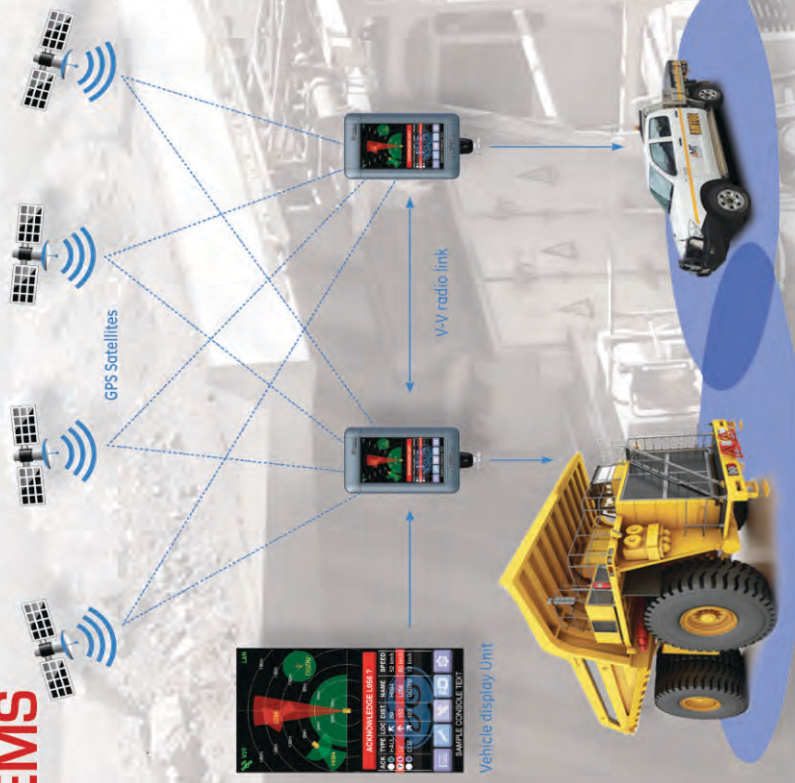


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# AECI's Future-Driven Approach to Mining Innovation

As the mining industry continues to evolve at a rapid pace, there's an urgent need for approaches that do more than just adapt—they must anticipate and shape the future. This is the driving philosophy behind AECI's integrated strategy to meet tomorrow's challenges through innovation, sustainability, and strong industry collaboration.

According to Stuart Miller, Executive Vice President: Mining at AECI, the concept of future-proofing in mining extends well beyond simply staying competitive. Instead, it demands redefining operations to proactively address both current and emerging obstacles across the mining value chain. "Future-proofing is about more than keeping up—it's about reshaping the industry so it's equipped to face the future head-on," says Miller.

### Integrated Innovation for the Mining Lifecycle

AECI's comprehensive strategy spans explosives, mining chemicals, and water solutions, offering a robust, end-to-end innovation ecosystem that focuses on enhancing productivity, ensuring worker safety, and minimizing environmental impact.

From cutting-edge blasting technology to advanced water management systems, every AECI innovation is designed with long-term sustainability and operational efficiency in mind. The company's proactive stance positions it as a leading force in future-oriented mining solutions, especially within Africa.

### The Power of Research and Development

At the core of AECI's transformative approach lies its unwavering commitment to research and development (R&D). With a legacy of over a century in industrial innovation, the company continues to harness science and technology to craft tailored solutions for increasingly complex mining environments.

"We continue to invest in new technologies that deliver tangible outcomes. From the IntelliShot® X electronic detonator—designed for extreme blasting conditions—to Sengen 900 flotation reagents that improve mineral recovery while reducing water usage, every development is grounded in thorough scientific research and real-world customer engagement," Miller explains.

AECI is also embracing Industry 4.0, integrating

automation into its production lines. A prime example is the new IntelliShot electronic detonator assembly line, which features two precision laser-soldering robots. These robots enhance quality, increase output, and reduce human exposure to hazardous operations—key benefits that align with the company's focus on safety and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) standards.

### Sustainability at the Heart of Innovation

Sustainability isn't an afterthought for AECI—it's embedded into every stage of its innovation pipeline. The company's solutions are engineered to reduce emissions, lower energy and water consumption, and improve waste management practices.

### A few key sustainability-driven technologies include:

**Vertical Emulsion Drop System**, which optimises underground logistics and slashes Scope 3 emissions.

**Sengen 900 flotation reagents**, formulated to conserve water and enhance mineral recovery rates.

**Integrated water solutions that convert waste into reusable resources**, enabling environmentally responsible discharge and regulatory compliance.

Among the most exciting innovations is S300 Volcano, a custom-designed solution built to perform in high-temperature volcanic mining zones, such as those found in Papua New Guinea. Another is PowerBoost™, a booster developed for blast holes wider than 89mm and capable of withstanding temperatures of up to 200°C—a valuable tool for extreme mining conditions.

These technologies not only demonstrate AECI's technical depth, but also its commitment to reducing the environmental footprint of mining activities, without compromising performance.

### Customer-Centric Collaboration

AECI's innovation success is not just about advanced engineering—it's also deeply rooted in its collaborative philosophy. The company works closely with customers across Africa and beyond, co-creating technologies that are site-specific, practical, and high-impact.

"Our team partners with mine operators to understand their challenges, then applies our technical expertise to build tailored solutions," says Miller.

He highlights the Lihir project in Papua New Guinea as an example of this model, where the development of the S300 Volcano emulsion emerged directly from working closely with the client. Similarly, at the Kamoa project in the DRC, AECI introduced advanced underground emulsion systems that enhanced both safety and efficiency in high-pressure, deep mining environments.

Such collaborative efforts reflect AECI's view that customer partnership is key to innovation. Through this approach, the company is not just responding to industry demands but actively shaping the direction of modern mining practices.

### Engineering a Smarter, Safer Future

Miller affirms that AECI's long-term goal is to build a resilient and responsible mining industry. The company is focused on delivering not just products, but future-proof technologies that align with global priorities for greener, more efficient, and socially responsible operations.

"We're enabling mines to operate smarter, safer, and greener," he says. "Our multi-disciplinary teams—spanning engineering, chemistry, digital tech, and environmental science—ensure we approach challenges holistically."

By fusing technical excellence with practical on-the-ground insight, AECI remains at the forefront of mining innovation, helping the industry adapt and thrive amid ever-changing demands.





