Critical Materials Conference:

FERROALLOYS 2026

Address The Maslow Hotel Sandton
Date 8 & 9 September 2026

Sponsors & Partners

MAKOYA Rail & Terminals
KHWELA MET
Connect Logistics
BONISANA INVESTMENT HOLDINGS (PTY) Ltd.
Mysteel
AFARAK
INTERNATIONAL CHROMIUM DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION icdaCr
ASSORE
MMTA SUPPORTING WORLDWIDE TRADE OF CRITICAL METALS SINCE 1973
IMnI International Manganese Institute

www.projectblue.com

Join us in Johannesburg

Project Blue is pleased to announce the return of our Critical Materials Conference: Ferroalloys in 2026.

Following the tremendous success of our 2025 event, Project Blue is delighted to announce that our **Critical Materials Conference: Ferroalloys 2026** will take place in Johannesburg on 8–9 September 2026.

Building on the momentum of previous years, this flagship conference will once again unite leading voices from industry, government and finance to discuss the key developments shaping the ferroalloys sector.

Attendees can expect valuable insights into supply, demand, and pricing trends, alongside opportunities to connect and collaborate with industry peers, as well as an industry site visit.

Join us in South Africa's mining hub to reconnect with professionals across the supply chain, strengthen existing relationships, and explore new business opportunities at the forefront of the global ferroalloys market.

Interested in sharing your insights or showcasing your brand?

Speaking and sponsorship opportunities are now available.
For more information, contact rod.zamora@projectblue.com

Critical
Materials
Conference:

#ProjectBlue

PANEL DISCUSSION
PROJECTBLUE
Kenneth Williams
MAKOVA GROUP

PROJECTBLUE
Loyce Mpangala
PROJECT BLUE

PROJECTBLUE

twerpen
hard Lilleike
EXXARO

PROJECTBLUE

PROJECTBLUE
Dr Jack Bedder
PROJECT BLUE
Critical
Materials
Conference:
Investec

Conference Agenda

Day 1: 7 September 2026

Site Visit

06:00 **Afarak Solar Plant Site Visit, Bushveld Complex**

On registration only, with limited spaces available.

The **Critical Materials Conference: Ferroalloys 2026** in South Africa will begin with an exclusive site visit to Afarak's Solar Power Plant at the Vlakpoort mine, located within the Bushveld Complex. Delegates will tour the 1.5 MWp off-grid solar facility, designed to power the mine's chrome washing operations independently from the national grid. Supported by 3.0 MWh of battery storage, the plant demonstrates how renewable energy can be effectively integrated into energy-intensive ferroalloy production, improving energy security while reducing carbon intensity.

This visit will provide first-hand insight into Afarak's approach to sustainable mining, highlighting the role of on-site renewable generation in supporting stable, cost-effective operations within South Africa's chrome sector. Delegates will gain a practical understanding of the infrastructure, technology, and strategic considerations involved in deploying solar energy in an industrial setting.

Taking place on 7 September, with participation limited to 20 delegates, transport will be arranged from The Maslow Hotel & Conference Centre in Sandton, with a travel time of approximately 3 to 3.5 hours each way. The visit will include refreshments on arrival, a guided site tour, and a Q&A session.

Conference Agenda

Day 1: 7 September 2026

14:00 **REGISTRATION OPENS @ The Maslow Hotel Sandton, Conference Centre Foyer**

18.00 - 21.00

DRINKS RECEPTION:

The Maslow Hotel Sandton, Conference Centre

Rivonia Rd, Grayston Dr, Gauteng, Sandton, 2146.

Please join us for an evening drinks reception, marking the official start of the Critical Materials Conference: Ferroalloys 2026.

This informal networking event offers the perfect opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, meet fellow industry leaders, and begin conversations around the innovations, challenges, and opportunities shaping the future of ferroalloys. Set in the heart of Johannesburg, the reception provides a relaxed setting to build meaningful connections ahead of the conference programme.

Conference Agenda

Day 2: 8 September 2026

08:30 Coffee & networking

09:30 **Welcome and introduction**
Speaker: Jack Bedder, Project Blue

09:35 **SESSION 1: Geopolitics and the outlook for commodities**
Speaker: Jack Bedder, Project Blue

10:15 **SESSION 2: Steel demand and the impact on raw materials**
Speaker: Luke Adriaans, Project Blue

11:00 Coffee & networking

11:30 **SESSION 3: Manganese and chrome ore production in an era of resource nationalism**
Panel Chair: Nils Backeberg, Project Blue
Speaker: Mihlali Sitefani, Sitef & Co

12:15 **SESSION 4: Manganese and chrome ferroalloys in a fragmented world**
Panel Chair: Tanisha Schultz, Project Blue
Speaker: Andre Joubert, Africa Rainbow Minerals

