

ALROSA stones are mined in conflict-free areas and come straight from the producer, ensuring transparent origin.

ZED-D optimum dosage, fluid media monitoring

Instrotech is offering Kobold’s ZED-D electronic dosage devices, ideally suited for dosing and monitoring fluid media.

The device process the signals from separately installed flow sensors and mostly freely-configurable. ZED-D are suitable not only for panel mounting, but also robust aluminium field housing (IP 65) for wall mounting or pipe mounting and for direct fitting on the are available.

For integration into standard industrial automation and monitoring systems, the intelligent electronics have two control inputs, one dosage output, another switch output and one analogue output.

According to the manufacturer the two relays are provided for dosage and monitoring, whether for pump control, flow monitoring or filling and fine dosages, a large variety of possible settings provides the best possible adjustment for the task in hand.

This includes free scaling and a choice of engineering units while a password protects any settings made against operating errors.

Meanwhile a well-arranged, easily readable two-line display indicates the current flow and the dosage quantity, as the devices are operated by using menus and 4 keys, with a start or stop button that can be used to interrupt the dosage process.

KEY FEATURES:

• 2 x 8-digit LC-Display, backlit
• Frequency input: 0.2 - 2000 Hz
• 2 x relay outputs
• Analogue output
• Sensor supply
• Free scaling
• MIN/MAX memory
• Switchboard installation or field casing

WINDHOEK
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Capacitive liquid level monitors on offer

Instrotech is offering Kobold’s NSC capacitive liquid level monitors that offer protection against overfilling of bulk solids.

Monitoring of minimum level is also possible at low levels and with light media with low medium density, the device is specifically designed for application with varying grades of solids, for example cement, sand, flint and animal feed.

The tested measuring system is based on properties of a capacitor. With this device, the level monitor metallic electrode and metallic tank wall assume the tasks of condenser plates, when room between these two plates is filled by medium, voltage potential changes.

Voltage change, very reliably, signals excess and undercut of limit value, the switching point is thus determined by position of the probe head.

Two different device versions enable optimum positioning of the probe head in respective applications. Probe length can be individually chosen corresponding to respective maximum level switching point.

With PTFE-coated rigid probe, the model NSC-R, a maximum of 3000 mm is possible with vertical assembly.

Cable probe NSC-C is installed from the top and with a length of 15 m, and it can also be used for large vessels.

The polypropylene coated cable can be individually shortened to the customers’ required length.

These very rugged and reliable measuring instruments operate without movable parts and are thus almost wear-free. They can be adjusted to the particular measuring task with the pluggable module by DIP switches and potentiometer. Probes are designed so that caking/crustification in the vicinity of tank aperture does not lead to error messages. They are suitable for operation in dust-ex-zones and available with approval according to ATEX II 1/2 D (Exia IIA).

Multi-sided digital manometer on offer

Kobold model MAN-SD intelligent digital manometers that offers reliable pressure for monitoring plant and machinery and has application in the fields of mechanical engineering, environmental technology and hydraulics are now on sale.

The battery-powered devices are fitted with piezo-resistive sensors, resist overloads up to three times nominal loading.

“There is a choice between 24 measuring ranges, which extend from -1 ... 0 up to 0 ... 1600 bar,” said Instrotech the local distributor.

According to the manufacturers, the manometer can be installed in such a way that the easy-to-use four-digit LCD display can be very easily read, as both the process connection and the front cover are rotatable.

Operation of the device is simple and convenient using three function buttons on the film-covered keypad.

“The zero point can be set automatically using the zero function, and a freely-selectable password offers protection against incorrect or unintentional operation.”

Super-DAQ’s accuracy ideal for critical measurements

It also features four modes of operation - scan, monitor, measure and digital multimeter and alarms that indicate when a channel measurement exceeds an assigned high or low limit.

The devices are available with analogue or relay output while a push button and relay, switching point and hysteresis can easily be set using the keypad and the devices can also be provided with a peak value memory.