# Enaex Africa: A Century of Innovation and the Future of Blasting Efficiency

With more than 100 years of global expertise, Enaex Africa is setting new benchmarks in the African mining landscape through relentless innovation and cutting-edge technology. As a subsidiary of the internationally renowned Chilean explosives giant Enaex, the company continues to shape the future of mining with a focus on precision, safety, and operational efficiency.

The firm's legacy of excellence and technical leadership is being redefined through the DaveyTronic® 5 (DT5) system—an advanced electronic blasting solution that enhances productivity and safety in mining and construction operations.

### Strategic Expansion in Africa's Mining Industry

Enaex's entry into the African market, particularly its 2020 expansion into South Africa, marked a bold move aimed at capitalising on the region's resource-rich terrain and supporting local mining growth. Backed by Enaex's global legacy, the African division brings a future-forward mindset to blasting services by integrating automation, artificial intelligence, and data-driven solutions.

This strategic investment reflects Enaex's confidence in South Africa's mining sector, one of the continent's most advanced and vital economic engines. By focusing on technology and innovation, Enaex Africa aims to offer its clients a competitive edge while contributing to safer and more efficient mining operations.

### The DaveyTronic® 5: Redefining Blasting Technology

At the heart of Enaex Africa's innovation strategy is the DaveyTronic® 5, a next-generation initiation system developed by the company's Davey Bickford division—the same team responsible for inventing the safety fuse in 1831 and the detonation cord in 1906. These groundbreaking inventions laid the

groundwork for a series of advancements in blasting that now culminate in the DT5 system.

The DaveyTronic® 5 represents a significant leap in electronic detonation technology. With maximum delay intervals of 30 seconds, the DT5 ensures unmatched control and flexibility in blast timing. This not only improves fragmentation outcomes but also significantly reduces the risk of misfires and enhances overall blast efficiency.

Its advanced components—including the DT5G detonator, Bench Monitor, and Remote Blaster—work in tandem to provide real-time control, allowing users to initiate and monitor blasts from a safe distance. One of the system's most powerful features is the synchronised blasting mode, which can coordinate up to five Bench Monitors and trigger as many as 10,000 detonators in unison. This capability offers a new level of precision and safety, particularly in large-scale or high-stakes blasting environments.

### Local Manufacturing for Local Impact

In line with its commitment to local capacity-building and innovation, Enaex Africa inaugurated a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Secunda, Mpumalanga, in 2023. This facility plays a critical role in driving technological development within the region and further supports the integration of DT5 solutions into local mining operations.

By producing cutting-edge equipment within South Africa, Enaex Africa enhances regional self-sufficiency, reduces turnaround times, and creates opportunities for local employment and skills development.

“Enaex Africa propels technological advancement with their state-of-the-art DT5 system and new manufacturing facility in Secunda,” says a company spokesperson.

“This move underscores our long-term commitment to Africa's mining future.”

### Data-Driven Safety and Operational Excellence

What distinguishes the DT5 system is not just its precision, but also its role as a data collection and analysis tool. The integration of digital technologies enables operators to gather valuable data on each blast, offering insights that help refine future operations, improve cost-efficiency, and maintain regulatory compliance.

Moreover, the automated processes reduce human exposure to hazardous environments, aligning with the industry's growing emphasis on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. Enaex's technology supports safer work environments, sustainable practices, and long-term mine viability.

### A Vision for the Future

Enaex Africa continues to push the boundaries of what's possible in mining by combining legacy expertise with forward-thinking innovation. The DaveyTronic® 5 system is just one example of the company's commitment to revolutionising blasting practices in Africa.

“Our mission is to empower mines with the most advanced tools and systems to enhance both productivity and sustainability,” notes the Enaex Africa team. “The DT5 system is not merely a product—it's a solution that transforms operations and aligns them with the future of mining.”

As the African mining industry evolves in response to environmental concerns, technological shifts, and market demands, Enaex Africa remains well-positioned to lead this transformation with solutions that are efficient, intelligent, and future-ready.



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# Cable Vulcanization: Empowering South Africa's Industrial Connectivity

## Origins & Evolution of the Process

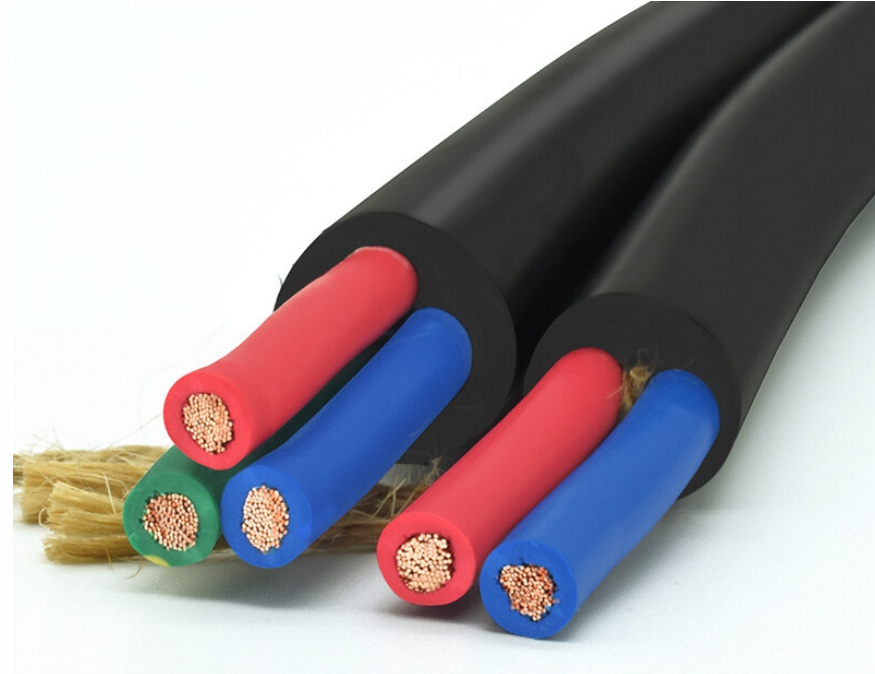
Cable vulcanization traces back to **Rubber technology in the mid-19th century**, when Charles Goodyear discovered sulfur vulcanization. Applied to electrical cable manufacture, vulcanization ensures durable, heat-resistant rubber insulation. Over time, thermoset polymers and heat-shrinkable technologies replaced raw rubber, delivering superior elasticity, insulation, and sealing integrity. In the **power and mining sectors**, mechanical vulcanizers—pressurized heated plates—are used to splice and reconnect damaged electrical cables on-site. These systems rose to prominence to reduce waste and downtime, especially where replacing an entire cable drum is costly or logistically difficult.

