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Report back: Positioning South Africa for the Green Economy – Execution Strategies

Date: Friday 16 July 2021

Time: 13h00 to 16h20 SAST

Cost: Free-of-charge

Hosted by: EE Business Intelligence, *thedtic* and Isondo Precious Metals.

Supported by: Nedbank CIB, Coatema Coating Machinery, IBC Advanced Technologies and De Dietrich.

Moderated by: Chris Yelland, Managing Director, EE Business Intelligence.

Introduction

The green hydrogen economy offers South Africa a significant advantage in utilising its natural resources to help re-industrialise its economy, underpinned by various policies and initiatives, many of which are spearheaded by *thedtic*.

The webinar discussed real developments on the ground taking place now in South Africa that take advantage of these nascent opportunities presented by the green hydrogen sector.

The webinar showcased a metal beneficiation project that will manufacture high-tech platinum group metal-based components for fuel cells and electrolyzers that underpin the green hydrogen industry.

The start of the construction process for the **Isondo Precious Metals** facility at the OR Tambo Special Economic Zone (SEZ) represents the first manifestation of intent in this sector.

Supported by *thedtic*, this will help position world-class manufacturing facilities and processes in South Africa, thereby allowing the country to beneficiate its precious metals into the required products for the global green hydrogen sector.

Presentations at the webinar

[Keynote speech by Department of Trade, Industry and Competition Deputy Minister Fikile Majola](#)

[Presentation by Prof. Katsuhiko Hirose, CEO, HyWealth Co, Japan](#)

[Joint presentation by Isondo CEO Vinay Somera and Isondo Technical Consultant Kevin Fothergill](#)

[Presentation by Jak Koseff, Special Advisor to Gauteng MEC for Economic Development, Parks Tau](#)

[Presentation by Marius Brand, Executive Vice President, Sasol 2.0 Transformation](#)

[Closing speech by Dr. Khotso Mokhele, chairman of AECI](#)

Programme and audio/video recording of the webinar

[The audio/video recording of the webinar can be viewed here](#)

Placeholder times for the various sections of the audio/video recording are provided below for convenience:

00:00:00 Welcome, introduction of Deputy Minister Fikile Majola by Chris Yelland, EE Business Intelligence.
 00:06:25 Keynote by **thedtic** Acting Chief Director Thami Klassen on behalf of Deputy Minister Fikile Majola.
 00:24:52 Presentation by Prof. Katsuhiko Hirose, CEO, HyWealth Co, Japan.
 00:51:56 Presentation by Vinay Somera, CEO, Isondo Precious Metals.
 01:11:02 Series of videos and walkthrough of the new Isondo Precious Metals facility.
 01:35:09 Presentation by Kevin Fothergill, Technical Consultant to Isondo Precious Metals.
 01:46:52 Presentation by Jak Koseff, Special Advisor to Gauteng MEC for Economic Development, Parks Tau.
 02:00:20 Presentation by Marius Brand, Executive Vice President, Sasol 2.0 Transformation.
 02:18:14 Fireside chat with Dr. Sanjiv Malhotra, CEO, Sparkz, USA.
 02:45:44 Closing by Dr. Khotso Mokhele, chairman of AECl and Isondo Precious Metals.
 02:56:21 Q & A facilitated by Chris Yelland

The presenters



[Hon. Fikile Majola](#)

Mr. Fikile Majola currently serves as the Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition (**the dtic**), Republic of South Africa, following his appointment on 29 May 2019. He is a member of the 6th Parliament as a representative of the African National Congress (ANC). He also served as a member of the 5th Parliament, and during this period he served as the Chairperson of the portfolio committee on Energy until 2019. He actively participated in many structures of the liberation movement during apartheid, such as the Vaal Youth Congress (VAYCO), South African Youth Congress (SAYCO), Southern Transvaal Youth Congress (STYCO), and the United Democratic Front in the Vaal after the formation of the UDF in 1983.



[Mr. Parks Tau](#)

Mr. Parks Tau was the mayor of Johannesburg from 2011 to 2016. He was appointed Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in May 2019. In December 2020, Gauteng Premier David Makhura appointed Parks as the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Economic Development. He has been a Member of the C40 Climate Change Network Steering Committee since 2011, chairman of the South African Cities Network since 2012, and chairman of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) in Gauteng since 2011.



[Prof. Katsuhiko Hirose](#)

Prof. Katsuhiko Hirose is founder, CEO and chief consultant at HyWealth Co, and advisory board member of Isondo Precious Metals. During a distinguished career at Toyota Motor Corporation since 1981, he worked on the world's first commercial hybrid vehicle, the Toyota Prius, and the Toyota Mirai, the world's most successful fuel cell electric passenger vehicle. He also led Toyota's fuel cell and hydrogen strategy. He was involved in the initiation and was a fundamental architect of the Hydrogen Council, a global CEO-led initiative to foster the clean energy transition. He is WPI Visiting Professor at the International Institute for Carbon Neutral Energy Research at Kyushu University, and an independent consultant for several global companies, including Toyota Motor Corporation.



