



## Weekly Precious Metals News Articles: September 18, 2020

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### Below is a cross section of relevant news article to the world of Precious Metals:

Markets, Supply & Demand, Investment, and Industrial Applications. Enjoy-

### Gold

- **Gold eases as dollar recovers; all eyes on Fed meeting**
  - Gold edged lower from a near-two week high on Tuesday as the dollar rose, although hopes for a dovish monetary policy stance from the U.S. Federal Reserve limited the safe-haven metals' losses. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/09/15/gold-markets-federal-reserve-coronavirus.html>
- **Gold Nanoparticles Produced in Cancer Cells with Novel Technique**
  - University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) scientists and collaborators published a study, "Intratumoral generation of photothermal gold nanoparticles through a vectorized biomineralization of ionic gold," in Nature Communications that reportedly demonstrates for the first time a technique for biosynthesizing plasmonic gold nanoparticles within cancer cells, without the need for conventional bench-top lab methods. <https://www.genengnews.com/news/gold-nanoparticles-produced-in-cancer-cells-with-novel-technique/>
- **Turkey Has New Plan to Crack Open Under-the-Mattress Gold Hoard**
  - The Turkish Treasury and the Istanbul Gold Refinery will let selected jewelers collect gold from citizens and deposit it at state banks. A major difference under the new regulations is that customers would be able to withdraw physical gold. <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/turkey-has-new-plan-to-crack-open-under-the-mattress-gold-hoard-1.1492329>

### Semiconductor Related Articles (impacting Precious Metals electronics):

- **Semiconductor: Mid-Year End Market Recovery Plus Continued Autumn Semiconductor Strength**
  - The world business conditions are improving. The global purchasing managers index, a measure of broad manufacturing activity, rose to 51.8 in August, its highest point since November 2017 (Chart 2).
  - The automotive industry, hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting plant shutdowns, is recovering. In the United States automotive production rebounded sharply in August to its highest level of car and truck output on record (Chart 3). <https://blog.semi.org/business-markets/mid-year-end-market-recovery-plus-continued-autumn-semiconductor-strength>
- **iPhone 12 with 5G: Why didn't Apple announce it?**
  - Consumers who tuned in to Apple's signature early September event hoping to hear tantalizing details about the forthcoming iPhone 12 were treated instead to an hour-long infomercial detailing the company's latest Apple Watch models and a refreshed line of mid-range and low-cost iPads.
  - The smartphone's conspicuous absence wasn't totally unexpected. Apple warned during its last earnings call that disruptions to its supply chain from the COVID pandemic could delay the iPhone.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/15/tech/iphone-12-release/index.html>

## **Silver**

- **Silver Bulls Will Be Handsomely Rewarded**
  - The Fed is standing ready to "print more on demand," while the European Central Bank and others are signaling more as well. The Covid pandemic is seeing cases tick up as kids head back to school and we head indoors. Oh, and there's a critical federal U.S. election, amid a highly antagonistic political environment, in under two months.
  - Silver is likely to reach \$37+ before years end, as its monetary role starts to dominate once again.  
<https://www.streetwisereports.com/article/2020/09/15/silver-bulls-will-be-handsomely-rewarded.html>
- **Chinese PV Industry Brief: New 10 GW module factory planned as 3.6 GW of cell capacity comes online**
  - Power company Datang Group is reportedly planning to spend ~\$148 million replacing a coal-fired power plant with a 200MW solar project in Shanxi province & two solar players are set to issue stock.  
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/09/15/chinese-pv-industry-brief-new-10-gw-module-factory-planned-as-3-6-gw-of-cell-capacity-comes-online/>
- **Artifact-Free Decapsulation of Silver Wire Bonded Semiconductor Devices Using Microwave Induced Plasma**
  - In this paper we solve this problem by developing a specific decapsulation chemistry, based on a hydrogen-containing MIP, for artifact-free decapsulation of silver wire bonded packages  
<https://www.semiconductorpackagingnews.com/uploads/1/Artifact-Free-Decapsulation-of-Silver-Wire-Bonded-Semiconductor-Devices-Using-Microwave-Induced-Plasma.pdf>

