

# **MINING DEVELOPMENTS**

January/February 2026 Issue

# **MAGAZINE**

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# Atlas Copco proudly introduces B-Air, the world's first battery-powered portable air compressor

Atlas Copco built the first piston air compressors in 1904 and 25 years ago, the organisation was first to introduce the revolutionary Variable Speed Drive (VSD) compressor technology. Staying true to this pioneering spirit and forward-thinking philosophy, Atlas Copco now unveils the first battery-operated portable screw compressor that incorporates VSD and PACE (Pressure Adjusted through Cognitive Electronics) technology!

The B-Air 185-12 is not only an innovation that is set to transform the industry, but is also a sustainable game-changer for the environment. It is compact and portable, reliable, clean (no local emissions), energy efficient and quiet. Due to its mobility, the machine has been engineered by Atlas Copco with autonomy top of mind. The compressor gets maximum performance out of its battery to provide a working pressure of 5 to 12 bar (72 to 175 psi) and free air delivery of 5,3 to 3,7 m<sup>3</sup> / min. The 55kWh battery can be connected to the grid or to a renewable power source. Once fully charged, the battery will power the machine for at least one full working shift in typical conditions and applications. "Operators will be able to operate their pneumatic equipment during load shedding, ensuring uninterrupted production and high productivity," says Atlas Copco Power Technique's Portable Products Business Line Manager, David Stanford.

The exceptionally energy efficient, ultra-quiet, 37 kW Permanent Magnet (PM) motor, is at the core of the B-Air. "VSD technology works best with rotary screw compressors as their flow rate and power consumption are virtually proportional to speed," explains Stanford. "The rotary screw elements adapt in sync with the motor so that the amount of compressed air delivered matches air demand. Owing to this PM motor - VSD combination, the compressor is 50% more energy efficient than

a fixed speed unit in partial or unloaded conditions. As the compressor operates under these types of conditions for most of its working life, it means that operating costs are significantly reduced over the machine's lifespan."

The incorporation of PACE technology into the B-Air takes efficiency to a whole new level. This intuitive electronic pressure regulation system adjusts its output depending on the requirements, and allows multiple pressure and flow combinations, delivering the widest operating pressure range within a single compressor. Compared to a regular compressor which is limited to a certain pressure and flow rate, a compressor equipped with PACE has the ability to provide extra flow at lower pressure levels. This technology allows the motor speed to be adjusted according to the load, resulting in substantial energy and cost savings.

With only a few clicks of the digital controller, operators can easily find the perfect combination by selecting a pressure in increments of 0.1 bar (2 psi). "This smart technology enables users to accommodate different applications with one compressor," notes Stanford.

"For example, the operator can, on the same machine, select 6 bar (90 psi) to power a handheld tool, or 10,3 bar (150 psi) and 12 bar (175 psi) respectively for sandblasting and cable blowing applications."

The compressor offers complete flexibility because it can essentially operate anywhere. The IP-66 rated PM motor is uniquely designed by Atlas Copco to withstand stringent outdoor applications and is completely sealed from water and dust ingress. The liquid-cooled battery pack is contained in a triple enclosure that provides excellent protection. The B-Air is able to operate reliably in ambient temperatures ranging from -25°C to +40°C (with a standard heater and a minimum battery cell temperature of -20°C), offering the ideal compressed air solution for harsh applications that have to be addressed in a sustainable way.



# 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.



# WFW advises Guinea as Simandou mega-project closes

The US\$15 billion Simandou project, the largest greenfield integrated mine and infrastructure investment in Africa to date, on which Watson Farley & Williams has been advising the Republic of Guinea, has now completed, including the required Guinean and Chinese regulatory approvals.

Closing was followed by both the second anniversary celebration for Compagnie du Transguinée, the joint venture consortium that will own and manage the Simandou rail and port infrastructure, and the signing of the first locomotive order to service the project.

CTG is comprised of Guinea, Baowu Group (leading a consortium of Chinese steel manufacturers and other investors), Simfer Jersey (a joint venture between Rio Tinto and a consortium led by China's state-owned Chalco Iron Ore Holdings) and WCS (a consortium comprising the Winning International Group, China Hongqiao Group, Guinean mining logistics company UMS, as well China's Yantai Port Group).

Whilst Simandou revolves around the exploitation of four iron ore blocks in southern Guinea, the project goes far beyond

mining and includes the construction and operation of a 600+ km multi-use railway line connecting the blocks to a large, newly constructed state-of-the-art mineral port to export up to 120 million t of iron internationally. This new rail and port infrastructure will act as a catalyst for transforming Guinea's economic development, unlocking prosperity well beyond the Simandou corridor as well as empowering local communities and reducing poverty nationwide.

With all the project's core agreements requiring compliance with the highest ESG standards, Simandou also delivers a significant new source of high-grade iron ore that will strengthen the decarbonisation of the steel industry helping combat global climate change.