In **South Africa**, local engineering firms like **IMS Engineering**, founded in 2005, pioneered locally-manufactured cable vulcanizers tailored for harsh industrial and mining environments. Their units—completely built in Gauteng—meet local and African demand with a cost-effective, robust, portable solution.

## How It Works & Advantages

Modern cable vulcanizer machines include **heated platens** and **moulds sized to cable diameter**, a **temperature-regulated control unit** (typically 3000 W, 220 V), and a clamping mechanism for precise pressure and alignment. Key advantages include:

- **Reduced wastage:** Only damaged sections are spliced, avoiding discard of full-length reels.
- **Downtime minimization:** Repairs can be executed in hours rather than awaiting new cable delivery.
- **Cost savings:** In-field repair lowers logistics and inventory costs.
- **Local sustainability:** Devices built



in South Africa support black-empowerment, job creation, and swift after-sales service.

- **Customisable tooling:** Moulds can be tailored per cable size and application.

## Industry Applications in South Africa

### Mining Sector

The **mining industry** leads demand for cable vulcanizers. Underground operations frequently see cable damage from abrasion, flex fatigue, or rodent activity. IMS Engineering has supplied multiple units to South African mines; the rugged steel-frame model (~70 kg) offers front-loading access, snap-on temperature probe, and adjustable temperature up to ~175 °C. Aluminium versions accommodate remote job sites.

### Power & Utilities

In medium/low-voltage network distribution and MV/LV cable production, companies like **M-TEC of Taihan in South Africa** recently expanded production lines—including **Catenary Continuous Vulcanization (CCV)** for insulation

processing—to boost efficiency threefold by 2023, reflecting increasing reliance on vulcanized insulation in local cable manufacturing.

### Telecom & Communications

Cable jointing is standard in telecom networks. While not all splicing uses mechanical vulcanisers, composite resin systems and vulcanized sealing tapes (e.g. 3M CSM-based repair tape) play a role in ensuring moisture-sealed cable joints, particularly in underground distribution and fibre networks in South Africa and Kenya environment where humidity and soil moisture pose risks.

## Trends in Cable Vulcanization

### Local Manufacturing & BEE

There's a strong shift toward **100% local content machines**, as exemplified by IMS Engineering's Gauteng-built units launched ~2020, reducing reliance on imports and supporting South African procurement mandates. Customisation to client specs has further strengthened market appeal.

**Automation & Safety Enhancements** Machine refinements include **snap-on temperature probes**, improved UI for



temperature control, and safety features like automatic shutoff. Filling systems for resin jointing kits (such as HellermannTyton's Safe Filling technology) allow clean, enclosed mixing without exposure to hazardous cast-resins.

**Integration into Cable Manufacturing** South Africa's M-TEC expansion of **CCV (catenary continuous vulcanization) insulation lines** shows the trend of integrating vulcanization in high-speed cable extrusion lines for MV/LV conductor production, improving efficiency, output consistency, and price competitiveness.

**Expansion Toward Regional Export** Firms such as IMS Engineering already export to other African countries and even Australia. With demand growing across current & future mines and energy projects, regional export of machines and service kits is accelerating.

## Projected Future Use & Market Outlook

- **Mining growth** remains the primary driver in South Africa, with increased mechanization, electrification of shafts, and cable-intensive automation.
- **Renewables & solar farms**, which rely on underground MV/LV connectors, will boost

demand for reliable jointing technologies, including vulcanized splices.

- **Telecom fibre expansion** into rural areas will require water-tight cable joints, increasing demand for advanced compound-based vulcanization and splicing kits coupled with insulation tape repair systems.
- **Continued localisation trends**, as procurement policies reward BEE-aligned suppliers and reduce import vulnerabilities.
- **Smart manufacturing:** incorporation of digital logging of vulcanization parameters (pressure, time, temperature), predictive maintenance, and traceability.

## Challenges & Considerations

- Rising material costs have challenged local production margins; manufacturers have increasingly relied on South African suppliers to control costs and delivery time.
- Training remains critical—vulcanization parameters must be precisely controlled. SAIEE and vocational authorities (e.g. for

Telecommunications Cable Jointer certification) help train technicians in jointing, testing and fault-finding.

- Environmental conditions (heat, dust, humidity) in field sites require robust, portable and weather-resistant equipment.

## Conclusion

Cable vulcanization represents a mature yet evolving technology essential to South Africa's mining, utilities, and telecom sectors. From its rubber-based origins to modern heat-press and resin techniques, the process delivers durability, efficiency, and sustainability. The local rise of manufacturing (e.g., IMS Engineering) and integration into cable production (e.g. M-TEC CCV lines) reflects the shifting landscape toward self-reliant, customised solutions.

As South Africa electrifies, digitises, and industrialises further, vulcanization remains crucial to resilient connectivity. Local innovation is set to drive growth—combining economic empowerment, field-ready durability, and technical precision. Your operations, from mine shafts to fibre-optic farms, depend on it.



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# Explosive Learning: MJT Trainees Experience Live Mine Blast at Gugulethu Colliery

A thrilling and educational highpoint of the 2024 Mining Journalism Training (MJT) programme was the opportunity for participants to witness a controlled live mine blast at Canyon Coal's Gugulethu Colliery in Mpumalanga. This unforgettable moment underscored the practical value of the programme, which seeks to bridge the knowledge gap between mining professionals, the media, and other stakeholders by offering firsthand exposure to the realities of the mining sector.

The annual initiative, driven by Menar, ran from 23 to 25 October 2024, beginning with a seminar at Menar's headquarters in Sandton, followed by a guided site visit to the colliery. For the first time since the programme's inception in 2017, MJT was expanded beyond its original cohort of journalists to include students and professionals from various disciplines—a move aimed at broadening the impact and inclusivity of mining literacy.

## An Unforgettable First Blast

The standout experience came during the

second day of the programme when trainees were escorted to the central pit of Gugulethu Colliery to observe a live blast operation. After a rigorous safety induction, Gugulethu Mine Manager Corne Vlok led the countdown to detonation, culminating in an awe-inspiring explosion that dramatically reshaped the mine face.

“The blast today was incredible. I have never experienced anything like it,” said Natalie Naidoo, a SHEQ Manager at Intertek Genalysis. “The training also helped me fill in critical knowledge gaps from exploration to the export phase of mineral resources.”