In addition, this robust pressure measuring device fulfills Protection Class IP 65 and is therefore suitable for use in tough applications.

“All parts which have contact with media are of stainless steel or ceramic.”

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“Growing a dynamic group, safely, committing to innovative productive mining, construction and air solutions through providing excellent service and reliability, focusing on sustainability.”

BMI Group Namibia is a rapid growing Namibian company focused on the Mining and Marine industries. BMI Group Namibia specialize in blast hole drilling services for open cast mines. With focus on BMI Drilling’s portfolio supported by our Industrial and Safety Supplies, BMI is a competitive contractor, offering quality products and services to our clients across Namibia.

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Today, selling under the AAF® and AmericanAirFilter® brand names, AAF clean air products and systems offer the most comprehensive clean air solutions available in the world. AAF products are the industry benchmarks for quality and performance, from simple roughing filters, to air pollution control, to gas containment removal, to the highest efficiency filters used in the most stringent clean environments. With a dedicated Power & Industrial Group, BMI Group can offer dedicated solutions to a wide range of industries. In the mining sector, BMI Group understands the importance of keeping compressors and gas turbines protected. Our years of experience underpin our expertise and our mission is to provide best class products, service and support throughout the life cycle of your asset. AAF maintains operations in 22 counties worldwide and is supported in its international venture through its parent company Daikin, Japan, a diversified international manufacturing company.

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- Environmental systems.
- Gas Turbine & Rotating Machinery Equipment
- Gas Turbine & Rotating Machinery Filters.

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BMI Group offers both sales and services of BOGE premium compressed air systems, including both oil free and oil flooded rotary screw, turbo and piston compressors along with full range of compressed air treatment. With coverage across all major regions within Southern Africa and as one of the world’s most experienced compressed air specialists in design, development, installation and maintenance of quality compressed air system. These systems are relied on by users worldwide.

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- Compressed air treatment, heat recovery, cyclone separators, dryers, absorbers, pre-filter, micro filters and oil-water separators.
- Special gases Nitrogen PSA Generators

With over 100 years of knowledge and experience, BOGE is recognized throughout Europe and particularly in Germany as a quality manufacturer at the top end of the industrial compressor industry. BOGE manufactures a complete range of lubricated and oil free screw and piston compressors from 1 to 480 HP alongside a complimentary range of quality ancillary compressed air products. Compressed air is considered the fourth utility and you can find the BOGE product in most industry sectors, not least, pharmaceutical, food, plastics and steel.

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The 2019 Investing in African Mining Indaba – to be held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from February 4 to 7 – will be the twenty-fifth iteration of the event, and the “world’s largest mining conference” having reached this milestone is testimony to its relevance and value, says Minerals Council South Africa public affairs and transformation senior executive Tebello Chabana.

The event has grown from just under 400 attendees and one South African Parliament representative in 1994 to a platform that typically attracts a minimum of 4,000 people, including heads of State, Ministers and CEOs from the most noteworthy mining and financial firms.

Mining Indaba MD Alex Grose notes that this growth is one of the reasons international trade exhibition organiser ITE Group acquired Mining Indaba in 2018. “They bought us because we’re doing very well. In August, we won the Conference Awards’ ‘Best Large-Scale Event’ category, which encompasses events across any industry or sector in the world.”

In terms of financial impact, Reuters reported in October that the event had generated sales of £7.2-million (R115-million) in the year ended February 2018.

Grose adds that ITE, as a “purely events-driven company”, will invest heavily in the top 20 events in its portfolio to accelerate their growth and, perhaps, create or leverage synergies between events. “ITE also owns Africa Oil Week, which is also hosted in Cape Town . . . there might be potential to do something there,” he comments, noting that both pertain to extractive industries and, therefore, have similar stakeholders in terms of service providers and government departments.