[Mr. Vinay Somera](#)

Mr. Vinay Somera is the founder and CEO of Isondo Precious Metals. He has 30 years of experience within the platinum and associated industries, and spent 25 years within the Impala Platinum group of companies working across many functional areas, and finally serving as the Implats Group Executive: Market Development and Strategy. While at Implats, he helped create and build Impala Refining Services (IRS), a subsidiary of Implats, from a zero base into a 1-million-ounce platinum refiner with a multi-billion-rand turnover over a ten-year period. A strong proponent of beneficiation of metals in South Africa, he left Implats in 2013 and founded Isondo Precious Metals to help create a precious metals beneficiation industry. Vinay has a BSc degree in Mathematics and Chemistry, as well as a BCom (Hons) degree. He also holds an Executive MBA from the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business.



Mr. Kevin Fothergill

Mr. Kevin Fothergill has 35 years of experience in the chemicals, hydrogen and fuel cells industry in a range of technical, commercial and business management roles. He was instrumental in establishing Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells into a leading global supplier of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. In 2016, Kevin co-founded the UK Hydrogen Hub (of which he is Chairperson), an organisation dedicated to supporting businesses and local authorities in the adoption of hydrogen as a low-carbon energy carrier in transport and stationary applications. Over the past 15 years, Kevin has been involved in numerous

committees and industry groups attempting to facilitate the introduction of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies into the market, and is widely regarded as an authority in this field. He is currently CEO of EnAcumen, as well as serving as a technical consultant to Isondo Precious Metals. Kevin holds a BSc (Hons) degree in chemistry and an MBA.



Mr. Marius Brand

Mr. Marius Brand is Executive Vice President, Sasol 2.0 Transformation. He is responsible for the Sasol 2.0 programme - the group-wide transformation programme positioned to achieve the Future Sasol strategy. In addition, Marius is accountable for Sasol's 2050 greenhouse gas emission reduction target setting and roadmap definition. Marius's association with Sasol began as a student having received a Sasol study bursary. During his career he has worked at most of Sasol's South African operating facilities. He has been exposed to a broad range of business activities, including roles in plant operations,

project management, establishing transactional and site shared services, managing Sasol businesses, heading Group strategy and other Group functions, and leading several group-wide transformation programmes. He was appointed to the Group Executive Committee in April 2019.



Dr. Sanjiv Malhotra

Dr. Sanjiv Malhotra holds a PhD in chemical engineering and MBA. He worked as a post-doctoral fellow at the renowned Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories on electrochemical storage systems. Dr Malhotra holds 7 patents and has authored 40+ publications in various fields of energy storage technology and materials. He was the first director of the Clean Energy Investor Centre (CEIC) at the U.S. Department of Energy, established in 2015 as part of the White House and Obama Administration's Clean Energy Investment Initiative to advance private investment in energy technologies. He founded

and developed Oorja Protonics (direct methanol fuel cells) to become a successful global cleantech company. He is also the founder and managing partner of the PLUS Initiative, an early-stage venture capital fund formed as part of AUI (Associated Universities Inc.), focusing on energy, mobility, sustainable cities and smart mining. Sanjiv has also worked at a leading venture capital firm, Kleiner Perkins Caufield and Byers as an energy advisor for the fund on potential investments in clean energy and advanced materials. He is currently the founder and CEO of Sparkz, a California-based cleantech energy storage company.



Dr. Khotso Mokhele

Dr. Khotso Mokhele obtained his PhD in microbiology from the University of California Davis, and is a post-doctoral fellow of the John Hopkins University, as well as the University of Pennsylvania. He has served as the chairperson of the Implats group of companies, as well as Tiger Brands, Arcelor Mittal and Adcock Ingram. He served as Chancellor of the University of the Free State, and is currently chairman of AECl, as well as lead independent director of MTN, non-executive director of Hans Merensky Holdings, president of the Hans Merensky Foundation and acting chairman of the Advisory Council

of the African Open Science Platform. Dr. Mokhele was special advisor to two Ministers of Science and Technology (Derek Hanekom and Naledi Pandor) as well as being president of the National Research Foundation (NRF). Dr. Mokhele has also accepted the invitation to join the governance board of Isondo Precious Metals.

Attendance

Prior to the webinar at 13h00 on Friday 16 July 2021, there were 1350 online registrations for the webinar. Attendance on the day peaked at 650 attendees. All 1350 persons who registered to attend the webinar will receive this report-back, providing links to download the presentations, and to view the video recording on demand.

Further information

For further information, contact:

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