



SAIMM
THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN INSTITUTE
OF MINING AND METALLURGY

CRITICAL MINERALS 2026

FROM POTENTIAL TO PROSPERITY –
BUILDING AFRICA'S CRITICAL MINERALS VALUE CHAINS
THROUGH COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND GOVERNANCE

30–31 JULY 2026

VENUE: ROYAL MAJESTIC HOTEL, ROSEBANK, JOHANNESBURG

BACKGROUND

The global shift to a low-carbon economy has created unprecedented demand for critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, copper, nickel, rare earths, manganese, and graphite. Southern Africa holds vast reserves, positioning the region as a strategic player in the green economy. Yet, challenges in policy alignment, infrastructure, beneficiation, and governance risk limiting value creation.

The SAIMM Conference will convene governments, industry leaders, financiers, researchers, and civil society to chart pathways from extraction to value addition, ensuring Africa captures prosperity across the full critical minerals value chain.

OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen regional collaboration on policy, governance, and infrastructure.
- Showcase innovation and beneficiation strategies for local value creation.
- Explore infrastructure and corridor models enabling industrialisation.
- Promote ESG and inclusive development aligned with the energy transition.
- Bridge the gap between policy, investment, and implementation.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Governments & Regional Bodies: Ministers, regulators, SADC, AU, AMDC.
- Industry & Private Sector: Mining houses, technology suppliers, financiers, logistics operators.
- Development Partners & DFIs: World Bank, AfDB, IFC, bilateral institutions.
- Research & Academia: Universities, CSIR, innovation hubs.
- Civil Society & NGOs: ESG specialists, community advocates.
- Investors & Trade Partners: OEMs, supply chain participants.
- Legal, Regulatory & Compliance Advisors.
- Infrastructure, Energy & Logistics Providers.
- Processing, Refining & Manufacturing Players.
- Standards Bodies & Certification Agencies.

CONFERENCE STREAMS

- Governance, Policy & Regional Collaboration – Aligning frameworks, strengthening institutions, enabling cooperation.
- Infrastructure & Strategic Corridors – Unlocking logistics, energy, and industrial ecosystems.
- Innovation, Beneficiation & Value Addition – Advancing R&D, technology, and downstream industries.
- ESG, Energy Transition & Inclusive Development – Ensuring sustainability, resilience, and equitable growth.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Clear policy recommendations and regional collaboration frameworks.
- Models for infrastructure financing and corridor integration.
- Roadmap for innovation ecosystems and beneficiation capacity.
- Practical pathways for ESG and just transition.
- SAIMM Position Paper on Critical Minerals consolidating key findings.

FORMAT

- Hybrid: In-person + live streaming
- Duration: 2 days
- Side Events: Ministerial Roundtable, CEO Dialogue, Innovation Showcase

CONTACT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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CALL FOR PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

Prospective authors may choose to submit papers or presentations only. In person presentations will be preferred, although virtual presentations may be streamed live or pre-recorded.

Prospective authors are invited to submit titles and abstracts of their papers and/or presentations in English on the abstract portal.

Authors must note whether they wish to submit a peer reviewed paper or a standalone presentation. Authors must note whether they plan to attend in person or whether they would deliver a live-streamed or recorded virtual presentation.

Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words and should be submitted via the abstract portal.

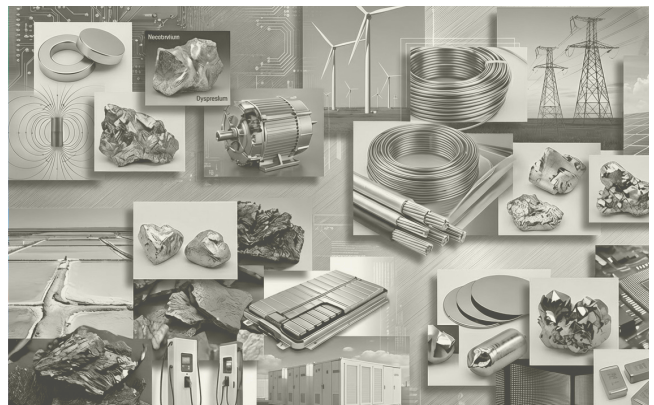
The complete Proceedings volume will be made available electronically.

KEY DATES

Abstract Submission: **27 April 2026**

Paper Submission: **1 June 2026**

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT



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