The multidisciplinary cross-border WFW team that advised Guinea was led by Dubai Projects Partner Alhassane Barry working closely with London Corporate Partner and Global Mining & Commodities Sector Co-Head Jan Mellmann and Paris Regulatory & Public Law Partner Arnaud Troizier, as well as ESG Partners Sarah Ellington and Nick Walker, Corporate Partner Chris Kilburn and

Tax Partner Richard Stephens in London; Dispute Resolution Partner Franck Poindessault, Tax Partner Romain Girtanner and Regulatory, Public Law & Competition Senior Consultant Lucien Rapp in Paris; Tax and Regulatory Partner Daniel Pilarski in New York; and Projects Partner Mhairi Main Garcia in Dubai. They were supported in London by Counsel Valentina Keys (ESG) and Senior Associates Thomas Newlyn (Corporate), David Bath (Corporate) and Rhiannon Elias (Projects) and Associates Sulaiman Hoosen (Corporate), Idil Yusuf (Corporate) and Philippa Beasley (ESG); in Paris by Counsel Hélène Ibos (Tax) and Associates Maximilian Cristescu (Tax) and Mohamed Douib (Corporate); and in Dubai by Associates Amoetsoe Mkwena and Benjamin Ruffet (Projects).

Alhassane and Jan commented: "The strength and depth of our experience in our core sectors and ability to work seamlessly and collaboratively across our international network meant we were able to provide Guinea a truly global legal team to help it complete this historic project which represents a new era for the development of the African mining sector".

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## Dabel Gold Project Set to Transform Marsabit County into a Strategic Mining Hub



Marsabit County, Kenya — December 2025  
A new wave of optimism is sweeping across northern Kenya as the Dabel Gold Project, a major mineral exploration and development initiative, takes root in Marsabit County. Positioned in the resource-rich Dabel region, near the Ethiopian border, the project is poised to become one of Kenya's most promising gold ventures — signaling a significant step forward for the country's growing extractives sector and the economic empowerment of communities in the arid north.

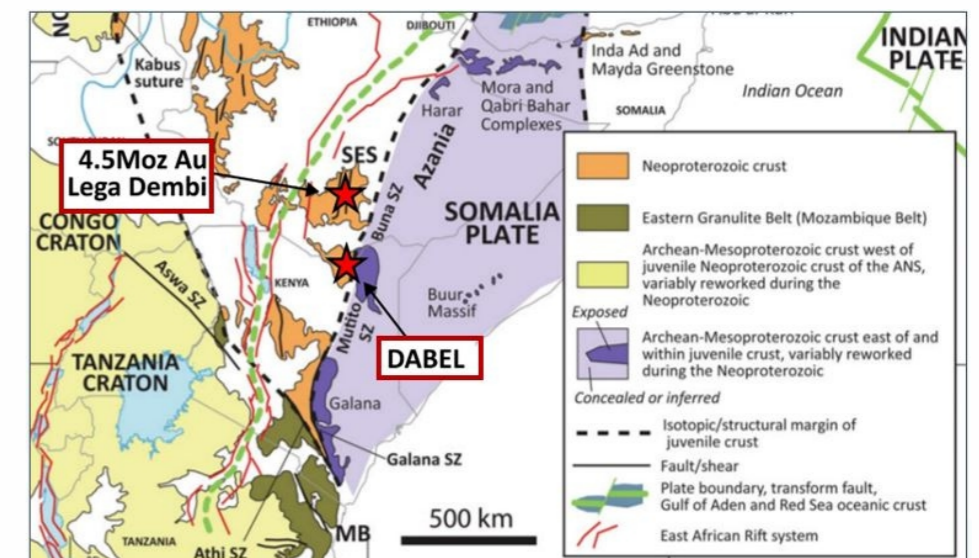
Backed by both local and international investors, the Dabel Gold Project is designed to leverage advanced exploration technologies and sustainable mining practices to unlock the region's vast gold potential. The project underscores Kenya's commitment to responsible resource development, community participation, and environmental stewardship, in line with the government's Mining Act (2016) and the Vision 2030 economic blueprint.

**Strategic Location and Geological Promise**  
The Dabel area of Marsabit County has long been recognized by geologists as part of the Mozambique Belt, a geological formation known for hosting a wide range of mineral deposits including gold, graphite, gemstones, and rare earth elements. Recent exploratory surveys by the Dabel Gold Project's technical team have confirmed extensive mineralization zones — particularly quartz vein systems and alluvial gold occurrences — which hold high potential for commercial extraction.

According to early-stage geological assessments, the gold-bearing formations in Dabel are comparable to those found in other productive mining belts across East Africa. The project's geologists have identified

several target zones based on soil sampling, rock trenching, and geophysical mapping. Preliminary results indicate promising grades of gold mineralization that warrant expanded exploration drilling. "The Dabel Gold Project is not just about discovering gold — it's about confirming Kenya's place on the global mining map," said Eng. Joseph Mwangi, Chief Operations Officer for the project. "Marsabit has always been viewed as a frontier region. Through modern exploration, we are proving that it is a frontier of opportunity."

**A Catalyst for Northern Kenya's Economic Growth**  
Beyond its geological significance, the Dabel Gold Project carries profound economic implications for Marsabit County and the broader northern Kenya region. Once operational, the project is expected to create hundreds of direct jobs and thousands of



indirect opportunities in support industries such as transport, hospitality, engineering services, and local trade.