The blast was preceded by a detailed presentation from Canyon Coal COO and Gugulethu General Manager Jarmi Steyn, who walked attendees through the complex process of mine development—from exploration to production, and eventually, market delivery. The tour also included on-site visits to the processing plant and pit areas, giving attendees a well-rounded view of mining operations in action.

## Expanding the Conversation Around Mining

Originally designed for journalists, the MJT programme this year extended participation to a more diverse pool of applicants. By welcoming young professionals, policy researchers, analysts, and students, Menar sought to ignite cross-disciplinary dialogue around mining—a sector that continues to play a pivotal role in South Africa's economy and society.

“It's important that more people understand what happens in mining—particularly as the industry intersects with environmental, economic, and policy issues,” said Khayelihle Mdakane, a researcher at the City of Johannesburg. “The technical aspects were made relatable through engaging Q&A sessions and expert-led discussions.”

## Seminar Sessions Offer Broad Industry Insight

The opening seminar hosted at Menar's Sandton offices featured a diverse line-up of speakers covering a wide range of topics,







from geology and mining policy to finance and social impact. Notable contributors included:

Prof. Susan Webb (Co-Director, WITS DSI-NRF CIMERA), who provided historical and geological insights into South Africa's mineral wealth.

Hugo Pienaar (Chief Economist, Minerals Council SA), who discussed the economic challenges and emerging opportunities in the mining sector.  
Kgothatso Nhlengetwa (MD, Imbokodo Mining Services), who sparked a robust debate with her presentation on artisanal and small-scale mining policies.

Tanya van Meelis (Head of Policy and Labour Markets, COSATU), who explored the implications of the Just Energy Transition and the Fourth Industrial Revolution on

mining-related employment.

**Engagement Through Dialogue and Competition**

Participants were encouraged to ask questions and contribute to breakaway group discussions, allowing for deeper engagement and peer-to-peer learning. A quiz challenge added a competitive element, with participants answering questions based on the seminar content for a chance to win prizes.

“The group was very curious and proactive,” said programme facilitator Dianne Hawker. “They brought fresh perspectives and challenged the speakers in insightful ways. That’s what makes a programme like this successful—engagement, curiosity, and the drive to learn.”

**Firsthand Accounts and Field Expertise**  
Veteran journalist Lucas Ledwaba, Executive

Director of Mukurukuru Media, shared his personal experiences covering high-impact stories such as the Marikana Massacre, offering a sobering look at the intersection of mining and social justice.

On the financial side, Greg Webber, Co-head of Mining and Resources at Nedbank, walked attendees through the complex world of mining finance, providing clarity on a subject that is often underexplored in public discourse.

Junior analyst Yasmin Sizwe said her aim in joining MJT was to expand her understanding of the sector's inner workings.

“This experience has completely changed how I see mining,” she said. “I’ve learned so much about the processes and the people behind them. It’s been enlightening.”

**Shaping the Next Generation of Mining Advocates**

By combining theoretical knowledge with practical exposure, MJT aims to produce more informed communicators, advocates, and decision-makers who can influence the future of mining in South Africa. Whether participants go on to report on the industry, regulate it, invest in it, or work within it, the programme ensures they are equipped with accurate and holistic insights.

“Mining literacy is not just for miners—it’s for everyone who plays a role in shaping the future of our economy,” said Hawker.

As the MJT programme continues to evolve, its core mission remains the same: to build bridges between mining and society through education, transparency, and shared experience.

# Inaugural South Africa Diamond Show to Spotlight the Nation's Global Impact in the Diamond Industry

The State Diamond Trader (SDT) proudly announces the launch of the first-ever South Africa Diamond Show, set to take place in Cape Town from February 2 to 5, 2025. This milestone event will serve as a powerful platform to celebrate South Africa's legacy in the global diamond trade and explore its evolving role in shaping the industry's future.

Held under the theme “Evolution and Promotion of Natural Diamonds,” the 2025 South Africa Diamond Show promises to be a landmark gathering of industry stakeholders, innovators, and enthusiasts. It aims to promote the enduring value of natural diamonds, enhance collaboration across the diamond value chain, and reinforce the industry's commitment to responsible sourcing, sustainability, and social impact.

**Celebrating South Africa's Diamond Heritage**

South Africa's relationship with diamonds is steeped in history. From the discovery of the Cullinan diamond—the largest rough diamond ever found—to its longstanding

reputation for excellence in mining, cutting, polishing, and trading, South Africa has carved out a central role in the global diamond narrative.

The inaugural Diamond Show will pay tribute to this heritage while casting an eye toward the future. It will highlight how the country continues to lead through innovation, ethical sourcing practices, and investment in communities that have historically powered the sector.

“The South Africa Diamond Show is not just a showcase of sparkling gemstones—it is a platform for storytelling, industry dialogue, and economic opportunity,” says a representative from the State Diamond Trader. “It reflects South Africa's ongoing commitment to excellence, transparency, and sustainability in the diamond trade.”

**A Convergence of Industry Leaders and Innovators**

The show will bring together an impressive array of industry participants, including:

- Mining houses
- Diamond cutters and polishers
- Jewellery designers and manufacturers
- Global traders and buyers
- Regulators and policymakers

Over the course of three dynamic days, participants will engage in exhibitions, keynote addresses, panel discussions, and networking opportunities designed to encourage collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

Attendees will have the chance to explore diamonds sourced both locally and internationally, with a strong focus on those mined and manufactured in South Africa. The event will provide a rare opportunity to see the full spectrum of the diamond journey, from raw stone to finished masterpiece.

**Driving Ethical Business and Social Investment**

A core focus of the 2025 South Africa Diamond Show is to champion corporate social investment and transformation within





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the diamond industry. The event seeks to highlight how industry players can contribute to inclusive growth, skills development, and socioeconomic upliftment, particularly in communities historically linked to diamond production.

From youth empowerment to women's inclusion in the value chain, and from environmental stewardship to traceability technologies, the show will spotlight initiatives and innovations that are reshaping the diamond landscape into one that is more equitable and future-ready.

Workshops and speaker panels will address issues such as:

- The role of natural diamonds in sustainable development
- The economic contribution of artisanal and small-scale miners
- Technological advances in diamond traceability
- Opportunities for local beneficiation and downstream development
- Promoting Natural Diamonds in a Changing World

As synthetic diamonds gain visibility, the show's theme—"Evolution and Promotion of Natural Diamonds"—offers a timely reminder of the intrinsic and emotional value of naturally formed gems. The event will explore how the timeless beauty and rarity of natural diamonds continues to captivate global markets, particularly when supported by ethical and transparent sourcing practices.

