

Programme 5: Socio-Economic Partnerships
Sub-programme: Science and Technology for Economic Impact
Unit: RESOURCE-BASED INDUSTRIES

Description: The RBI unit provides S&T policy, strategy and direction-setting support to harness value from SA's natural resources. The aim is to diversify away from a dependence on primary production into R&D led growth of high-tech activities and industries. RBI has a vision for industrial development using SA's resource base.

The broad purpose of the Unit is to:

1. Build strategic government partnerships and directed science, engineering and technology programmes for positive economic results within the areas of minerals, forestry and fishing
2. Science, Engineering and Technology human capital development within these domains.

List of Key Initiatives

Advanced Metals Initiative
Titanium Industry Development Programme
African Geosciences and Mining R&D Framework
South African Minerals to Metals Institute
Engineering Innovation Research Chairs

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KEY INITIATIVE TITLE: ADVANCED METALS INITIATIVE

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?: The Advanced Metals Initiative (AMI) was established in 2003 by the Department of Science and Technology and the Science Councils (CSIR, Mintek and Necsa) to research, develop and innovate across the advanced metals value chain. Advanced metals are defined as all metals which provide opportunity for creating new products and advanced properties through the application of new technologies.

WHAT IS IT TRYING TO ACHIEVE?: To target significant export income and new industries for South Africa by 2020 through the country becoming a world leader in sustainable metals production and manufacturing via technological competence and optimal, sustainable local manufacturing of value added products, while reducing environmental impact.

WHO IS THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY/IES?: The AMI is a joint initiative by the leading SET organisations in South Africa, the CSIR, Mintek and Necsa and is funded by the Department of Science and Technology. Current initiatives include the Light Metal Development Network (LMDN), Precious Metal Development Network (PMDN), the New Metals Development Network (NMDN) and the newly established Ferrous and Base Development Network.

- Light Metals Development Network (LMDN) focuses on titanium, aluminium and magnesium, co-ordinated by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research;
- Precious Metals Development Network (PMDN) on gold and the platinum group metals (PGMs), co-ordinated by Mintek; and,
- New Metals Development Network (NMDN) for hafnium, niobium, tantalum and zirconium, coordinated by the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa.
- Ferrous and Base Metals Development Network (FMDN) for ferrous and base metals, co-ordinated by Mintek

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE IN DST?

Mr Llanley Simpson and Dr Umeesha Naidoo

READ FURTHER:

Please see the link below for AMI pages used last year...

<http://firemailer.firewater.net/ami/>

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