## **Precious Metals Mining:**

- **World's gold miners wary of production ramp-up despite price surge**
  - But interviews with executives, analysts and fund managers show miners are hesitant to spend on pricey projects and tap marginal deposits that require sizeable capital and take years to break even.
  - Seven out of 10 of the global gold miners, including Newmont, the world's biggest gold miner, Canada's Barrick and South Africa's Gold Fields, have cut planned output for the year by 7%, citing coronavirus-related shutdowns, regulatory filings show.  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mining-gold-production-idUSKBN2640EH>
- **Two killed at Ivanhoe Platinum's Platreef project after iron hoisting bucket plummets down shaft**
  - <https://www.miningmx.com/top-story/43669-two-killed-at-ivanhoe-platinums-platreef-project-after-iron-hoisting-bucket-plummets-down-shaft/>
- **Nornickel says it collected more than 90% of fuel leaked by Arctic spill to rivers**
  - Russia's Norilsk Nickel (Nornickel) GMKN.MM said on Friday that it had collected more than 90% of fuel leaked into rivers during its Arctic fuel spill earlier this year, or about 12,000 tonnes.  
<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/nornickel-says-it-collected-more-than-90-of-fuel-leaked-by-arctic-spill-to-rivers-2020-09>
- **Pink coffins mark growing death toll of Congo gold mine collapse**
  - Artisanal Mining Accident: Pink painted coffins lined a hillside in eastern DRC on Monday as rescuers filled them with the bodies of victims of a gold mine cave-in, in which 50 people are feared dead.  
[http://www.reuters.com/article/us-congo-mining-idUSKBN26532A?utm\\_source=34553&utm\\_medium=partner](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-congo-mining-idUSKBN26532A?utm_source=34553&utm_medium=partner)
- **Newmont CEO Sees Gold 'Elevated,' But Will Keep Plans Grounded**  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-16/newmont-ceo-sees-gold-elevated-but-will-keep-plans-grounded>
- **Platinum has potential to be three-times-bigger \$35bn-a-year industry – Minerals Council**
  - "If (the S. African) government helped invest in growing global Pt demand, together, it's going to create economic development for this country 100 years into the future. ... Putting a couple of

hundred million rand into co-funding the effort of business in growing demand and investment at upper levels, and the hydrogen economy, I think would be brilliant," Baxter added.

<https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/platinum-has-potential-to-be-three-times-bigger-35bn-a-year-industry-minerals-council-2020-09-09>

## **E-Waste & Precious Metals Recycle Related:**

- **PGM Recovery Systems Now Buys Spark Plugs for Recycling**
  - PGM Recovery Systems is now buying iridium and platinum tip spark plugs for recycling.
  - For a very long time, spark plugs were not profitable to recycle, the company notes, and many businesses would toss them out or scrap them. PGM has developed a new technology that extracts the precious metals located on the tips of these iridium and platinum spark plugs.  
<https://www.moderntiredealer.com/articles/30950-pgm-recovery-systems-now-buys-spark-plugs-for-recycling>
- **E-Waste surge is both boon and bane for the global economy**
  - Yet, the biggest e-waste producers are still in the state of confusion and dilemma about signing the Basel Convention Amendment. This international treaty is specifically drafted in the year 1989 to impede the shipping of hazardous e-waste from developed to developing countries without the consent of the respective country's government.  
<https://yourstory.com/mystory/upsurge-ewaste-boon-bane-global-economy>
- **Reducing solar's environmental impact through ecolabels**
  - Increasing use of renewable energy, especially solar, offers a tremendous benefit to society. But this can only be realized if the solar panels and other vital components are produced sustainably. No longer can the negative environmental impact of an energy source be decoupled from its societal benefit.  
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/09/17/reducing-solars-environmental-impact-through-ecolabels/>
- **Thailand to extract high-value metals from recycled e-waste to serve high-tech industries**
  - Thailand's Ministry of Industry on Monday unveiled plans in developing a new recycling technology that enables the extraction of rare-earth metals from recycled industrial and household waste to serve high-tech industries.  
[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/14/c\\_139368006.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/14/c_139368006.htm)