A key goal is to boost global consumer confidence in natural diamonds and to create new avenues for sales, marketing, and investment across the value chain.

#### An Invitation to the World

Whether you are a seasoned industry professional, an emerging entrepreneur, or a passionate enthusiast, the 2025 South Africa Diamond Show offers an unmatched opportunity to engage with the global diamond community. It will serve as a meeting point for dialogue, deal-making, and celebration of an industry that continues to evolve.

"This event is a declaration of South Africa's continued leadership in the diamond world," the SDT representative notes. "We are thrilled to welcome the global community to Cape Town for this inaugural showcase. Together, we can shape a resilient, responsible, and prosperous future for the diamond industry."

#### Join Us in Shaping the Future

The State Diamond Trader invites all stakeholders to be part of this extraordinary occasion. From dazzling exhibitions to thought-

provoking discussions, the South Africa Diamond Show 2025 promises to be more than an event—it will be a moment of reflection, recognition, and renewed vision for the diamond industry.

For more information, visit:

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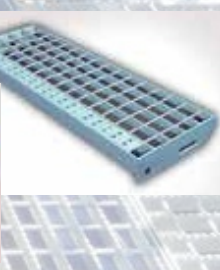
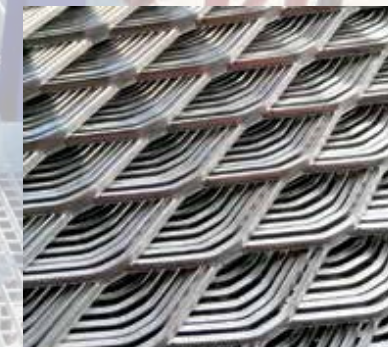
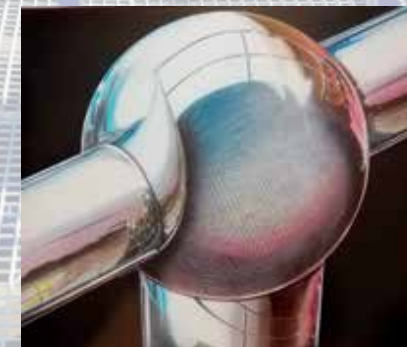
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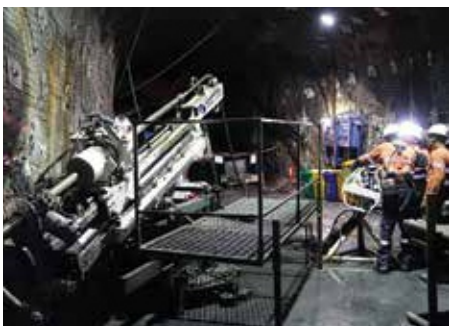
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# Kangra Coal Boosts Emergency Response with Ambulance Donation to Mpumalanga Health Department

In a significant step toward improving healthcare access in rural communities, Kangra Coal officially handed over a fully equipped ambulance to the Mpumalanga Department of Health on Tuesday, 21 January 2025. This vital contribution is expected to dramatically improve emergency medical response times in the Mkhondo Local Municipality, especially in the Driefontein area, which has long struggled with timely access to emergency services.

The handover ceremony took place at the Driefontein Community Health Centre, where government officials, community representatives, and Kangra's leadership gathered to celebrate the delivery of this life-saving vehicle.

**A Vital Resource for Isolated Communities**  
Fitted with standard emergency medical equipment, the new ambulance is designed to serve residents in need of urgent healthcare assistance, particularly those who require transportation to facilities such as Piet Retief Hospital, located over 50 kilometres away. For communities spread across vast rural areas, this vehicle will significantly cut down the time it takes for patients to receive emergency treatment, potentially saving lives.

Kangra's donation is part of its commitment to the Social and Labour Plan (SLP)—a legally binding programme that encourages mining companies to invest in local development initiatives. The company allocated R1.2 million to purchase and customise the ambulance, a Volkswagen Crafter, to meet the stringent requirements set by the Department of Health.

**Government and Community Leaders Applaud the Initiative**  
The event was marked by jubilation, with community members, government leaders, and Kangra representatives all praising the public-private collaboration. Mpumalanga Health MEC Sasekani Manzini officially received the keys to the ambulance from Kangra General Manager Paul Redelinghuys and took the vehicle on a symbolic short drive within the clinic's premises.

"The donated ambulance will contribute immensely to the community of Mkhondo, especially in Driefontein," said Manzini. "It will reduce the delays in responding to the sick and injured, ensuring they get to medical facilities on time."

Her sentiments were echoed by Mkhondo Municipality Executive Mayor Ngelosi Ndhlovu, who emphasised the significance of

the ambulance in reaching underserved and remote areas.

"This vehicle gives our emergency teams the ability to access outlying communities with greater ease. That means more people will receive the treatment they need—when they need it," Ndhlovu remarked.

## Improving Recovery Rates Through Faster Response

Local leaders stressed that the donation would have a profound impact on survival and recovery outcomes for patients in the region. Ward Councillor Nosipho Sangweni highlighted the importance of timely care in emergency situations.

"Quick access to medical attention can make the difference between life and death. This ambulance will help ensure that our people have a better chance at surviving emergencies," she said.

Driefontein Forum Chairperson Themba also applauded Kangra's support, describing the initiative as a meaningful and empowering social investment. "This is a high-impact project that will uplift the health standards of our community. It shows that companies like Kangra can be part of the solution when it comes to improving people's lives."

## Listening to the Community and Acting with Purpose

The need for an additional ambulance in Driefontein was first identified through extensive consultations with representatives from various communities in the Mkhondo Local Municipality. Based on the feedback and data gathered, Kangra's team began the process of procurement and customisation in

July 2024. The company views this contribution not as a once-off charity, but as part of a broader corporate philosophy of sustainable development. Kangra aims to uplift the quality of life in areas surrounding its mining operations—not just economically, but socially and environmentally as well.

"We see our role in the community as holistic," said Redelinghuys. "This ambulance project reflects our commitment to fostering sustainable growth and improving the quality of life for people who live in the regions where we operate."

## More Than Mining: A Commitment to Community Wellbeing

Kangra's ambulance donation is the latest in a series of efforts aimed at building stronger ties between the mining sector and local communities. Through its Social and Labour Plan, the company continues to invest in infrastructure, education, and healthcare, creating long-term benefits that extend far beyond the lifespan of mining operations.