During the exploration phase alone, more than 300 local residents have been engaged as field assistants, security personnel, and logistical support staff. The company has prioritized employing youth and women from local communities, with specific training programs designed to enhance their technical skills in mineral exploration, safety procedures, and environmental management.

"Mining should not be extractive alone — it must be transformative," noted Hon. Mohamud Abdi, Marsabit County's Executive for Trade, Industry, and Mining. "The Dabel Gold Project will help unlock our county's economic potential, improve infrastructure, and create a value chain that benefits the people of Marsabit for generations."

### Commitment to Responsible and Sustainable Mining

The Dabel Gold Project emphasizes environmental stewardship as a cornerstone of its development philosophy. The company has adopted an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) framework aligned with national standards set by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and international guidelines such as those of the World Bank's IFC Performance Standards.

- Key sustainability measures include:
- Water Conservation: The project is utilizing advanced, low-water extraction and processing techniques suitable for Marsabit's arid environment.



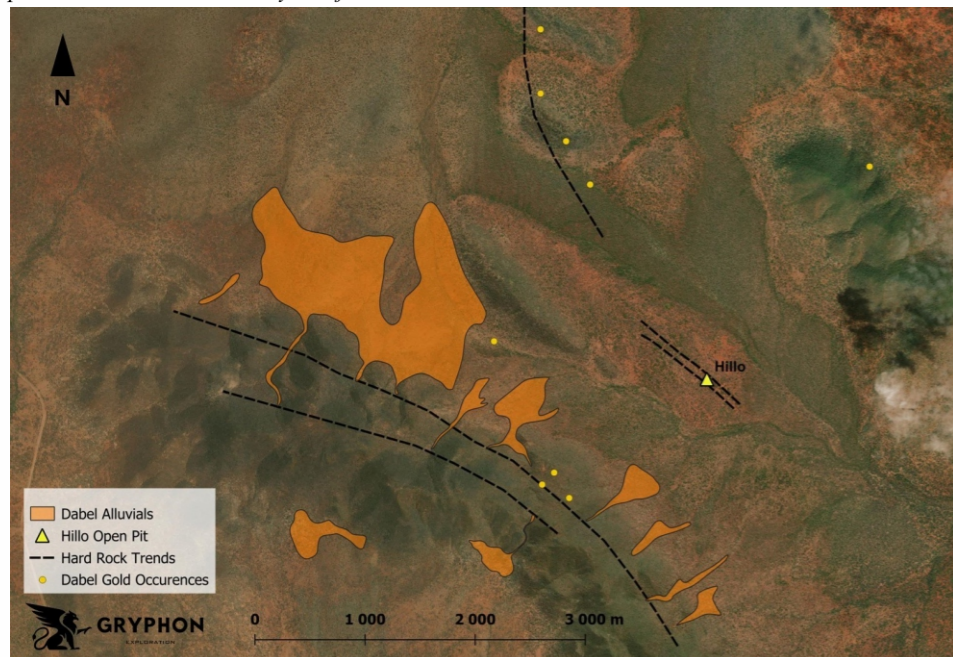
- Land Rehabilitation: Plans are in place for post-mining land restoration, ensuring affected areas are reclaimed for grazing or community use.
- Wildlife Protection: Given the proximity of Dabel to migratory wildlife corridors, the company is coordinating closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to minimize ecological disruption.
- Community Health & Safety: A comprehensive health and safety program has been launched to protect both workers and nearby residents during all phases of operation.

*project's Environmental and Social Manager. "Our goal is to demonstrate that gold exploration and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand."*

#### Community Partnerships and Social Investment

Community engagement lies at the heart of the Dabel Gold Project's long-term strategy. The company has established a Community Liaison Office (CLO) in Marsabit Town to ensure continuous dialogue with local leaders, elders, and residents. Through structured consultation meetings, the project has identified priority areas for social investment, including education, healthcare, water access, and youth empowerment.

*"Mining in a fragile ecosystem like Marsabit demands a balance between progress and preservation," said Dr. Emily Wanjiru, the*



Initial social programs launched under the Dabel Community Development Initiative (DCDI) include:

- **Bursary Support:** Sponsorship of secondary school and technical college students from Dabel Ward.
- **Water Projects:** Installation of solar-powered boreholes to improve access to clean water for surrounding communities.
- **Health Outreach:** Mobile clinics offering medical checkups, maternal care, and vaccination drives in partnership with the Marsabit County Department of Health.
- **Women's Empowerment:** Formation of community savings and cooperative groups to help women entrepreneurs start small businesses linked to the mining supply chain.

*According to Fatuma Gufu, a community leader in Dabel, "The company has shown a genuine willingness to listen. They've brought training, jobs, and clean water — things that matter to us. We are hopeful that the gold beneath our land will bring prosperity to our people."*

#### Strategic Partnerships and Investment

The Dabel Gold Project represents a collaboration between Kenyan investors and international technical partners with extensive experience in exploration and mine development across Africa. The consortium's investment reflects growing confidence in Kenya's mining sector, following the government's efforts to streamline licensing, transparency, and local participation through the Mining (Local Equity Participation) Regulations, 2023.

