

# MINING DEVELOPMENTS

October/November 2024 Issue

## MAGAZINE

# October/November 2024 Issue

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# Cost-effective machine health monitoring with the SKF QuickCollect sensor – it's that simple



Data gathered by SKF QuickCollect can be pushed to the SKF Cloud for by SKF diagnostic experts

The easy-to-use SKF QuickCollect Bluetooth-enabled, handheld sensor monitors the health of rotating machinery via mobile iOS and Android apps, identifies developing issues and mitigates potential failures by enabling customers to initiate predictive maintenance. The SKF QuickCollect sensor is ideal for service, reliability, operations, and maintenance personnel as part of a walk-around data collection program.

The SKF QuickCollect sensor monitors vibration and temperature which is then combined to provide valuable overall data that users can view on the spot in real-time via the SKF QuickCollect or SKF ProCollect app on a mobile device such as a tablet or smart phone. The data, consisting of predefined 3-in-1 overall measurements that include velocity, enveloped acceleration and temperature, can be shared company-wide and pushed to the Cloud for future analysis.

"Users can also choose to connect with SKF's remote diagnostic centres via the SKF Enlight ProCollect app," says SKF Connected Technologies Manager, John Storm. He

explains that this software solution connects directly to SKF remote diagnostic services, giving users access to SKF Cloud and remote SKF diagnostic experts who can provide analysis and advice. The SKF Enlight ProCollect app adds customisability and synchronisation with the SKF Enlight Centre where long-term data can be analysed.

"SKF QuickCollect's ease-of-use adds exceptional value," notes Storm. He points out that essentially anyone can use SKF QuickCollect as extensive training and diagnostic expertise are not required. "Owing to the system's intuitive user interface, it's quick and easy to get started and can be employed in no time, offering a clear and detailed overview of machine health from day one." The system uses a rechargeable lithium battery that lasts a full working day under normal usage conditions, ensuring uninterrupted, seamless machine health monitoring.

SKF QuickCollect is flexible and scalable; users can expand functionality via the SKF QuickCollect or SKF ProCollect apps to grow and complement their existing maintenance

program. Both apps are easy to navigate on a smart device and provide colour-coded live readings, asset management and access to historical data. Each reading displays an overall measurement, including alarm status, minimum and maximum values as well as alert and danger thresholds.

The SKF QuickCollect sensor's rugged water- and dust-resistant (IP65) design ensures reliable performance in tough industrial environments. Cinching a 2m drop test, the SKF QuickCollect CMDT 391-EX is approved for use in ATEX, IECEx and NEC hazardous-rated environments.



Data gathered by SKF QuickCollect can be pushed to the SKF Cloud for analysis by SKF diagnostic experts



# Integrated Air Solutions showcases quality compressed air equipment, cutting-edge technologies and service solutions at Electra Mining Africa 2024

Integrated Air Solutions, exclusive regional sales and service partner for top tier compressed air equipment from key manufacturers such as ELGI, FS-Elliott and ABC Compressors, will debut a new cost-effective, economy range of air compressors alongside its acclaimed premium brand machines at this year's Electra Mining Africa.

Integrated Air Solutions will again be located at NASREC's outside water complex (Stand P15), sharing 250sqm with sister companies Integrated Fire Technology and Integrated Pump Technology who also fall under the GIGI Group umbrella.

“Hosted from 2nd to 6th September, the biennial mining exhibition presents us with the perfect platform to introduce the new ELGi EQ compressor range to the local market,” says Wayne Jacobs, Managing Director of Integrated Air Solutions. “We are extremely excited about the newly released EQ Rotary Air Screw compressor range which slots in seamlessly between ELGi's belt driven EN units and the more efficient direct drive EG machines, enabling us to essentially meet the full spectrum of industrial air demands. The EQ sells at the price point of some belt driven units, while offering the efficiency improvement of a direct drive configuration, coupled with the possibility of an integrated Variable Speed Drive (VSD).”

The AB Series Oil Free Rotary Screw Air Compressor, complete with integrated VSD for optimised energy consumption, will be on display adjacent to high pressure portable units. With flow rates of up to 1500 CFM and a maximum discharge pressure of 28 bar, these mobile machines cater mainly to the water well drilling market.

“Medium pressure trolley-mounted portable compressors for flow rates between 185 and 850 CFM, for applications including sand-blasting, shot-creting, construction and demolition tasks, round off our quality air solutions exhibit,” says Wayne.

While cutting-edge designs that promote rugged reliability and easy maintenance form the DNA of Integrated Air Solution's complete compressed air portfolio, the major ongoing focus is on scaling up energy/fuel efficiency. “Our compressed air solutions add true value for customers in terms of lowest total cost of operation and ownership,” states Wayne.

Integrated Air Solutions forges long-term customer partnerships and machine supply marks only the first step in the compressed air journey. “We dial into our customers' specific needs, offering an after-market service that mirrors the superior quality of our products,” asserts Wayne. “Aligning with this strategy,

we provide industry-leading warranty cover on our ELGi air compressors.” He explains that while standard warranty conditions apply i.e. adherence to service intervals, using only genuine parts and qualified technicians as stipulated by the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer), customers are not expected to sign Service Level Agreements to be able to claim on warranties. “This flags our confidence in the performance and reliability of our machines. Our aftermarket team will be on hand during the exhibition to advise customers on spare parts, services, overhauls and our tailor-made Service Level Agreements.”