As South Africa continues to face healthcare delivery challenges—especially in rural areas—initiatives like these illustrate how private sector involvement can help bridge the service gap and bring critical services to those who need them most.

With the new ambulance now operational, the people of Driefontein and surrounding areas can look forward to safer, faster, and more reliable emergency medical care, reinforcing the belief that development is most impactful when it puts people at the centre.







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# Khanye Colliery Sets Sustainability Benchmark as South Africa's First Bettercoal-Certified Mine

Canyon Coal's Khanye Colliery has achieved a historic milestone, becoming South Africa's first coal mine to attain Bettercoal Producer status. This landmark achievement signals a major step forward for responsible mining in the country and reinforces Canyon Coal's commitment to sustainable, transparent, and ethical mining operations.

Khanye Colliery, located in Bronkhorstspuit, Gauteng, will now implement a comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) over the next four years as part of its alignment with the Bettercoal programme—a globally recognised framework that promotes best practices and ethical responsibility in the coal supply chain.

This recognition positions Khanye Colliery not only as a pioneer in South African coal mining but also as a benchmark for others in the industry. The move demonstrates how local mining operations can embrace global standards to improve their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance while securing long-term operational sustainability.

### What Is Bettercoal?

Bettercoal is an international organisation that works to advance sustainability and ethical practices within the global coal value chain. Established over 14 years ago, the initiative partners with coal producers worldwide to promote responsible mining through a rigorous standard and monitoring framework. The Bettercoal Code consists of 144 provisions covering various ESG pillars, and it sets out clearly defined expectations in areas such as:

- Environmental protection (including water conservation, emissions control, and land use)
- Social responsibility (such as community engagement, employee welfare, and health and safety)
- Corporate governance (including transparency, accountability, and ethical business conduct)

Producers who commit to the Bettercoal programme undergo a detailed assessment process followed by the development of a tailor-made CIP, which is reviewed and monitored over a four-year period through evidence-based performance reports submitted each quarter.

Khanye Colliery's Journey Toward Bettercoal Certification

The path to certification began in 2022, when Khanye Colliery signed a formal Letter of Commitment to initiate its partnership with

Bettercoal. This was followed by an in-depth site assessment conducted in 2023, which evaluated the mine's current operations across ESG areas.

The evaluation involved direct engagement with on-site teams, document analysis, and stakeholder consultations to gauge the mine's impact on the environment, its employees, and surrounding communities. Based on this data, Bettercoal assessors helped Khanye Colliery develop a robust Continuous Improvement Plan designed to enhance performance in critical ESG areas.

This plan aligns the mine with global best practices, and supports its ongoing initiatives, including:

- Water conservation strategies to manage resource usage and protect local ecosystems
- Social upliftment projects targeting education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for nearby communities
- Workplace initiatives that promote safety, wellbeing, and fair labor practices

### A Catalyst for Industry-Wide Change

Jarmi Steyn, Chief Operating Officer of Canyon Coal, described the certification as a major milestone, not only for the company but for the broader South African coal sector.

"The long-term viability of the coal industry depends on the strength and credibility of our sustainability efforts," said Steyn. "By joining the Bettercoal programme, we're holding ourselves accountable while also setting a positive example for others in the industry to follow."

Steyn added that Khanye Colliery's

participation is about more than compliance—it's a proactive strategy to strengthen trust with stakeholders, improve community relations, and embed long-term value into the company's operations.

### Global Standards, Local Impact

While Bettercoal is a global initiative, its implementation at Khanye Colliery is very much rooted in local impact. The mine's ESG efforts are expected to directly benefit the communities in and around Bronkhorstspuit by supporting:

- Job creation and local hiring
- Infrastructure development
- Sustainable resource use

By adopting the Bettercoal Code, Khanye Colliery is now part of a global network of forward-thinking coal producers working to shift the narrative around coal mining. The certification shows that coal operations can indeed operate responsibly and ethically while still delivering economic value.

- A Sustainable Future for South African Coal

As the only mine in the country with Bettercoal Producer status, Khanye Colliery has carved out a leadership role in the transformation of the coal industry. This achievement not only strengthens Canyon Coal's position as a sustainability-focused mining company but also opens the door for other South African mines to follow suit.

With continuous performance reviews, long-term improvement goals, and transparent reporting mechanisms, the Bettercoal programme ensures that Khanye Colliery's ESG commitments are more than just words—they are measurable, actionable, and impactful.







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# Lemaitre: South Africa's Trailblazer in Safety Footwear Innovation

For generations, Lemaitre has been a trusted name in safety footwear, setting the standard for protection and innovation across South Africa's most demanding industries. From the rugged conditions of mining to the dynamic environments of construction, agriculture, and manufacturing, Lemaitre has consistently delivered reliable, high-performance solutions tailored to meet the specific needs of the nation's workforce.

Rooted in its identity as a proudly South African brand, Lemaitre brings a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by workers on the ground. The company's philosophy is centered on crafting safety footwear that not only meets global safety benchmarks but is also shaped by the voices of workers themselves. Every boot is rigorously tested in real-world environments to ensure that it performs under pressure—providing lasting comfort, durability, and superior protection.

"From one worker to another," Lemaitre's mission is simple: to keep South Africa's workforce safe, confident, and equipped to handle whatever the job throws at them.

### The Maxeco Legacy: A National Icon Reimagined

Among Lemaitre's most enduring contributions to safety culture in South Africa is the Maxeco safety boot. For over 30 years, this rugged and reliable work boot has protected countless feet in harsh, high-risk environments. Its reputation for strength, reliability, and affordability made it a staple in worksites across the country.

But as industries have evolved—with more sophisticated equipment, stricter safety regulations, and heightened performance demands—so too has Lemaitre's design philosophy. Enter the Maxeco Pro: a next-

generation safety boot that embodies the evolution of an icon.

The Maxeco Pro was developed in direct response to modern-day industrial challenges. It is more than just a boot—it's a

technological upgrade for feet that work hard every day. Engineered with cutting-edge features, the Maxeco Pro delivers on every front: safety, support, durability, and all-day comfort.

**Maxeco Pro: Built for Performance, Engineered for Comfort**

What sets the Maxeco Pro apart is its innovative blend of classic craftsmanship and advanced materials. It features a full-grain leather upper, offering a tough yet flexible exterior that resists abrasions while molding comfortably to the wearer's foot over time. For added protection, the boot is equipped with an extra-wide steel toecap, offering superior impact resistance without compromising comfort or space.