- The project has also benefited from technical support provided by the State Department for Mining, which has facilitated geological data access, mapping assistance, and compliance oversight. Additionally, discussions are underway with potential offtake partners and gold refinery facilities in Nairobi to ensure value addition remains within Kenya's borders.

"Our approach is not to export raw gold," said Ms. Lucy Kamau, the Project Director. "We want to establish a sustainable gold value chain — from exploration and refining to jewelry design and export — that positions Kenya as a key player in the global gold market."

#### Infrastructure and Regional Development Impact

The Dabel Gold Project is also expected to accelerate infrastructure development in northern Kenya. The construction of access roads, exploration camps, and power distribution lines will improve connectivity in the region and stimulate ancillary economic activities.

The project's logistical network will benefit from the nearby Isiolo–Marsabit–Moyale Highway, part of the Lamu Port–South Sudan–Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor, one of Kenya's flagship Vision 2030 infrastructure projects.

Improved mobility will not only facilitate mining operations but also open up markets for local farmers, traders, and service providers.

Marsabit County Governor Hon. Ali Mohamud expressed optimism: "Projects like Dabel are what we've been waiting for — investments that create lasting value and integrate with our infrastructure and development goals. This is how we close the economic gap between northern Kenya and the rest of the country."

#### Future Outlook

As exploration activities advance into the drilling and resource estimation phase, the Dabel Gold Project team remains committed to transparency, safety, and inclusivity. The next phase will involve detailed geological modeling, feasibility studies, and the preparation of a full mining license application.

If the current exploration results continue to yield positive data, full-scale gold production could begin within the next three to five years, potentially making Dabel one of Kenya's largest gold-producing zones alongside Migori and Kakamega. The company's vision extends beyond mining — it aims to establish a regional center of excellence in mineral exploration and environmental management in Marsabit County, providing training opportunities for young Kenyan geologists, engineers,

and technicians.

#### About the Dabel Gold Project

The Dabel Gold Project is a mineral exploration and development initiative located in Marsabit County, northern Kenya. The project focuses on the exploration of gold-bearing formations within the Dabel geological belt, applying advanced technology and sustainable mining principles. With a strong commitment to environmental protection, social inclusion, and economic growth, the Dabel Gold Project aims to create shared prosperity for local communities while contributing to Kenya's mining-led economic transformation.

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# Southern Palladium submits EIA for Bengwenyama project

Dual-listed Southern Palladium has submitted the environmental-impact assessment (EIA) report for its 70%-owned Bengwenyama platinum group metal project, located on the eastern limb of the Bushveld Complex in South Africa, to the country's Department of Mineral Resource and Energy (DMRE), which is in the process of being split from the energy portfolio and renamed the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources.

Southern Palladium MD Johan Odendaal explains that, in alignment with regulatory requirements and the company's dedication to environmental stewardship, a scoping study was completed on February 14.

Subsequently, an extensive EIA process was carried out in full compliance with the EIA regulations. "These studies ensure that our project adheres to legal standards and best practices, reflecting our commitment to sustainable and responsible mining," he says.

He notes that the EIA studies, along with the consultation process, were finalised and the report submitted on July 10, adding that the company received an acknowledgment letter from the DMRE on July 22.

Southern Palladium says the letter acts as an acknowledgement by the DMRE that the core parameters of the EIA submission have been met correctly by the company and that the detailed review can begin for issuance of environmental authorisation.

In turn, the environmental authorisation permit will form part of Southern Palladium's forthcoming mining right application (MRA), following the completion of a feasibility study.

"We remain confident that the MRA process will be successfully concluded by the end of the first quarter of 2025, with the formal granting of the mining right by the DMRE expected shortly thereafter.

"This will position Southern Palladium to advance the Bengwenyama project, delivering significant value to our stakeholders and contributing to the economic development of the region," says Odendaal.

The company says additional permit applications are also in progress. These include a waste management licence (WML) application and a water-use licence (WUL) application, which will be submitted for water uses associated with the Bengwenyama project.

The EIA submission, along with the WML and WUL submissions, form part of the comprehensive review process for Southern Palladium's MRA. The WML and WUL applications are scheduled to be completed and submitted by December.



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# Atlas Copco's NGPs 2-9 PSA range of Nitrogen Generators sets new quality and efficiency standards in on-site nitrogen generation

Atlas Copco Compressor Technique extends its existing and proven NGP nitrogen generator range with the introduction of the NGPs 2-9 PSA (Pressure Swing Adsorption) range of generators. This latest quality air innovation from the global industrial solutions specialist is designed and engineered to meet diverse nitrogen applications across a wide spectrum of industries.

Dean Adriaanse, Product Manager at Atlas Copco Compressor Technique, remarks on the significance of the NGPs 2-9 PSA range: "The introduction of this next-generation nitrogen generator, which delivers superior air purities of between 95 – 99.999%, fills the gap below our existing offering. We are now able to offer users nitrogen flows between 2-9 Nm<sup>3</sup>/hour which was not previously covered by the NGP8-130+ range. This expansion ensures that we continue to meet the transformatory needs of our customers while upholding our commitment to excellence."