However, Grose states that the acquisition will not have any impact on the Mining Indaba’s scope or content in the immediate future, as ITE believes that it is best not to fiddle with proven success: “It’s the same Indaba with the same core focus of attracting mining investment.”

2019 Themes

Mining Indaba content director Harry Chapman says that the event’s overarching theme is championing Africa’s sustainable economic growth, and that, apart from facilitating minerals investment, other themes pertaining to core factors or trends affecting the industry globally are sustainability, resource nationalism, battery metals, gender diversity, innovation and growth.

He notes that the Indaba’s content derives from feedback and input from all mining stakeholders, including insights from financial institutions, government departments, mining companies, service providers and investors. This data is used to determine the major
themes for the event in any given year.

“There has been a lot of excitement around battery metals . . . and about the potential use of cobalt, nickel and copper in the electric vehicle space. [Thus], we will have a full day dedicated to battery metals.”

He adds that the Indaba puts a lot of emphasis on providing an African context: “We are an African event – proudly so.”

While the Indaba draws on global trends, the discussions and presentations are structured to always contextualise content for the African environment “to try to explain what a trend means for and within Africa”, says Chapman.

Grose also notes that the organisers try to find unexpected and unconventional voices to speak on developments in the mining industry. Using lithium as an example, he notes that, instead of just having a mining company giving a presentation on best practice, or analysts presenting on supply and demand factors, the Indaba has brought in car manufacturers to outline their plans and what they expect in terms of supply from the mining sector.

With regard to resource nationalism, Grose notes that, given the primary goal of attracting investment, it is important to inform all stakeholders of the trends in mining policy: “It’s important to know what government strategy is, what the regulation is, who the Ministers are and what their goals are”.

He adds that the Mining Indaba’s ability to disseminate policy and project information to a wide and appropriate audience is why governments want to work with the Indaba and be part of it. “We provide a platform that enables them to demonstrate to the world that they are open for business, have workable policies and are a good place to invest. We had 34 Ministers attending last year. I can’t think of many events with that level of international government representation.”

The Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) confirms this, noting that it is “imperative” that it is represented at prominent mining conferences to assure investors of the State’s stability and regulatory certainty, as well as promote new investment opportunities that the country has to offer.

Chabana adds that the Minerals Council supports the event’s initiative to increase the participation of women and showcase women leaders, reiterating the Minerals Council’s stance that “transformation only truly happens if we plan for it”. In light of its support for the initiative and its in-house values and ideals, Minerals Council CEO Roger Baxter will share the stage with Minerals Council board member Deshree Naidoo.

The 2019 event will continue its focus on innovation, having introduced the Mining 2050 programme last year. Chapman comments that this year’s programme will delve into topics such as the future of work, the digital mine, automation and sustainable project management.

“Mining Indaba provides a neutral platform from which to debate the big issues – with a specific focus on bringing investment into Africa. Some of the discussions take place on stage, but many take place behind closed doors – at the Minsterial Symposium, for example,” he points out, adding that this is just one of many reasons why the Minerals Council has long-standing ties to the event.

The extent to which people care about the Indaba stood out for Grose when he became MD in 2016. “Even the people who wanted changes cared about its success . . . I think it’s because a successful Indaba has positive connotations for the industry.”

Chapman notes that it is appropriate to reflect on the impact of mining on the continent over the past two decades during the event’s silver anniversary, and topics to drive this reflection have been “scattered” throughout the agenda.

The DMR asserts that mining’s contribution to the African economy “remains massive” in various economic sectors and there are important multiplier effects associated with its growth and, as “the sector remains the largest contributor to the gross domestic product (GDP) of various African countries”, its contribution to the continent’s GDP, estimated at $2.7-trillion, cannot be underestimated.

“For many African countries, mineral exploration and production constitute significant parts of their economies and remain key to economic growth. Mining has attracted vast quantities of foreign capital, and necessitated the establishment of stock markets, universities and other modern institutions.”

