

with gold, in veins and fracture systems. A similar palladium-gold association recorded from Cavalcante in Goiás is more problematic, however, in that no suitable source for the palladium has yet been identified.

Several other papers dealt with the association of platinum group minerals and chromite in a number of smaller layered intrusions and ophiolites, while one paper speculated on the platinum group element potential of intrusions associated with basalts in the Paraná Basin by pointing out the similarities of their geological setting with those of the Insizwa intrusion of South Africa and the Noril'sk-Talnakh region

of Russia, north of the Arctic circle in Siberia.

The vast majority of papers were presented in Portuguese. Fortunately, a dedicated conference organiser translated all the extended abstracts into English, not only for the benefit of the mere handful of non-Portuguese speakers at the conference but also for wider circulation. Copies of the volume of extended abstracts, and a guide to the field trip to the Niquelândia layered intrusion (in Portuguese only), are available from Professor Hardy Jost, Department of Geosciences, University of Brasília, Caixa Postal 04421, 70919 Brasília, Brasil.
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New South African Platinum Mine

After just two years of development work, the first permanent open-cast platinum mine in South Africa has recently been brought on stream by Potgietersrust Platinums, a subsidiary of Johannesburg Consolidated Investments. Located on the Platreef orebody, at the farm Sandsloot to the north-west of the town of Potgietersrus in the northern Transvaal, this development by PPRust is planned initially to produce some 200,000 tonnes of ore per month. The ore has a similar mineralogy to that of the Merensky Reef and flotation mill concentrates will be toll-smelted and

refined by Rustenburg Platinum Mines.

Annual production of platinum group metals is expected to be: 170,000, 165,000 and 13,000 ounces of platinum, palladium and rhodium, respectively, while in addition significant amounts of gold, nickel and copper will be recovered. Open-cast mining will extend to a depth of 250 metres, and the estimated reserves of 88 million tonnes are sufficient to last for about thirty years at the planned rate of extraction. Furthermore, increased platinumiferous reserves have been found in satellite orebodies located close to the main pit.