Integrated Air Solutions' knowledgeable team of specialists will also be on standby during the exhibition, ready to share with customers the benefits of installing inline air treatment equipment, such as dryers and filters, on their processes. “Customers who are not ready or who do not wish to make a capital investment, can discuss their short-, medium- or long-term air requirements with our Rental team.”

“We look forward to welcoming Electra Mining Africa visitors to our stand and to showcase our full basket of superior quality air solutions that position us as a single-source, end-to-end compressed air solutions provider,” concludes Wayne.



The newly released ELGi EQ Rotary Air Screw compressor from Integrated Air Solutions



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<b>Till Midnight</b>	50min @51/=	
1.25gb @55/=	20min @20/=	<b>Monthly Validity</b>
	150kredo @50/=	1500sms @100/=
<b>Weekly Validity</b>	50kredo @20/=	3500sms @200/=
8.25gb @385/=		
2.5gb @300/=	<b>Weekly Validity</b>	
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# Atlas Copco's compressed air solutions for efficient pneumatic conveying

A rapidly growing global population is driving the endless need for goods hence there is an ever-growing demand for the movement of bulk materials. “Moving goods through pipes from one point to another using air i.e. pneumatic conveying, is an extremely efficient method of transporting a great variety of products, provided that the right system is used and that it's done correctly,” states JC Lombard, Atlas Copco Compressor Technique Business Line Manager, Oil-free Air Division.

Air can be used to move materials ranging from powders, sand and grains to pellets, plastics and fly ash. Given the tremendous versatility and efficiency of pneumatic conveying, combined with the process's ability to move vast types of different materials, it's easily one of the most widely used forms of materials handling. Unsurprisingly pneumatic conveying is favoured by a great many diverse industries such as food & beverage, pharmaceuticals, mining, and even waste water treatment. Atlas Copco Compressor Technique offers a broad range of pneumatic conveying solutions that include air compressors, air blowers (screw, lobe, centrifugal and turbo) and ancillary products to meet the bespoke needs of these industries.

“Due to the wide range of materials that can be transported via pneumatic conveying, a one-size-fits-all solution is simply not possible,” continues Lombard. “While some materials can be moved more quickly and in greater volumes, other more fragile materials require careful transportation to avoid damage. Conveying of powdery substances for example, can create dust and some substances can potentially be explosive.”

To meet the varying requirements of the materials, there are different pneumatic conveying methods i.e. Dilute phase, Dense phase and Transient phase. Lombard says that it's therefore imperative to know the properties and requirements of the material that will be conveyed in order to be able to select the most appropriate conveying system that will guarantee optimum performance and product quality, and mitigate the risk of potential blockages and combustion. Dilute phase uses a blower or low-pressure compressor to send material through the pipeline in a high-velocity stream, as though the material is floating, without material accumulation at the bottom of the pipe. As this process moves material at high speed, it is ideal for transporting any form of granular materials. Dense phase conveying operates at a slower velocity, ensuring gentle handling

over longer distances. This method is suitable for more fragile materials like powdered ceramics. The transient phase, which is the stage in-between the Dilute and Dense phases, sends some of the material 'flying' through the pipeline while some of it is moved along the sides. Atlas Copco also offers pressure and vacuum conveying systems. “Pressure conveying is ideal for effectively 'pushing' bulk materials over long distances and is used in cement production for instance to move cement from the silo through a pipeline for processing,” explains Lombard. “In contrast, vacuum conveying, also known as negative conveying, uses air suction to draw materials through a pipeline, reducing contamination risks. This method is favoured by pharmaceutical manufacturers for transporting sensitive powders through a sealed system, ensuring product purity and product safety.” The versatility of Atlas Copco's low-pressure blowers makes these machines suitable for highly regulated industries like food & beverage and pharmaceutical where product purity is non-negotiable. These machines are also ideal for multi-applications typically found in the cement industry that relies on efficient pneumatic conveying for various stages of production, from conveying materials at the start of the production process, to bagging the final product. The mining industry uses low-pressure technologies during heap leaching; low pressure air is blown through the leaching pad to enhance the scientific chemical process of dissolving minerals from the ore, leading to

extraction efficiency. Low-pressure systems are also key to effective wastewater treatment, supporting the aeration, sedimentation, and filtration processes necessary for coping with high the volumes of contaminated water produced by mining operations. Lombard points out that the continuous and effective operation of these low-pressure technologies will lead to compliance with environmental regulations and minimise the negative impacts of mining on ecosystems. Choosing the right pneumatic conveyance system is critical as it will contribute to cutting down costs through reduced energy expenses and unloading durations as well as the prevention of blockages with associated downtime, unproductivity and even potential product damage.