With a strong focus on air purity, performance, versatility, reliability, and cost-efficiency, Atlas Copco's new NGPs 2-9 PSA range is packed with advanced features that deliver value adding benefits for users. Before unpacking the machine's capabilities, Adriaanse shares the many advantages of on-site nitrogen generation. "Rated fourth after gas, electricity and water, nitrogen is an integral part of production processes in countless industries who are dependent on reliable supply and consistent high gas purity."

To demonstrate the true added value of on-site nitrogen generation, Adriaanse draws a comparison between investing in a nitrogen generator versus buying or leasing pressurised cylinders of liquid nitrogen. "Bulky nitrogen containers must be transported (CO<sub>2</sub> emissions), handled (safety risk), stored (space) and administered (resources) with

costs linked to each logistical stage. Moreover, potential challenges such as stock shortages, supply and transport issues can disrupt production with costly outcomes."

"By installing a nitrogen generator on site, users can eliminate all these headaches, hazards and costs and simply reap the benefits of having a constant and seamless supply of nitrogen that will never run out, at guaranteed high purity levels," affirms Adriaanse. "The NGPs 2-9 PSA range has been designed for continuous duty and uninterrupted operation, empowering users to control their nitrogen supply with confidence."

Adriaanse also points out that the unit cost of nitrogen gas is significantly lower compared to gas cylinders and that there is no wasted gas, thus adding even more to the bottom line. "Coupled with best-in-class air/energy consumption and high air purity levels, these generators deliver uncompromising efficiency."

Designed for seamless integration into existing compressed air networks, the user-friendly, plug-and-play NGPs 2-9 PSA range is ready to use without the need for costly installations. Featuring a small environmental footprint and quiet operation, the compact machine can operate on the production floor. An advanced controller with remote monitoring capabilities streamlines operation.

Delivering low operational and ownership costs, reliability, efficiency, unparalleled air purity and safety, on-site nitrogen generation is a sound investment in optimising production processes and future-proofing operations in industries such as oil & gas, chemical, pharmaceutical, electronics, and waste water treatment. The NGPs 2-9 PSA range caters to a wide selection of applications, including microbreweries, 3D printing, laboratories, Modified Atmospheric Packaging (MAP) for

food, chemical blanketing, heat treatment, laser cutting, electronics recycling, battery production/recycling, soldering, as well as wire/cable production.

Atlas Copco is plugged into dynamic and constantly evolving markets and remains resolute in its commitment to providing cutting-edge solutions that sustainably drive efficiencies and cost effective outcomes for customers. The NGPs 2-9 PSA nitrogen generator range represents a milestone in innovation, empowering businesses to unlock new levels of efficiency and sustainable productivity.



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# Forging the Future: The Energy-Mining Nexus and the Rise of Renewable Projects Across Africa



*Nairobi, Kenya – December 2025:*  
A profound transformation is unfolding at the intersection of the global energy and mining sectors. Across Africa and the world, mining companies are reimagining their energy strategies by embracing renewables — solar, wind, hydro, and battery storage — to power their operations sustainably, reduce emissions, and ensure long-term profitability. This critical alignment, known as the Energy-Mining Nexus, is not just a trend but a strategic imperative reshaping the industrial and environmental landscape of the 21st century.

**A New Industrial Synergy**  
Mining and energy have long shared an inseparable relationship — one that has traditionally been based on dependence on fossil fuels. From diesel-powered excavators to coal-fueled smelters, the mining industry has historically been among the most energy-intensive sectors on the planet. However, escalating energy costs, tightening carbon regulations, and the accelerating global shift toward decarbonization have compelled the industry to seek cleaner, more resilient energy sources.

The Energy-Mining Nexus concept describes this emerging symbiosis between resource extraction and renewable energy generation. At its core, it is about powering mines with renewables, developing on-site clean energy infrastructure, and leveraging mining investments to expand national and regional energy access. The outcome is a new economic model that aligns environmental responsibility with operational efficiency.

## Driving Forces Behind the Transition

Several factors are propelling the rise of renewable energy in the mining sector:

- **Energy Security and Cost Reduction**  
Unstable fossil fuel prices, logistical challenges in transporting diesel to remote mining sites, and frequent power outages have pushed companies to invest in localized renewable energy systems. Solar and wind farms, often paired with battery storage, now offer consistent, low-cost power for both day and night operations.
- **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Mandates**

Investors, regulators, and communities are demanding stronger sustainability commitments. Mining firms are increasingly judged by their environmental footprint and community engagement. Renewable integration offers a clear path to meeting ESG benchmarks while reinforcing a company's social license to operate.

- **Technological Advancements**  
The falling costs of photovoltaic panels, modular wind turbines, and efficient energy storage systems have made renewable projects more financially viable than ever. Smart microgrids and AI-driven energy management tools further enhance the reliability of hybrid energy systems in mining operations.

