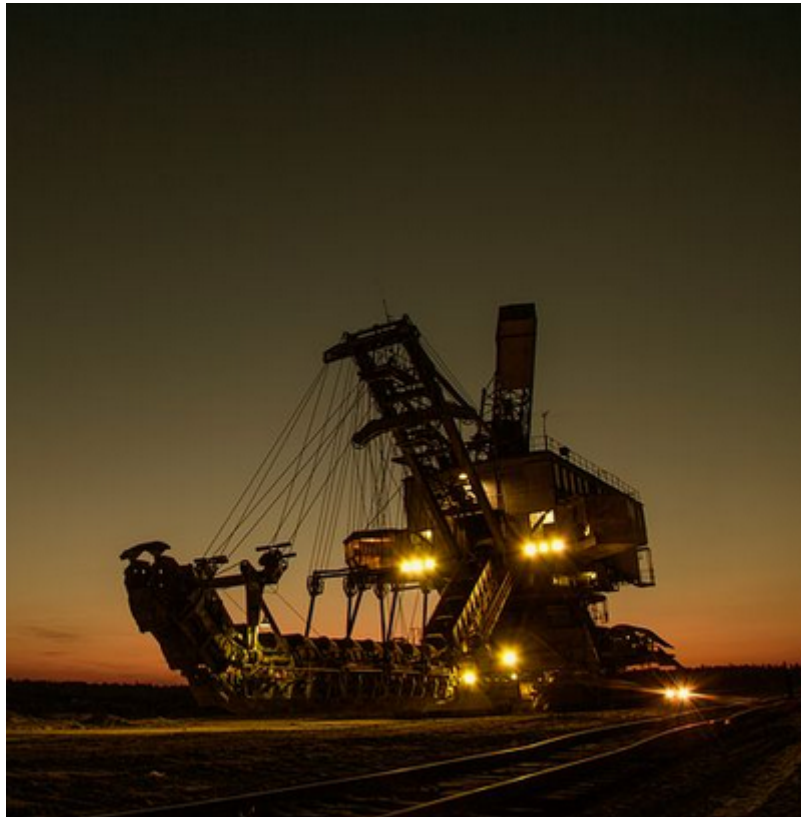


Why the rhodium shortage?



The recent rhodium shortage requires reviewing platinum mining trends, in South Africa, where 80% of platinum is mined.



[Rhodium](#) is the byproduct of platinum production. Ore extracted from the South African platinum mines is not all platinum. It is actually a combination of about 60% platinum, 30% palladium, 8 to 9% rhodium; plus trace amounts of other metals. With a surplus of platinum and prohibitive platinum mining costs, mining must wait; regardless of the demand for rhodium.

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This isn't good news for vehicle manufactures in the U.S. under pressure to improve emission standards on new vehicles.



Though this isn't just an issue in The United States of America. Global emission standards are rising around the world. Achieving such rising emission standards inevitably requires measurable improvements, in the way vehicles filter exhaust.

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Subsequently, new vehicles held to a higher emission standard are expected to require more rhodium for exhaust filters. However, rhodium continues to be in short supply. It is quite the [quandary](#) among experts. What is the smart move here?



Here's a thought provoking question: Is it possible the motor vehicle market won't be forever dependent on fossil fuels? Approach the problem from a different angle. How so? Gradually ramp up the production of [electric powered vehicles](#). These vehicles without exhaust systems could reduce the demand for rhodium by reducing dependency on fossil fuels, an environmentally unfriendly fuel source.

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