Lombard notes however that calculating the optimal size of the compressor or blower for a particular pneumatic conveying application requires experience, expert skills and specialised software. “We are able to assist our customers in overcoming these challenges. Following a site inspection by Compressor Technique's team of specialists, we are able to recommend the best, most efficient pneumatic conveying solution for each application ensuring uninterrupted, efficient operations and product integrity for ultimate sustainable business success,” concludes Lombard.



Atlas Copco compressed air solutions for efficient pneumatic conveying

# i-80 Gold shares jump on high-grade results from underground drilling at Cove

i-80 Gold Corp. (TSX: IAU, NYSE: IAUX) shares jumped on Monday after the company announced high-grade results from its underground drilling program at its 100%-owned McCoy-Cove Property in Lander County, Nevada.

The new results from the Helen and CSD Gap Zones complement previously released intercepts from the 2023 program, which returned up to 22.6 g/t Au over 19.1 m in hole iCHU23-37, 32.9 g/t Au over 14.9 m in hole iCHU23-38, and 23.5 g/t Au over 12.8 m in hole iCHU23-39.

New results from drilling at Cove include:

- iCHU24-01: 48.3 g/t Au over 3.0 m (Lower Helen Zone) and 15.8 g/t Au over 15.8 m (Lower Helen Zone)
- iCHU24-04: 14.3 g/t Au over 13.5 m (Lower Helen Zone)
- iCHU24-08: 15.1 g/t Au over 7.4 m (Lower Helen Zone) and 22.6 g/t Au over 7.1 m (Lower Helen Zone)
- iCHU24-12: 7.8 g/t Au over 28.7 m (Lower Helen Zone)
- iCHU24-14: 13.7 g/t Au over 7.2 m (Lower Helen Zone) and 10.4 g/t Au over 38.8 m (Lower Helen Zone) and 11.0 g/t Au over 20.6 m (Lower Helen Zone)

Shares of i-80 surged 13% by 10:51 a.m. EDT, bringing the company's market capitalization to C\$458 million (\$333 million).

“Definition drilling continues to return high-grade mineralization over impressive widths, making Cove an anchor project in the company's future growth plans,” said Ewan Downie, CEO of i-80 Gold.

The McCoy-Cove project, located on the Battle Mountain trend, has historically produced about 3.3 million ounces of gold and over 100 million ounces of silver. The property hosts one of the highest-grade gold-silver deposits in Nevada.



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# Gold Fields buys Osisko in \$1.6 billion cash deal

South Africa’s Gold Fields (JSE, NYSE: GFI) is buying Canada’s Osisko Mining (TSX: OSK) in a deal valued at C\$2.16 billion (\$1.6 billion) as record-breaking prices for the precious metal fuels mergers, acquisitions and expansions.

The takeover, which grants the Johannesburg-based gold miner full ownership of the Windfall project in Canada, is its latest move to diversify beyond the home country. These efforts include an unsuccessful attempt to acquire another Canadian gold miner, Yamana Gold, two years ago.

Gold Fields will pay C\$4.90 per share, a 55% premium to Osisko’s Aug. 9 trading price, it said in a statement. The deal will help the South African producer expand its presence in the Americas region, where it already has mines in Chile and Peru. The deal makes Gold Fields the sole owner of the Windfall project in Quebec, which it has been developing in a 50/50 joint venture with Osisko.

“Over the past two years, beginning with our initial due diligence in 2022 and throughout our joint ownership of the project since May 2023, we have developed a strong understanding of Windfall and its potential, and view it as the next long-life cornerstone asset in our portfolio,” chief executive Mike Fraser said in the statement.

Gold Fields plans to bring the Windfall mine

into production by the end of 2026 or early 2027, eventually ramping up to approximately 300,000 ounces annually. The project, along with the recently commissioned Salares Norte project in Chile, is central to the company’s growth strategy as it looks to replace output from aging assets in Ghana and Peru.”

Osisko’s board has given unanimous approval to the deal, calling shareholders to support it. Chairman and CEO John Burzynski said the transaction represented an early payout for Osisko investors and also reflected Windfall’s potential.

“In the span of nine years, we’ve transformed Windfall into one of the largest and highest-grade gold development projects globally, and this transaction is a testament to the extraordinary entrepreneurial effort of the Osisko Mining team,” Burzynski said in a separate statement.

BMO analyst Raj Ray questioned the timing of Gold Fields’ move. “While we acknowledge the transaction rationale behind consolidating the Windfall project and the large exploration potential around it, we are a bit surprised with the timing,” he wrote on Monday.

The metals and mining specialist noted that investors will likely focus on the fact that Gold Fields has “sacrificed a significant portion of its expected cash flows over the next 12 to 24 months”, while taking on development and execution risks.

“This transaction puts even more emphasis on Salares Norte (Chile) ramp-up, which has not gone smoothly yet,” Ray said.

Gold Fields anticipates completing the acquisition in the last quarter of the year, with funding sourced from both new and existing debt facilities, as well as cash reserves.

Expanding portfolio  
Founded in 1887 by Cecil John Rhodes, Gold Fields has reshaped itself along the years. It sold all but one of its South African assets a decade ago, refocusing in newer, more profitable deposits in Ghana, Australia, and the Americas.