## National Climate Goals and International Partnerships

African nations are aligning their development policies with the Paris Agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Governments are partnering with mining companies to co-develop renewable projects that contribute to national electrification and decarbonization targets.

## Africa at the Forefront

The African continent, rich in mineral resources and renewable energy potential, is emerging as a key frontier for the energy-mining revolution. From copper and cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo to gold operations in Tanzania and lithium exploration in Zimbabwe, renewable energy is powering the next wave of resource development.





In Kenya, for instance, geothermal and solar energy are increasingly being integrated into industrial operations, setting new standards for clean mining practices. The country's Renewable Energy Act and expanding private-public partnerships have encouraged mining firms to harness locally available resources to meet their energy demands sustainably.

South Africa, home to one of the continent's largest mining sectors, is undergoing a remarkable energy transition. Mining giants such as Anglo American and Gold Fields have already commissioned large-scale solar and wind projects to offset grid dependence. Gold Fields' 40 MW solar plant at the South Deep mine and Anglo American's 100% renewable electricity transition in South America exemplify how corporate leadership is catalyzing change.

#### Renewables Transforming Mining Operations

Modern mining operations are integrating renewable projects in multiple innovative ways:

##### On-site Solar and Wind Farms:

Companies install dedicated renewable generation facilities to power operations directly, reducing diesel use and minimizing greenhouse gas emissions.

##### Hybrid Power Systems:

Mines combine renewables with traditional grid or diesel power for a balanced and reliable energy mix. This hybrid model ensures continuous operation while optimizing energy costs.

##### Energy Storage and Microgrids:

The deployment of lithium-ion batteries and smart grid systems allows mines to store excess power and manage consumption efficiently, even in isolated locations.

##### Water-Energy Efficiency Synergy:

Renewable power supports advanced water recycling and processing technologies, further enhancing sustainability performance.

##### Community Power Sharing:

In several African regions, renewable projects developed for mining operations also supply nearby communities with clean electricity, promoting inclusive development.

#### Case Studies: Success Stories of the Energy-Mining Nexus

- B2Gold's Otjikoto Mine (Namibia)  
B2Gold installed a 7 MW solar power plant at its Otjikoto Gold Mine, significantly cutting fuel costs and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The hybrid system allows the mine to run smoothly during peak sunlight hours and conserve diesel for backup use.
- Iamgold's Essakane Mine (Burkina

Faso)

With a 15 MW solar photovoltaic plant, Iamgold's Essakane mine operates one of the largest hybrid power systems in Africa. The project reduces annual diesel consumption by more than 6 million liters and cuts CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 18,500 tonnes.

- Base Titanium (Kenya)  
As part of its sustainability roadmap, Base Titanium has initiated studies to integrate solar and wind energy into its Kwale operations. The company's rehabilitation and renewable expansion efforts serve as a model for responsible resource development.

#### Anglo American's NuGen™ Hydrogen Project (South Africa)

In a world-first, Anglo American introduced a hydrogen-powered haul truck at its Mogalakwena Platinum Mine. The system uses renewable electricity to produce green hydrogen, drastically reducing emissions from heavy-duty mining equipment.

#### Economic and Environmental Impact

The integration of renewable projects into mining operations delivers tangible benefits across multiple dimensions:

##### Reduced Carbon Footprint:

Mining companies can cut emissions by up to 50% or more depending on the scale of renewable integration.

##### Operational Cost Savings:

Renewables reduce fuel costs, stabilize long-term power pricing, and protect companies from volatile fossil energy markets.

##### Increased Energy Access:

Hybrid renewable systems can support rural electrification programs, extending power to nearby communities and stimulating local economic growth.

##### Job Creation and Skills Development:

Renewable installations and maintenance create new employment opportunities and foster technical capacity in local populations.

##### Improved Corporate Reputation:

Companies demonstrating environmental leadership attract investors, maintain community trust, and gain competitive advantages in global supply chains increasingly demanding green-certified minerals.

#### Challenges and the Road Ahead

Despite the remarkable progress, challenges remain. Financing large-scale renewable installations can be complex, especially in regions with limited infrastructure or

regulatory clarity. Energy storage technologies, while improving, still present high upfront costs. Additionally, grid integration and land use considerations require careful planning to ensure equitable outcomes.

However, the momentum is irreversible. International development banks, private equity firms, and green investment funds are channeling unprecedented capital into renewable mining projects. Multilateral organizations such as the World Bank, IFC, and African Development Bank have launched dedicated programs to support the energy transition in extractive industries.

#### Towards a Sustainable Mining Future

The Energy-Mining Nexus represents more than a technical innovation — it is a paradigm shift toward sustainability, efficiency, and resilience. Mining companies are no longer just extractors of natural wealth; they are becoming enablers of clean energy transition and champions of climate action.

By harnessing renewable resources, the mining industry can drastically reduce its environmental impact while strengthening its long-term viability. This synergy ensures that the future of mining aligns with global efforts to combat climate change, preserve biodiversity, and promote sustainable industrialization.