## **Platinum**

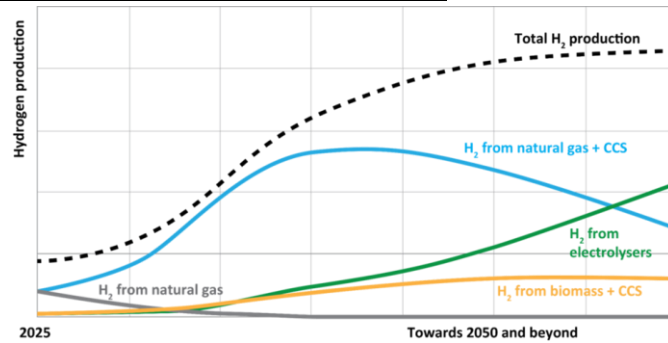
- **Platinum's new sweeter spot elicits multiplicity of optimistic analyst views**
  - The new sweeter spot that platinum group metals (PGMs) has entered drew a multiplicity of mainly optimistic viewpoints from analysts attending the virtual PGM Industry Day.  
[https://www.miningweekly.com/article/platinums-new-sweeter-spot-elicits-multiplicity-of-optimistic-analyst-views-2020-09-14/rep\\_id:3650](https://www.miningweekly.com/article/platinums-new-sweeter-spot-elicits-multiplicity-of-optimistic-analyst-views-2020-09-14/rep_id:3650)
- **LPPM PGMs Update - Recording**
  - ~4- minute video panel. Good update.  
<http://www.lbma.org.uk/webinar-library/lppm-pgms-update?>
- **WPIC: Platinum Jewelry Demand**
  - The platinum jewelry market is showing signs of resilience in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, supported by new research into consumer sentiment.  
[https://platinuminvestment.com/files/sixtysecs/WPIC\\_60seconds\\_Platinumjewellerydemand\\_09162020.pdf](https://platinuminvestment.com/files/sixtysecs/WPIC_60seconds_Platinumjewellerydemand_09162020.pdf)
- **Single atom-thin platinum makes a great chemical sensor**
  - "In a nutshell, we managed to make a metal layer just one-atom thick - sort of a new material. We found that this atomically-thin metal is super sensitive to its chemical environment. Its electrical resistance changes significantly when it interacts with gases."  
[https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub\\_releases/2020-09/cuot-sap091320.php](https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2020-09/cuot-sap091320.php)

- **US reaches \$1.5B settlement with Daimler AG over emissions cheating in Mercedes-Benz diesels; civil penalty of \$875M**

- Under the proposed settlement Daimler will recall and repair the emissions systems in Mercedes-Benz diesel vehicles sold in the United States between 2009 and 2016 and pay \$875 million in civil penalties and roughly \$70.3 million in other penalties.

<https://www.greencarcongress.com/2020/09/20200915-benz.html>

## **Fuel Cells/Hydrogen Economy Related Articles:**



Potential hydrogen availability towards 2050 and beyond, based on results from the Hydrogen for Europe pre-study.

- **Our Hydrogen Future Requires A 'Colorful' Transition**
  - The greenest form of hydrogen from renewable energy will take time to scale up as renewable energy is highly desirable for decarbonizing the existing power system.
  - Until then, we must take advantage of the time we have to focus on the rapid infrastructure development that's required to make a hydrogen future for Europe a reality, something that a multicolored approach to hydrogen strategy will help enable.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nilsrokke/2020/09/17/our-hydrogen-future-requires-a-colorful-transition/>
- **Hydrogen, platinum fund sets up shop in South Africa with dollars to invest**
  - AP Ventures is We're also looking for local investments and our intention is to deploy up to \$15-million of capital into local opportunities. We would love to meet those partners who wish to work with us and we're kicking off some of that work effort now.

[https://www.miningweekly.com/article/hydrogen-platinum-venture-capital-fund-sets-up-shop-in-south-africa-with-dollars-to-invest-2020-09-11/rep\\_id:3650](https://www.miningweekly.com/article/hydrogen-platinum-venture-capital-fund-sets-up-shop-in-south-africa-with-dollars-to-invest-2020-09-11/rep_id:3650)
- **Chinese automakers look to boost hydrogen vehicle sales**
  - The announcements came after a finance ministry official said this month that China will roll out a new package of policies to support hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.
  - China now only has a fleet of over 7,000 hydrogen vehicles, compared with over 4 million pure battery electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

<https://www.autonews.com/china/chinese-automakers-look-boost-hydrogen-vehicle-sales>
- **Hyundai Motor exports hydrogen fuel cell systems to Europe**
  - Hyundai Motor said Wednesday that it had exported hydrogen fuel cell systems to Swiss firm GRZ Technologies and an unnamed European energy solution start-up, in line with its efforts to expand its hydrogen business to the non-automotive sector.
  - The 95 kW fuel cell system used for the Nexo hydrogen electric vehicle will be used by the two companies to produce mobile generators that supply emergency power.

<http://www01.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200915001020>
- **Nikola welcomes SEC involvement following 'defamatory' short-sell report**
  - GM Co. partner Nikola Corp. on Monday said it welcomes the involvement of the Securities and Exchange Commission in evaluating claims made by a short-sell investor last week.