Earlier this month, the company said it expected a 20% fall in overall production in the first half of the year due at its mines, as well as the delayed ramp-up of the Salares Norte mine in Chile.

The miner had already revised its gold output for the 2024 calendar year in June. It said at the time it expected to churn out between 2.2 million ounces to 2.3 million ounces, down from the original range of 2.33 million ounces to 2.43 million ounces.

Gold Fields shares were down 3.72% by mid-afternoon in Johannesburg, at their lowest since July 8. That leaves the company with a market capitalization of almost ZAR\$250 billion (\$13.7bn).



windfall gold project



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## Hansen Motorsport and SKF align for 2024 World RX season

**H**ansen Motorsport, at the forefront of rallycross for over 30 years, will be forming an alliance for the 2024 FIA World Rallycross Championship with SKF, one of the longest-standing companies globally and a leader in the manufacturing of bearings, seals, and other industrial components. SKF is a Swedish bearing and seal manufacturing company founded in Gothenburg, not far from the Hansen Motorsport Headquarters, in 1907. SKF Automotive supplies bearings, seals and related products for automotive applications, and its Vehicle Aftermarket division focuses on the supply of replacement parts to the automotive aftermarket.

For 2024, two of the most historic companies in their respective fields will be combining their wealth of experience, with SKF supplying wheel bearings for the Hansen World RX Team's race cars in the World RX championship.

As 2019 World RX Drivers' Champion Timmy Hansen and 2023 World RX runner-up Kevin Hansen push their all-electric Peugeot 208 RX1e cars to the limit.

This year World RX is re-introducing RX1 combustion cars running on sustainable fuels against their all-electric counterparts – introduced to the grid two years ago. Facing the challenges of a new format, SKF's bearings will minimize friction and maximize performance as the Hansen World RX Team pursues the World RX title alongside its sustainability goals.

Kenneth Hansen, Team Principal at Hansen World RX Team, said: "SKF is reliability and performance combined in one brand, which is exactly what a race team looks for. What's more, knowing that SKF is pushing their sustainability work makes their product a perfect fit for us. Having a supplier that shares our commitments and contributes to our goals, by lowering friction and reducing consumption and energy loss, will play a big part in the upcoming season. Philipp Herlein, the head of Vehicle Aftermarket at SKF, emphasized, "We have been in this sport a long time, and in their industry for even longer. We continue to polish and perfect everything that we do. With our extensive Original Equipment (OE) knowledge and our longstanding presence in the automotive industry, including our commitment to sustainability through

advanced automotive technology, we are well-equipped to supply parts to the racing team. We are excited about the opportunity to collaborate and contribute to their success this year"

"We are honoured to partner with Hansen Motorsport for the 2024 FIA World Rallycross Championship. Our collaboration represents the fusion of two power companies, each with a rich history of excellence in their respective fields. By supplying our high-performance wheel bearings to the Hansen World RX Team, we aim to contribute to their pursuit of victory while aligning with their sustainability objectives. We look forward to a successful season together."

The 2024 World RX schedule features five double-header events, with the campaign kicking off in Höljes, Sweden (6-7 July). Following the 'Magic Weekend' season-opener, the championship heads to Hungary where the drivers will take on Nyírád's 'Red Cauldron'. Two well-known World RX venues follow in Mettet, Belgium and Montalegre in Portugal, ahead of an exciting season finale as the series heads overseas to Australia.



Hansen Motorsport and SKF align for 2024 World RX season



# Iron ore miners face pay rise bid from Australian worker unions

Unions representing tens of thousands of workers in Australia's major iron ore hub are preparing to negotiate potential wage rises with the biggest mining companies in the world, including BHP Group Ltd. and Rio Tinto Ltd.

Representatives from the Western Mine Workers Alliance — a coalition between the Mining and Energy Union and Australian Workers Union — have visited mine sites in Western Australia's Pilbara district since Wednesday to survey members over a campaign to raise wages and lock in new contracts, an alliance representative said Monday.

It has been more than a decade since unions last negotiated collective worker agreements at mines for iron ore. The material is Australia's biggest export earner and the nation accounts for 56% of seaborne supply of the crucial steelmaking ingredient.

The union representatives have mainly focused their meetings at BHP worksites, although on Saturday they also attended the Western Turner Syncline project, owned by

Rio's Hammersley Iron Ltd. unit, according to the union spokesperson.

The unions initiated the bargaining under new legislation that doesn't require them to show evidence of workers' support at the mine sites, a BHP spokesperson said. The mining giant will comply with its obligations under the new section of the Fair Work Act and commence bargaining.

The unions appeared to have taken advantage

of recent changes to labor laws to gain access to BHP worksites, Minerals Council of Australia Chief Executive Officer Tania Constable said in a statement.

"It is the first step in a union power grab by unions who have boasted for years about 're-unionizing the Pilbara'," she said. A Rio Tinto spokesperson declined to comment but referred to the Minerals Council of Australia's statement.



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# New SKF LGNL 3 grease can take the load

SKF is proud to introduce its new LGNL 3 general purpose, high load bearing grease that caters to the lubrication requirements of a wide range of industries and applications.