#### Conclusion

The convergence of energy and mining sectors marks a defining moment in industrial history. As renewable projects proliferate across Africa and beyond, the narrative of mining is being rewritten — from one of consumption to one of contribution, from carbon intensity to clean innovation.

In this new era, mines are not merely sites of extraction but beacons of sustainability. The Energy-Mining Nexus will continue to drive this transformation — illuminating pathways toward a cleaner, more inclusive, and prosperous energy future for all.

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# Kenya's Geothermal Developments: A Non-Mining But Noteworthy Energy Revolution Powering Sustainable Growth



Nairobi, Kenya — January 2026  
Kenya's march toward sustainable energy independence has found its strongest footing in one of nature's most powerful — yet often unseen — resources: geothermal energy. As the world grapples with rising energy costs, climate change, and the urgent need for green transitions, Kenya's geothermal developments stand out as a global benchmark of innovation, resilience, and environmental responsibility.

Unlike mining, which involves extraction of finite resources from the earth's crust, geothermal energy taps into the natural heat emanating from the planet's core. This renewable, low-emission source is fueling Kenya's ambitions to become a fully green economy by 2030 and positioning the country as Africa's undisputed geothermal leader.

**A Nation at the Forefront of Clean Energy**  
Kenya currently ranks first in Africa and among the top ten in the world in geothermal energy production. According to the Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen), geothermal now contributes over 47% of Kenya's electricity mix, surpassing hydro, wind, and thermal generation.

This success is not an accident; it is the result of deliberate policy frameworks, substantial investment, and bold public-private partnerships. From the hot steam fields of Olkaria in Nakuru County to the expanding frontiers of Menengai and Baringo-Silali, Kenya's geothermal projects are lighting homes, driving industries, and fostering inclusive growth — all without depleting non-

renewable resources.

*"Geothermal energy has proven to be the backbone of Kenya's power supply," says Peter Njenga, CEO of KenGen. "It provides consistent, affordable, and clean power — the kind of energy that sustains both industry and innovation. We're proud to be leading this transformation not just for Kenya, but for the African continent."*

### Olkaria: The Beating Heart of Kenya's Geothermal Journey

The Olkaria Geothermal Complex, located within Hell's Gate National Park, is the crown jewel of Kenya's geothermal story. It hosts a series of plants — Olkaria I through V — generating over 800 megawatts (MW) combined.

The journey began in the 1980s with a modest 45 MW plant. Decades later, Olkaria has evolved into a cutting-edge energy hub utilizing advanced drilling and turbine technologies. The latest addition, Olkaria V, inaugurated in 2019, added 165 MW to the grid and set a new benchmark for efficiency and sustainability in East Africa.

Beyond power generation, Olkaria's impact extends to environmental stewardship and local empowerment. KenGen's social investment programs have focused on community resettlement, education, healthcare, and job creation — transforming the once remote Naivasha region into a thriving economic zone.



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Since commissioning the AAC plant in 2017, Everite Building Products has enjoyed considerable success in specification of the product to landmark projects in South Africa.



*“Geothermal energy doesn’t just power homes; it powers lives,” notes Dr. (Eng.) Lucy Mworira, an energy policy analyst. “The Olkaria developments have demonstrated how clean energy can coexist with nature and uplift communities.”*

### Menengai and Baringo-Silali: The Next Frontier

Building on Olkaria’s success, Kenya’s geothermal expansion continues northwards into Menengai, Baringo, and the Rift Valley belt, where untapped geothermal reservoirs promise vast potential.

The Menengai Geothermal Project, managed by the Geothermal Development Company (GDC), is one of the most significant ongoing initiatives. The field is expected to produce up to 465 MW once fully operational, with the first 35 MW already commissioned in partnership with independent power producers such as Orpower Twenty-Two, Sosian Energy, and Quantum Power East Africa.

Further north, the Baringo-Silali geothermal block, stretching across Baringo, Turkana, and West Pokot counties, represents Kenya’s next major geothermal frontier. Early drilling has confirmed several high-temperature wells, and GDC estimates the potential capacity could exceed 3,000 MW — enough to power several major cities.

“These developments are critical,” says Eng. Johnson Pamba, GDC’s General Manager for Operations. “Geothermal energy doesn’t fluctuate like solar or hydro. It runs 24/7, providing stable baseload power that anchors national reliability.”

### Not Mining, But Transformative Resource Use

While geothermal drilling may appear similar to mining operations on the surface — involving rigs, wells, and subsurface exploration — its purpose and impact are fundamentally different. Mining extracts minerals that are eventually depleted; geothermal harnesses heat that continuously renews.

Each geothermal well is a testament to clean extraction — steam is captured, converted into electricity, and reinjected back into the earth to maintain the system’s balance. This closed-loop process ensures environmental sustainability and minimal ecological disruption compared to traditional resource extraction.

Moreover, geothermal energy supports

industrial decarbonization, heating applications, and even direct-use benefits like greenhouse farming, milk pasteurization, fish drying, and spa tourism. In Naivasha, for instance, geothermal heat supports flower farms that export globally, giving Kenya’s horticultural sector a competitive green edge.