One of the standout elements is the Gladius sole unit, designed with SR slip-resistance technology. This ensures exceptional grip even on slippery, uneven

surfaces—a must-have in unpredictable environments like construction sites or underground mines.

This anti-slip feature not only reduces the risk of workplace accidents but boosts worker confidence and mobility.

Inside the boot, comfort is prioritised through LM-Cloud memory foam insoles, which adapt to the natural shape of

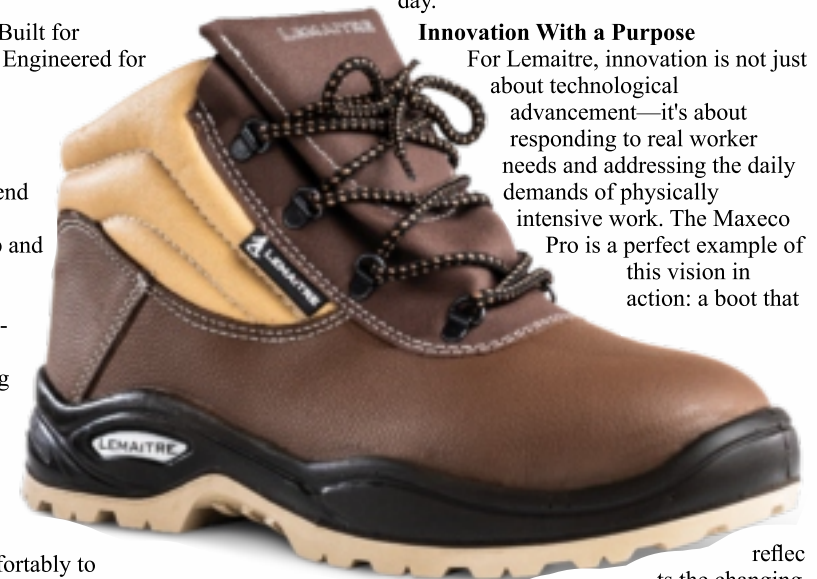
the foot, providing cushioning that lasts throughout

long shifts. The PlushShield padded collar and tongue further enhance comfort and fit, reducing fatigue and preventing pressure points.

All these features combine to create a boot that doesn't just protect—it empowers workers to perform at their best, day after day.

### Innovation With a Purpose

For Lemaitre, innovation is not just about technological advancement—it's about responding to real worker needs and addressing the daily demands of physically intensive work. The Maxeco Pro is a perfect example of this vision in action: a boot that



reflects the changing face of industry while staying true to Lemaitre's legacy of safety and dependability.

The company's commitment to continuous improvement ensures that every new product—like the Maxeco Pro—is the result of deep research, field testing, and feedback from the people who wear them. This worker-first approach is what sets Lemaitre apart in an increasingly competitive safety gear market.

As industries become more complex, Lemaitre stands as a reliable partner—one that listens, innovates, and delivers safety footwear that truly makes a difference.

### A Step Into the Future

The launch of the Maxeco Pro isn't just a product release—it marks the beginning of a new chapter in workplace safety. It represents Lemaitre's ongoing dedication to protecting South African workers as they build, mine, grow, and manufacture the nation's future.

With a firm foundation of excellence and a clear focus on the future, Lemaitre continues to push the boundaries of what safety footwear can achieve. The brand's promise is simple but powerful: to support the hands—and feet—that build South Africa, with footwear that inspires trust, comfort, and performance.





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# Menar Golf Day Raises Over Half a Million Rand to Uplift Communities

In a powerful demonstration of industry unity and community spirit, Menar hosted a highly successful Golf Day at the Graceland Hotel, Casino and Country Club in Secunda, Mpumalanga, on Friday, 30 May 2025. The event, held in collaboration with a wide range of corporate partners and sponsors, raised a remarkable R537,570, all of which will be directed toward initiatives aimed at uplifting local communities—especially those in areas where Menar operates its mining projects.

The Golf Day served not only as a networking and sporting event but also as a meaningful platform to support education and community development. The funds raised will benefit local schools and non-profit organisations, many of which play a crucial role in transforming lives by addressing challenges related to access to education, clean water, infrastructure, and learning materials.

Industry Support and Active Participation  
 The tournament attracted strong support from across the mining and engineering sectors, drawing 148 players grouped into 37 teams.

Participants included stakeholders, service providers, contractors, and professionals from South Africa's mining and industrial landscape. The event featured competitive categories such as longest drive and closest-to-the-pin, encouraging fun and friendly rivalry for a worthy cause. Several high-profile industry names came forward as title sponsors, including:

- TWS Engineering
- Babcock
- Barloworld Equipment
- Eickhoff
- Komatsu
- Opsicol
- Ntabeni Logistics
- Braintree

Gilberts Mining and Industrial & Electrical Supplies  
 Their generous support and active involvement played a vital role in the overall success of the day.

### Winners and Highlights

The first-place team for the four-ball competition was Ntabeni Logistics, who walked away with top honors after an impressive performance on the course. One of the highlights of the day was the auction of the 2025 Menar floating trophy, which saw a spirited bid from PR Mining, the winning bidder. Along with the trophy, PR Mining also earned a full-page advertisement in Mining Weekly Magazine. The auction raised R50,000, contributing significantly to the total pool of funds collected for charitable

purposes.

Adding cultural flair and energy to the event, the Ubuhle Bekhona Lamazulu Traditional Dancers delivered a colorful and captivating performance during the prize-giving ceremony, celebrating South Africa's rich heritage while setting the tone for a joyous conclusion to the day.

### A Legacy of Giving Back

Speaking at the prize-giving, Menar Chairman Mpumelelo Mkhabela praised the efforts of everyone involved. He noted that the Golf Day builds upon a strong foundation laid by Zululand Anthracite Colliery (ZAC), Menar's KwaZulu-Natal-based subsidiary. ZAC had successfully hosted similar events over the past six years, with proceeds previously used to fund vital school infrastructure projects, including water systems, educational tools, and renovations.

Mkhabela stated, "We are expanding our mission to make a positive impact. Every swing, every putt, and every donation helps us continue the critical work of supporting communities." He further expressed appreciation to all the companies and individuals who helped bring the event to life: "All of this would not have been possible without your involvement as valuable sponsors and partners."