"One of our primary goals was to develop a lithium-free grease that will match or even outperform our renowned SKF LGMT 3 grease at a lower cost, using the LGMT 3 grease as a benchmark," explains Eddie Martens, SKF Product Manager - MaPro. "Based on a thorough research and grease-formulating process, the new high-spec LGNL 3 grease will outperform high quality NLGI 3 lithium-based greases on several parameters including mechanical stability, load carrying capacity, wear protection, and grease life, presenting a worthy non-lithium alternative to our own lithium greases. We will of course continue to supply those applications that require our quality range of lithium greases."

SKF LGNL 3 grease offers a wealth of key technical benefits that will add significant value for customers. Advantages include very long grease life, great mechanical stability, excellent load carrying capacity, a wide temperature range and excellent anti-wear properties. In terms of commercial benefits, grease consolidation opportunities will lead to stock savings for end users. Martens adds that due to the LGNL 3 grease's independence from

the lithium market, which is mainly driven by electrification trends, customers can also look forward to cost benefits over the mid- and long term.

"Grease compatibility, which refers to the extent to which two greases can be temporarily mixed together without showing extensive hardening or softening of the mixture, is extremely important," says Martens and warns that either one of these outcomes could endanger the lubrication of the bearing. A grease compatibility test aims to provide certainty about the risks associated with the transition from one grease to another in the event that a thorough cleaning cannot

be performed due to operational conditions. SKF LGNL 3 has been tested against LGMT 3, LGEM 2, LGHB 2, LGHP 2 and LGWA 2 and shows good compatibility with all five products. Martens advises that if customers are unsure about the compatibility of the grease they are currently using, they are welcome to contact their nearest SKF Authorised Distributor or SKF for assistance.

In addition to vertical shaft and high load applications, SKF's new LGNL 3 grease is suitable for use on pumps and fans, mills and crushers, as well as on wheel bearings of passenger and commercial vehicles and trailers.



SKF LGNL 3 general purpose, high spec, high load bearing grease



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# Prime gearbox solutions from I-MAK tailored to meet pump applications

I-MAK, one of the premium global brands in the stable of bearings and power transmissions specialist, Bearings International (BI), has led the global market with a wide portfolio of gearbox and drive solutions for over 50 years. With more than 1 000 000 references and hundreds of different product lines, I-MAK's unique power transmission solutions cater to a large scale of applications in virtually all industrial segments. I-MAK gearboxes are widely used for diverse pump applications in the oil & gas and food & beverage sectors around the world.

I-MAK's IR Series of Helical gearboxes is perfectly adapted to meet the stringent demands of pumps and transfer technologies which represent key applications across a broad range of industries. "The IR Series is available in twelve different sizes ranging from 90 Nm to 18 000 Nm and is ideally suited for gear and lube pump machinery," says Kobus Groenewald, Business Unit Leader Industrial Geared Units at BI. Fitted with either an input shaft or a direct IEC motor coupling and a standard foot configuration, these easy-to-mount and dismount gearboxes minimise downtime and scale up production, subsequently offering key cost-related advantages for end-users.

As a preferred supplier for thousands of crude oil producers, refineries and engineering companies, I-MAK is a key purveyor to Middle Eastern and North American oil & gas industries. The company is actively involved in several major oil & gas projects in the UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. SIPCO-I-MAK in Houston, Texas, serves the US oil industry with a dedicated team of experts. All I-MAK products are available in ATEX configuration to meet sector standards in the North American market as well as the needs of technological partners.

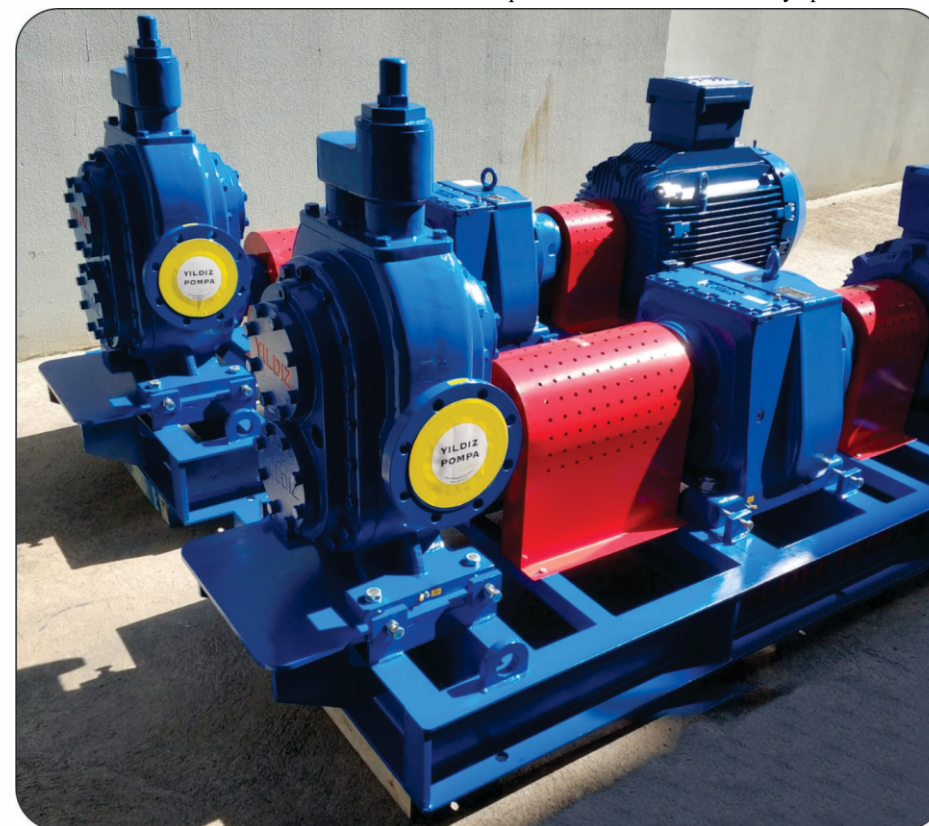
I-MAK has enhanced its product offering to the food & beverage industry over the past few years with the addition of several key features to meet this segment's strict hygiene and food security demands. The application of special easy-to-wash paint and coatings on I-MAK gearboxes limit material deposits and rust, subsequently contributing to the maintenance of top hygienic standards at customers' sites. Moreover, optional food grade oil and resistance to high temperatures and aggressive environments, reduce the potential risk of oil leakage.