### Investment, Innovation, and International Collaboration

Kenya’s geothermal expansion has attracted significant international partnerships and financing from agencies such as the World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). These collaborations have enabled advanced research, training, and technology transfer — equipping local engineers with world-class skills in geoscience, reservoir management, and energy engineering. The Olkaria Geothermal Training Centre, a KenGen initiative, has trained over 1,000 professionals from more than 30 countries, cementing Kenya’s role as a continental knowledge hub for geothermal development.

The private sector has also stepped in, with independent power producers (IPPs) contributing to the diversification of ownership and innovation in project implementation. The model has proven effective in accelerating capacity addition while maintaining high operational standards.

### Economic and Environmental Benefits

The economic impact of geothermal power is far-reaching. It reduces Kenya’s dependence on imported fossil fuels, stabilizes electricity costs, and supports energy-intensive industries such as manufacturing, agriculture, and technology.

With geothermal providing stable baseload power, Kenya’s grid has become more resilient to seasonal fluctuations that affect hydro generation. This reliability has attracted foreign direct investment (FDI) in sectors like data centers, logistics, and industrial parks — all of which require uninterrupted power.

Environmentally, geothermal energy has dramatically cut carbon emissions. Kenya’s shift toward renewables has eliminated millions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, helping the country meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Climate Agreement.

“Every megawatt of geothermal power is a megawatt less of fossil dependency,” observes Prof. Lydia Karanja, an environmental

economist. “Kenya’s strategy is a masterclass in balancing growth with green responsibility.”

### Future Outlook: A Vision for 2030 and Beyond

The Kenyan government’s Least Cost Power Development Plan (LCPDP) envisions geothermal capacity rising to over 2,500 MW by 2030, making it the dominant energy source in the national mix.

To achieve this, investments are being directed toward deep drilling technology, exploration in new geothermal prospects such as Longonot, Suswa, and Magadi, and the creation of geothermal industrial parks that can utilize heat directly for manufacturing processes.

Furthermore, the integration of geothermal energy with emerging technologies — such as green hydrogen production and battery energy storage systems (BESS) — positions Kenya at the forefront of Africa’s clean-tech transition.

### A Model for Africa and the World

Kenya’s geothermal achievements are being closely studied by other African nations — including Ethiopia, Djibouti, Rwanda, and Tanzania — which are seeking to replicate its success.

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Rift Geothermal Development Facility (ARGeo) have cited Kenya as a model of effective policy, capacity-building, and sustainability. In global energy forums, Kenya continues to advocate for greater investment in geothermal exploration across the East African Rift System, a region rich with untapped potential.

### Conclusion: A Silent Revolution Beneath Our Feet

While it lacks the glamour of mining or the visibility of wind farms, geothermal energy is arguably Kenya’s most transformative natural asset. It operates quietly beneath the earth’s surface but speaks volumes through its impact — powering cities, protecting the environment, and inspiring a new generation of clean energy pioneers.

As Kenya continues its geothermal journey, it reaffirms that true wealth lies not in what we dig out of the ground, but in how we use the earth’s gifts responsibly to light the way for generations to come.

### Issued by:

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# Merafe reports R720m half-year profit on higher chrome ore prices, weaker currency

**J**OHANNESBURG – Johannesburg Stock Exchange-listed Merafe has reported a profit of R720-million for the six months ended June 30, on higher realised chrome ore prices and a weaker rand:dollar exchange rate. But downward pressure on chrome ore prices has started and is expected to translate to lower ferrochrome prices, Merafe CEO Zanele Matlala outlined in the half-year presentation covered by Mining Weekly.

Ferrochrome prices remain strained and cost increases continue to put pressure on margins and the company is expecting the second half of 2024 to be softer given a weaker market outlook.

Nevertheless, the board of Merafe has declared an interim gross cash dividend of 20c, on a par with that for the corresponding period of last year.

Merafe's revenue and operating income are primarily generated from the Glencore-Merafe Chrome Venture, which is one of the global

market leaders in ferrochrome production, with a total installed capacity of 2.3-million tonnes of ferrochrome a year.

Merafe shares 20.5% of the earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortisation from the venture, its reportable segment being the mining and beneficiation of chrome ore into ferrochrome and the extraction of associated minerals.

Operationally, ferrochrome and chrome ore production were lower, with some improvement in electricity supply and logistics.

Global stainless-steel production increased and demand for ferrochrome followed a similar trend, with rand weakness against the dollar providing some cushion, Global stainless-steel production increased by 9% to 31.3-million tons. The biggest increase came from China, which grew stainless steel production by 12%.

Ferrochrome demand increased by 10% to 7.9-million tons, in line with standard steel production growth.

China continues to dominate global stainless-steel production, accounting for more than 63%. Global ferrochrome production increased by 7% to 16.1-million tons. Nearly all this growth came from China, which has been introducing new cost-efficient capacity and which grew by about 29%. South African production decreased by 21% to 3.1-million tons following the growth in ferrochrome production in China, where chrome imports grew by 27% to 8.5-million tons, with the bulk of the chrome coming from South Africa.

Merafe had cash and cash equivalents of R1 717-million as at June 30

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