

Press Release

Heraeus investment in Northam Platinum's state-of-the-art platinum smelter in South Africa strengthens its global supplier network

Partnership reflects Heraeus commitment to expand its leadership position in precious metals suppliers and life cycle services

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa- February 15, 2018- Continuing a partnership that was first forged in 1988, Heraeus Precious Metals, the world's leader in precious metals lifecycle services, joined executives from Northam Platinum to celebrate the opening of Northam's new state-of-the-art smelter at the group's Zondereinde mine in the province of Limpopo.

The new smelter, which significantly expands Northam's capabilities at Zondereinde, is part of a twenty-year extension agreement the two companies signed in 2015. The new furnace incorporates a number of advances in the area of PGM smelting. These include extended refractory lining life expectancy, metal containment and cooling, along with best practice in terms of monitoring, tapping and furnace control functions.

Under the terms of the agreement, Heraeus invested an additional €20 million to Northam's smelter expansion project and would continue to refine Northam's PGM concentrates and purchase up to 40% of Northam's refined precious metals. The joint agreement provides Northam with expanded refining capacity and long-term, predictable sales through a guaranteed distribution channel. For Heraeus, the extended cooperation with Northam enables the company to provide their worldwide customers with a secure and dependable access to Platinum for the next 20 years.

The partnership with Northam helps solidify Heraeus Precious Metals as the world's leading provider of industrial precious metals services across the entire precious metals lifecycle. With refining and recycling capacities in the US, Europe, South-Africa, India and China, the company covers the entire precious metals loop, including sourcing, trading, risk management, logistics, recycling and processing for critical industries, including catalysts, bonding wires, pharmaceuticals and others.

Commenting on the operation of Northam's new smelter, Heraeus Precious Metals President Andre Christl said, "We believe that to compete and succeed, it comes down to a simple formula: investment and innovation." But according to Christl, while the company has embarked on significant capital expansion efforts, including a state-of-the-art precious metals factory in Nanjing, China and becoming majority owner of Argor Heraeus in Switzerland in 2017, success cannot be achieved in isolation. He added, "As Heraeus Precious Metals grows, we want to partner with and invest in companies that share that same ambition. Northam Platinum has demonstrated that for the past thirty years, and we're delighted this agreement puts our partnership on the path to a 50-year golden anniversary in 2038."

##

##

##

About Heraeus Precious Metals

Heraeus Precious Metals (HPM) - a global business unit within the Heraeus group - is a world-wide leading provider of precious metals services and products. We combine all activities related to our comprehensive expertise in the precious metals loop – from trading to precious metals products to recycling. HPM is among the world's largest refiners of platinum group metals (PGMs) and an authority in industrial precious metals trading.

About Heraeus

Heraeus, the technology group headquartered in Hanau, Germany, is a leading international family-owned company formed in 1851. With expertise, a focus on innovations, operational excellence and an entrepreneurial leadership, we strive to continuously improve the businesses of our customers around the world.

We create high-quality solutions for our customers and strengthen their long-term competitiveness by combining material expertise with technological know-how. Our ideas are focused on important issues such as the environment, energy, health, mobility and industrial applications. Our portfolio ranges from components to coordinated material systems which are used in a wide variety of industries, including the steel, electronics, chemical, automotive and telecommunications industries.

In the 2016 financial year, the FORTUNE Global 500 listed company generated revenues without precious metals of €2.0 bn and a total revenue of €21.5 bn. With approximately 12,400 employees worldwide in more than 100 subsidiaries in 40 countries, Heraeus holds a leading position in its global markets. In 2016, the Foundation for Family Businesses named Heraeus as one of the “Top 10 Family Businesses” in Germany.

Media Contacts

Christoph Ringwald
Heraeus Holding GmbH
Heraeusstraße 12-14
63450 Hanau, Germany
Phone: +49 (0) 6181.35-3832
e-mail: christoph.ringwald@heraeus.com