"Innovation, quality and precision are woven into the fabric of I-MAK's world-class quality, affordable, two-year-warranty products which are backed by specialist local

and international support," says Robert Sillis, General Manager: Product Management at BI. Our strategic partnership with I-MAK therefore presents the backbone of our blueprint to provide superior quality, reliable solutions that are uniquely tailored to meet the diverse needs of a raft of industrial applications. The very high local added value of all I-MAK products aligns perfectly with our mission to enhance production uptime and efficiency, delivering our value proposition of keeping our customers 'in motion'."

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# Seamless compressed air system management with Atlas Copco service plans

The efficient performance of compressed air systems is the foundation for seamless production processes and sustainable business. The adoption of a comprehensive service plan delivered by an OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) like Atlas Copco is key to overall compressor performance, efficiency, reliability and long-life cycle which, in turn, curb operational costs and maximise uptime and production, thereby reducing the total cost of ownership.

"Our vision is to optimise compressed air equipment that our customers have invested in by offering a trouble-free compressed air delivery solution," says Ashley Sathabridge, Sales Manager at Atlas Copco Compressor Technique. "It's for this very reason that we have developed one of the most comprehensive maintenance and service plan selections in the industry, enabling customers to focus on their core operations, leaving the care of their equipment in our capable hands."

Atlas Copco Compressor Technique's suite of seven service plans set the benchmark for excellence in compressed air system management. Focusing on proactive maintenance, transparent pricing, parts management and service reports, these plans have been specially designed to save costs, reduce energy bills and enhances operational efficiency.

The service plans range from basic maintenance (Preventive Maintenance plan) to all-inclusive offers providing compressor maintenance solutions that best suit individual customer needs and budgets. "Irrespective of what service level a customer selects, they can always count on fast professional service delivered by our skilled technicians, using the right tools and genuine Atlas Copco parts, ensuring the integrity of their air systems," states Sathabridge. He adds that regular service reports keep customers informed about the status of their systems.

The Parts Plan simplifies spare parts management, providing customers with genuine parts for their compressor specifications on a need-to-have basis. According to Sathabridge, the plan eliminates the need for customers to keep stock of consumable compressor components thus reducing costs and the need for storage space. "With a Parts Plan you get the right parts at the right time," affirms Sathabridge.

"Failure to replace compressor parts timeously can undermine a compressor's efficiency and reliability, making regular

inspection crucial to sustained operational efficiency," stresses Sathabridge. "We offer an Inspection Plan that provides a thorough assessment of a customer's compressed air system.

A certified Atlas Copco technician audits the compressor installation and following the inspection, a detailed report is submitted, outlining the system's status and suggestions for maintenance." This allows the customer to pre-plan major interventions in alignment with scheduled plant stops or shutdowns, thus increasing productivity.

As the name suggests, Atlas Copco's Preventive Maintenance plan offers on-time, scheduled services tailored to a customer's installation and site circumstances for a fixed period and fee. If technicians identify a potential issue, they will address it as part of routine maintenance and propose additional actions to prevent unexpected break downs and subsequent costly downtime.

Customers who choose Total Care will reap a host of benefits offered by this full-service compressor maintenance plan. Compressor Technique's experienced technicians will take care of all maintenance requirements and challenges faced to keep compressed air equipment running in peak condition and to uphold peak compressor outputs. The plan provides customers with comprehensive service coverage, including troubleshooting, access to genuine parts, expert service and repairs, as well as breakdown cover, including the replacement of compromised components.

Atlas Copco's all-inclusive one-stop-shop Total Responsibility Service Plan combines many of the elements of the aforementioned plans, giving customers access to maintenance, upgrades, repairs and drive line overhauls at an all-inclusive price. The plan covers every detail, from comprehensive monitoring of compressor data to repairs and scheduled service visit. Additionally, the inclusion of genuine parts, priority emergency support with guaranteed response times and access to the latest R&D improvements is the ultimate maintenance and energy efficiency solution. "If necessary, engineers can also retrofit compressors with the latest improvements resulting from ongoing research and development," notes Sathabridge.