The DMR adds that the royalties and income taxes generated by the industry have been used for socioeconomic projects on the continent, and that the industry has helped shape labour markets, drawing swathes of Africans from subsistence economies into paid employment.

In as much as the Mining Indaba has facilitated the growth and successes of the African mining sector, it has also facilitated the growth of the continent. However, Chapman notes that the Indaba would like to have an even more tangible impact; hence, the introduction of the Leaders of Tomorrow Competition as way of demonstrating the organisers’ support for and belief in the African youth.

The competition is open to everyone under the age of 35 whose innovative project or thesis will further the fields of mining safety, mineral recovery, strategy, exploration or resource management. Chapman notes that the winner will have access to mentoring, enjoy free accommodation at Mining Indaba 2020 and gain sufficient media coverage and industry recognition to catapult his or her career.

During its twenty-five years, the Mining Indaba has had some challenges – such as almost relocating to Durban and moving away from its investment focus and losing swathes of its recognition to catapult his or her career.

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During its twenty-five years, the Mining Indaba has had some challenges – such as almost relocating to Durban and moving away from its investment focus and losing swathes of its audience as a result – however, its ability to self-correct and adapt to the needs of the African mining sector speaks to the commitment of every stakeholder to ensure that the Indaba remains the pre-eminent mining event for years to come.

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Namibian Mining Review | January - March 2019
Equipment sales remain under pressure

“For us the demand is there, but finance is not readily available.”

Plant equipment sales remained largely unchanged recording a decline of just 21 units over last year’s figure of 1455 machines sold during the third quarter of 2018.

Lawrence Peters, Construction and Mining Equipment Suppliers Association (CONMESA) chairman said there is little growth and the industry needs stimulus.

Despite the flatline trend of the last few years, he says the industry is still buoyant and working hard to support the construction and mining industries which it serves.

“The economy is battling, and consumers are hard-pressed to continue selling at a sustainable pace.

Throughout the market we are finding that it is an ‘up-and-down affair’ with localised growth and sectors within each industry that are doing better or worse than others,” said Peters cited that it’s a tough year ahead, similarly flat with a possible upturn later in the year.

“Considering the industry does not respond immediately to market conditions due to long planning and tendering processes any upturn will only be felt towards the end of the year.

Added to this, weakening and fluctuating exchange rates are making pricing difficult and makes competitiveness in terms of pricing difficult to predict,” said Peters.

Along with other executive members of the association, who are elected from member companies within the association, Peters represents ELB Equipment, which has exposure in nearly all sectors of the mining and construction industries and has experienced similar ups-and-downs.

Overall however, the company has seen an improvement in sales in the mining sector while construction industry sales have trended slightly downwards.

Dale Oldridge, representing Bell Equipment, says overall the company has experienced steady sales with a slight drop-off in some sectors which has been buoyed by better-than-expected sales in the mining sector.

“We are not sure what next year has lined-up for the industry and are taking a conservative approach. As a result, we are quite risk averse and we not sitting on massive stock of equipment.”

Jacqueline Aitken, representing Bobcat South Africa, says the company is still doing well in the skidsteer range although there has been a decline in cash deals.

Simultaneously, finance for equipment over R800 000 is becoming more difficult and although the company has a healthy order book, it is subject to obtaining finance.

As a result, she says the company has to deal with more finance institutions to ensure customers have a fair chance of obtaining credit based on their financial record with their own banks.

“For us the demand is there, but finance is not readily available.”

Calvin Fennell, representing Wirtgen South Africa, says sales have been slightly better than last year. With its focus almost exclusively on road technology and compaction, sales have been constrained due to fewer road building projects taking place, but steady.

“With no big projects on the cards we predict next year will be similarly tough. Also, smaller construction firms are coming to the fore and which means that their capacity to finance equipment is based on existing contracts constrained which means their capacity to finance equipment for big projects is mostly constrained.

This will be a challenge to overcome in the future,” he said.
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