### Looking Ahead: More Than Just a Tournament

The success of the 2025 Golf Day reinforces Menar's long-standing commitment to social responsibility. More than a sporting event, the occasion served as a platform for building partnerships and reinforcing shared values of

collaboration, compassion, and community development.

Menar also used the event to spotlight the role that private companies can play in creating sustainable impact beyond business operations. By investing in people and local initiatives, Menar continues to showcase how industry and community growth can go hand in hand.

### Sponsors Who Made It Possible

The success of the Golf Day was made possible thanks to an extensive list of sponsors and supporters, which included:

- Komatsu, Schauenburg Systems, JA Engineering, Ntabeni Logistics, PEX Engineering, Precon Survey, AMS Mining Solutions, Lurchtech, Pitbull Equipment, Gilberts Mining, Richards Bay Rigging Services
- Ingwenya Mineral Processing, TWS Engineering, Kennametal, Babcock, Barloworld Equipment, Braintree, U-RENT, CNNC Trading, Eickhoff, PR Mining, Belt Brokers, Kal Tire, Durim GH
- RPM Global, Highveld Filters, Opsicol, GFK, Enprotec, Conax Machine Solutions, Rhino Clothing, Continental Conveyors & Systems, Mining Weekly, SA Labs, Engen, Coalseam
- Innovative Machine Maintenance & Services, Conveyor and Plant Services

Each sponsor played a vital role, either through financial contributions, logistical support, or active participation, demonstrating a shared commitment to transforming lives through collective action.





# Menar Strengthens Anthracite Portfolio with Strategic Acquisition of Springlake Colliery

In a move that underscores its commitment to growth and diversification in South Africa's coal sector, Menar has officially expanded its footprint in the anthracite market with the acquisition of the Springlake Colliery, a mine located in KwaZulu-Natal. This acquisition signals Menar's confidence in the long-term value of anthracite and its ambition to play a more significant role in supplying both local and international markets with high-grade energy products.

The deal was formalised through a Sale of Assets Agreement between Menar and Mylotex (Pty) Ltd, the previous owner of the mine, which had been placed under business rescue. The agreement was signed in November 2024, and the transaction reached completion on 1 May 2025, officially transferring operational control and ownership of the mine to Menar.

### A Strategic Step Toward Growth and Market Expansion

Speaking on the acquisition, Vuslat Bayoglu, Managing Director of Menar, expressed optimism about the mine's future potential.

“We are optimistic about Springlake Colliery's future, considering the growing demand for high-quality energy sources globally,” said Bayoglu. “This acquisition is not only a forward-looking business decision but also a strong step in our company's diversification journey.”

Menar views Springlake Colliery as a valuable asset that complements its existing operations and aligns with its broader vision of becoming a key player across the global anthracite value chain. Anthracite's appeal lies in its high calorific value, low impurity content, and clean-burning nature, making it a critical input in industries such as steel manufacturing, ferroalloy production, and other industrial processes requiring high-grade reductants.

### Springlake Colliery: Location, Capacity, and Market Potential

Located in Dannhauser, roughly 45 kilometers from Newcastle, Springlake is an underground anthracite mine with an estimated monthly production capacity of 60,000 tonnes of run-of-mine anthracite. The colliery yields a niche, high-quality product that is in demand across global export markets, including Asia, Europe, and South America. The mine also serves a number of local industrial customers who rely on anthracite for energy-intensive operations.

Menar plans to leverage the mine's strategic geographic location and existing infrastructure to optimise production, strengthen customer relationships, and expand market access. As a company known for successfully acquiring

and rehabilitating distressed mining assets, Menar intends to apply its operational expertise to revive and modernise Springlake, enhancing its efficiency and economic contribution.

### Reviving a Distressed Asset

Springlake Colliery was placed under business rescue prior to the acquisition, making its revival both a challenge and an opportunity. Menar is approaching the task with a focus on long-term stability, aiming to rectify the operational issues that led to the mine's previous difficulties.

Central to this turnaround plan is a commitment to capital investment, operational optimisation, and market development. Menar will invest in the necessary infrastructure and processes to ensure sustainable production, improved safety standards, and compliance with environmental and social governance (ESG) obligations.

### Job Preservation and Local Impact

The acquisition also has important socio-economic implications. Currently, Springlake Colliery provides direct employment to around 300 people, excluding contractors and indirect service providers. Menar's acquisition safeguards these jobs and opens the door for future employment opportunities as operations scale up.

“Preserving and creating jobs is a key priority for us,” said Bayoglu. “We're committed to supporting the local economy while creating a sustainable, productive environment for workers and surrounding communities.” The company's broader community development strategies include potential initiatives in skills development, supplier empowerment, and community upliftment, all

aimed at making a meaningful impact in the regions where it operates.

### Looking Ahead: Securing Markets and Sustainable Growth

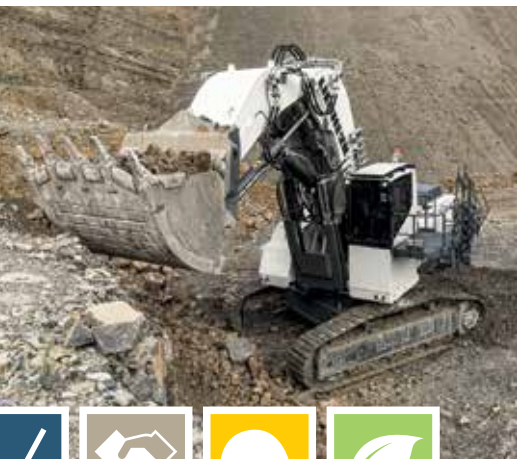
Menar's immediate plans include identifying and securing reliable off-takers for the anthracite mined at Springlake, ensuring that production is matched with strong, long-term demand. By building strategic partnerships and tapping into high-demand international markets, Menar is positioning Springlake as a key contributor to its overall coal portfolio.

With this acquisition, Menar not only expands its anthracite production capacity but also reinforces its position as a nimble, forward-looking mining group capable of delivering value through strategic asset acquisition, operational excellence, and a deep commitment to sustainability.

### Conclusion

The acquisition of Springlake Colliery represents more than a business transaction—it is a strategic investment in South Africa's mining future. Through thoughtful integration, targeted investment, and market expansion, Menar is breathing new life into a once-distressed asset and reaffirming its role as a catalyst for industrial growth and socio-economic development. As global demand for cleaner, more efficient energy sources continues to grow, Menar is well-positioned to supply the high-quality anthracite that industries need—while creating opportunities that benefit workers, communities, and the broader economy.

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