AIRPlan is essentially a pay-as-you-use model, allowing customers to only pay for the compressed air they use. Atlas Copco Compressor Technique will own, maintain,

and monitor compressed air equipment to ensure optimal operating conditions throughout the contract period. AIRPlan allows customers to have the benefit of new energy efficient compressed air technology without purchasing new equipment, while having all the benefits of a total responsibility service contract.

While Atlas Copco offers a standard warranty for its compressed air systems, the organisation, known for its innovative and pioneering spirit, also provides a trendsetting Extended Warranty+ plan that offers customers an additional five years extended coverage for all Atlas Copco compressors, dryers, and ancillary equipment. With the EW+plan, customers will also benefit from complete preventive maintenance by experienced service teams who know when it's time to replace parts and to perform the necessary checks to reduce energy costs.

Compressors under any service plan are remotely monitored via SMARTLINK, providing businesses with real-time insights into energy efficiency and performance, with the option for remote diagnostics that will ensure potential problems are mitigated.

"In summary, the Atlas Copco Compressor Technique service plans are designed with our customers in mind, to ensure that they achieve maximum efficiency and reliability in a cost-effective manner," affirms Sathabridge.



**Atlas Copco Compressor Technique service plans are designed to ensure that customers maximum efficiency and reliability**

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# Akobo Minerals successfully processes first gold ore

Akobo Minerals, a leading gold exploration and mining company based in Scandinavia with operations in Ethiopia, has announced the successful processing of the first low-grade ore through the Segele processing plant, resulting in the production of the initial gold concentrate.

This achievement marks the final phase of commissioning for the processing plant, validating its functionality under operational conditions. It is important to note that the processed ore is from the low-grade development phase of the Westen Winze and

does not represent any high-grade material. The company continues to focus on testing and optimising the plant's capabilities with low-grade ore, as part of its measured approach towards full production.

The gradual ramp-up of production remains a strategic priority, reflecting the company's deliberate efforts to ensure operational stability and efficiency. Concurrently, development work in the Eastern Winze progresses, including side shaft development towards the Westen Winze.

While acknowledging the early stages of this process, Akobo Minerals anticipates continued advancements in plant optimisation and operational readiness in preparation for future phases, including the introduction of higher-grade ores. Akobo Minerals continues its collaboration with our partners to enhance system efficiencies and increase production capacities in the coming months.



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# Barrick Gold reports Q2 profit beat on higher output, prices

Canada's Barrick Gold edged past Wall Street estimates for second-quarter profit on Monday, as the company benefited from higher prices and robust production. Barrick's US-listed shares were up 2.1% before the bell.

Hopes of a US interest rate cut this year and uncertainty around elections, along with global geopolitical risks have lifted the bullion's safe-haven appeal, pushing it to a record high level.

The company's average realized gold prices jumped 19% to \$2 344 per ounce and copper prices rose 22% to \$4.53 per pound.

The company also benefited from higher production at its mines in Nevada and Papua New Guinea, with gold output of 948 000 oz in the quarter ended June 30, compared to estimates of 905 800 oz, according to LSEG data.

Last month, rival Newmont also beat second-quarter profit estimates, benefiting from the rally in bullion prices and robust production at its mines.

Barrick said its free cash flow surged more than 400% to \$340-million from a year earlier, adding that the "strong cash flow from operations" sets it up to execute various mine expansion projects across the globe.

The Toronto, Canada-based company reaffirmed its annual gold production outlook of 3.9-million ounces to 4.3-million ounces. This compares to analysts expectations of 4-million ounces of gold in 2024.

Barrick added that it has not received any response from the United Nations Human Rights Council, after the company addressed allegations of human rights violations at its North Mara Gold Mine in June.

On an adjusted basis, the world's second-largest gold miner posted a profit of 32c a share in the April-June quarter, compared with estimates of 28c a share.





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# China drives African lithium surge to lock in key battery metal



from industrial operations expected to eclipse the informal activity,” he said. Nigeria opened its first lithium processing facility in May and has several more China-backed projects under development, as the government seeks to regulate the trade and maximize revenue.

Low-grade material from Africa made up more than a quarter of all China’s lithium imports on a metal contained basis during the first half of this year, Matthews said. Western companies are also looking to tap African lithium. Sydney-registered Atlantic Lithium Ltd. is building Ghana’s first lithium mine, supplying concentrate to the US that can benefit from tax credits introduced by President Joe Biden. London-listed Andradra Mining Ltd. and Canada’s Tantalum Lithium Resources Corp. are developing projects in Namibia and Democratic Republic of Congo respectively.

Companies belonging to Algy Cluff – a British businessman best known for helping pioneer the UK’s offshore oil and gas industry in the 1970s – and Hugh Morgan – an Australian entrepreneur who headed a copper and nickel miner that was acquired by BHP Group for A\$9.2 billion (\$7.1 billion) 20 years ago – are also aiming to produce significant volumes of lithium in Zimbabwe and Nigeria.