13:00 Networking lunch

14:00 **SESSION 5: Deals, dollars and discovery - what's next for investment in South Africa**
Panel Chair: Jessica Fung, Project Blue
Speakers: Tumelo Ramphaleng, Barclays
Rajat Kohli, Oval Advisory
Vutomi Maluleke, Public Investment Corporation (PIC)

15:00 Coffee & networking

Conference Agenda

Day 2: 8 September 2026 *continued*

15:30 **SESSION 6: Logistics in Africa: rail, ports, roads**

Speaker: Kenneth Williams, Makoya Group

16:30 **End of Day 1**

18:00 **CONFERENCE GALA DINNER @ The Maslow Hotel, Sandton**

All conference delegates are invited to attend the gala dinner and enjoy an evening infused with the rich flavours of South African cuisine and the rhythm of traditional music.
A complementary ticket is included with every delegate registration.

Conference Agenda

Day 3: 9 September 2026

08:30 Coffee & networking

09:35 **SESSION 7: State of the nation: outlook for South Africa**

Panel Chair:	Jack Bedder, Project Blue
Speaker:	Dr Lumkile Mondi, Wits University

10:15 **SESSION 8: Reflections on mining and refining in South Africa**

Panel Chair:	Jessica Fung, Project Blue
Speakers:	Bernard Swamepoel, MMC

10:45 Coffee & networking

11:15 **SESSION 9: Executive insights: the South African mining and refining experience**

Panel Chair:	Nils Backeberg, Project Blue
Speakers:	Danko Končar, Afarak
	Jono Gay, Chromtech
	Vuslat Bayoglu, Menar
	Fortune Mojapelo, Kairos Capital

12:15 **SESSION 10: Reindustrialisation in South Africa**

Panel Chair:	Tanisha Schultz, Project Blue
Speakers:	Conri Moolman, Barnes Group
	Maximilian Matschke, Anura Partners
	Professor Sampson Mamphweli, SANEDI (DEE)

Conference Agenda

Day 3: 9 September 2026 *continued*

13:00 Networking lunch

14:00 **SESSION 11: Commodity sessions**

Introduction:	**Luke Adriaans, Project Blue**
PGM market outlook:	**Balushi Masemola, Project Blue**
Ferroalloys price trends in 2026:	**James Russell, Project Blue**

15:05 Coffee & networking

15:30 **SESSION 12: Interactive commodity roundtables**

Project Blue will share targeted data and market insights to frame round-table discussions. All delegates are welcome to join and participate. The session is designed to encourage open dialogue, enabling attendees to share perspectives and challenge assumptions on the topic in focus.

Chromium:	**Dr Nils Backeberg, Project Blue** **Balushi Masemola, Project Blue** **Jessica Fung, Project Blue**
Manganese:	**Tanisha Schultz, Project Blue** **Dr Jack Bedder, Project Blue** **James Russell, Project Blue**

16:15 **Conference closes**

As our **Critical Materials Conference: Ferroalloys 2026**, secure your place for the final site visit on Thursday 10 September 2026 to **Khwelamet's manganese alloy smelter** to gain exclusive insight into the production of manganese alloys in South Africa.

Registration is essential, as spaces are limited.

Conference Agenda

Day 4: 10 September 2026

Site Visit

08:00 **Khwelamet Manganese Alloy Smelter, Meyerton, Gauteng**

On registration only, with limited spaces available.

The **Critical Materials Conference: Ferroalloys 2026** in South Africa will conclude with an exclusive site visit to **Khwelamet's manganese alloy smelter** complex in Meyerton, Gauteng. The operation plays a key role in beneficiating raw manganese ore to produce ferromanganese alloys, offering delegates valuable insight into downstream processing within South Africa's manganese value chain.

During the visit, delegates will gain first-hand exposure to smelting operations and learn about the technical, operational, and safety considerations involved in alloy production. The programme will include refreshments on arrival and a presentation, followed by a guided site tour and Q&A session, providing a comprehensive overview of the facility's capabilities and its role in supporting regional and global ferroalloys markets.

Our 2026 Speaker Lineup

Gain expert insights from industry, government, and market leaders on the key developments shaping the global ferroalloys sector.

OVAL ADVISORY

AFARAK

MAKOYA Rail & Terminals

MENAR

KHWELA MET

Manganese Metal Co

BARNES GROUP OF COMPANIES

electricity & energy
Department:
Electricity and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

sanedi
South African National Energy Development Institute

ANURA Partners

ARM
African Rainbow Minerals

PUBLIC INVESTMENT CORPORATION®
Est. 1911

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

SITEF & CO.

BARCLAYS

CHROMTECH

2025 attendees included

Key industry leaders across Southern Africa's ferroalloys supply chain