While Australia, Chile and China are expected to make up about 70% of total supply this year, African mines will help reduce their share to just over half by the decade’s end, according to Benchmark’s Cook.

Chinese miners and refiners are driving a surge in African lithium output, shrugging off concerns over a glut to lock in future supplies of the critical battery metal.

The continent is projected to account for almost 11% of global supply this year, compared with close to zero at the start of the decade, according to S&P Global Commodity Insights. That’s projected to increase to more than 14% by 2028.

A spike in lithium prices through 2021 and 2022 fueled a wave of investment by Chinese companies in African production. The metal has since plunged more than 80% after supply increased while sales of electric vehicles lag expectations.

Despite an anticipated global production surplus this year, China – which makes most of the world’s lithium chemicals – continues to expand its refining capacity and is growing more dependent on material from overseas, said Claudia Cook, an analyst at Benchmark Mineral Intelligence. “As there is growing resistance to Chinese involvement in lithium projects in the Western world, Africa is well-positioned to fill this feedstock gap.”

More than two-thirds of the continent’s output comes from Zimbabwe, where Chinese firms, including Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Co., Sinomine Resources Group Co. and Chengxin Group Co., have spent billions of dollars to commission mines and processing plants. Companies from China or with Chinese backing are also developing projects in Mali, Namibia and Nigeria.

Across Africa, 15 mines that are under development or being expanded are due to be producing by 2030, according to Lukasz Bednarski, S&P’s principal research analyst for lithium and battery metals. Most are “sustainable,” even at current prices, he said. “It’s really significant growth in the last three years,” Bednarski said.

That new capacity will come online as the market is predicted to return to a deficit, following a peak global lithium surplus in 2027, according to Benchmark.

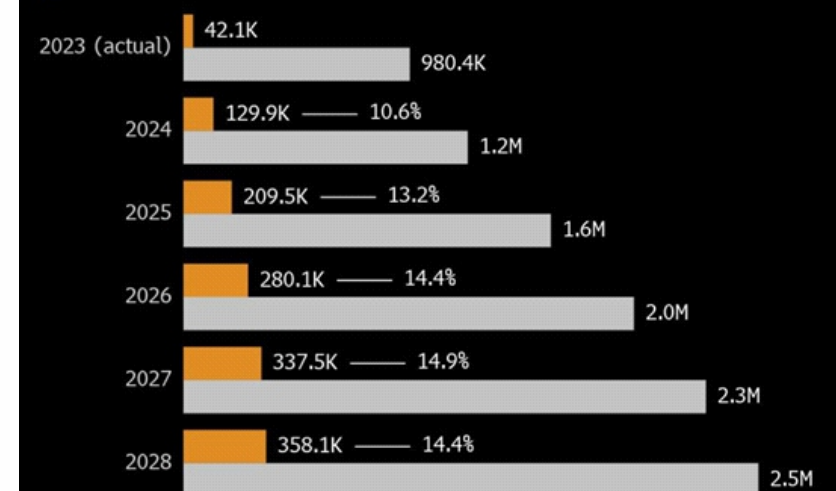
While production from Zimbabwe is more transparent due to the presence of industrial mines, supply from nations like Nigeria – which until now has exported lithium ore that’s been extracted with rudimentary tools – is harder to track. That country was the second-biggest source of African lithium during the past year and a half, said Thomas Matthews, battery metals analyst at CRU Group.

More than half of Africa’s production last year came from hand-dug or small-scale activity, according to Matthews. That is changing though, with “growth in output

## Africa's Lithium Output

Raw material supply from the continent set to keep rising

■ African production forecast ■ Global production forecast



Source: S&P Global Commodity Insights  
Note: Metric tons of lithium carbonate equivalent

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# Endeavour Silver suspends Guanaceví mill on equipment failure, expects Q3 output hit

Endeavour Silver (NYSE: EXK) (TSX: EDR) has suspended ore processing at its Guanaceví operation in Mexico after the trunnion on the primary ball mill stopped working. The equipment could take up to 12 weeks to replace, said the miner.

Shares of Endeavour Silver plunged on the news, down 19.3% to \$3.40 by 11:25 a.m. in Toronto, for a market capitalization of C\$848.8 million (\$617.5 million).

Management is now assessing several alternatives, including operating at a significantly reduced capacity with minor conveyor modification using smaller regrind mills until the primary ball mill is operational, Endeavour said.

This downtime is expected to impact the company's third quarter production, as well as its annual production and cost guidance, it added. An evaluation of the impact is expected this week and will be released when complete.

The Guanaceví underground mine, located 260 km northwest of Durango City, represents Endeavour's cornerstone asset, being its first and highest-grade silver mine. It currently mines precious metals from three orebodies, with the plant processing the material at 1,200 tonnes per day on average.

In 2024, Guanaceví is initially forecast to produce between 5.3-5.8 million oz. of silver and 34,000-38,000 oz. of gold, or 8.1-8.8 million oz. of silver-equivalent. Last year, it produced 5.1 million oz. of silver and 14,955 oz. of gold, for 6.3 million oz. of silver-equivalent.



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