- The statement came after Bloomberg first reported that the SEC has opened a probe to determine whether the Phoenix-based electric and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle startup violated securities laws.  
<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/business/autos/general-motors/2020/09/14/nikola-responds-defamatory-short-sell-report/5790442002/>
- **South Korean Companies Leading Creation of Hydrogen Economy Ecosystem**  
<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=51718>
- **B.C. to spend \$10 million on hydrogen fuel infrastructure**
  - VANCOUVER B.C. officials have announced \$10 million in funding to build and operate 10 hydrogen fueling stations in the province.  
<https://canada.constructconnect.com/joc/news/infrastructure/2020/09/b-c-to-spend-10-million-on-hydrogen-fuel-infrastructure>
- **Atomic-level insights help to reduce degradation in fuel cells and extend their lifetime**
  - In addition to their high cost, platinum nanoparticles suffer from gradual degradation, especially in the cathode, which limits catalytic performance and reduces the lifetime of the fuel cell. The investigation enabled them to identify the degradation mechanism during the cathodic ORR, and the insights guided the design of a nanocatalyst that uses gold to eliminate platinum dissolution.  
<https://phys.org/news/2020-09-atomic-level-insights-degradation-fuel-cells.html>

## Palladium

- **EU proposes more ambitious 2030 emissions target and billions worth of green bonds**
  - The European Union proposed cutting 55% of the bloc's emissions by 2030, up from its previous goal of 40%, and said hundreds of billions of euros worth of green bonds should help fund the target.  
<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/eu-proposes-more-ambitious-2030-emissions-target-and-billions-worth-of-green-bonds-2020-09-16>
- **Slide Of New Auto Sales In Europe Slows With Full Year Forecasts Looking Less Dire**
  - New car and SUV sales in the European Union (EU) fell 18.9% in August compared with the same month last year, bringing the fall for the first 8 months of 2020 to 32% or 6.1 million, but forecasters see seeds of recovery and for the full year the slide will be arrested with a fall of "only" close to 20%.  
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/neilwinton/2020/09/17/slide-of-new-auto-sales-in-europe-slows-with-full-year-forecasts-looking-less-dire/>
- **Heraeus Precious Metals**
  - Setting the PGM agenda for the years ahead
  - 180 page detail market overview  
[https://www.heraeus.com/media/media/hpm/doc\\_hpm/precious\\_metal\\_update/palladium\\_standard/Heraeus\\_The\\_Palladium\\_Standard\\_2020.pdf](https://www.heraeus.com/media/media/hpm/doc_hpm/precious_metal_update/palladium_standard/Heraeus_The_Palladium_Standard_2020.pdf)

## PGM Minor Metals (Rhodium, Iridium, Ruthenium)

- **How a tiny by-product metal is making billions for PGM producers**
  - Rhodium now accounts for up to a third of their revenue.  
<https://www.moneyweb.co.za/mineweb/how-a-tiny-by-product-metal-is-making-billions-for-pgm-producers/>
- **Rhodium the new PGM king**
  - This week rhodium traded at \$13 300/oz, a 10-fold rise over the last decade.  
<https://www.herald.co.zw/rhodium-the-new-pgm-king/>
- **Ru Catalyst: Ammonia: hydrogen's green soulmate?**
  - And although clean electricity is expected to grow above 50% of the energy mix by 2050, "still about half of final energy consumption will be in the form of gaseous and liquid fuels, and it is important to

decarbonise them as well,” he stressed. This is why hydrogen-derived fuels are expected to play “a very important role” in a fully decarbonised economy,

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy/news/ammonia-the-missing-link-in-the-hydrogen-economy/>

- **Iridium: 4 Important Earth Elements That We Running Out of**
  - Studies have found that our resources are now declining rapidly. 1) Antimony 2) Iridium 3) Beryllium 4) Lead/  
<https://viralrang.com/4-important-earth-elements-that-we-running-out-of/>

## **BEV / LiB Battery Market News**

- **How long will the lithium supply last?**
  - Researchers have sounded the alarm. If no serious efforts are made on second-life battery use, recycling and vehicle-to-grid applications, decarbonization efforts may hit the buffers a lot sooner than expected.  
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/09/15/how-long-will-the-lithium-supply-last/>
- **Critical Tesla EV Supplier LG Chem To Spin Off Battery Business**
  - LG Chem, which also supplies the Volkswagen Group and General Motors, will create LG Energy Solutions by December 1 this year. A statement from LG Chem said LG Energy Solutions would be valued at 13 trillion won (US\$11 billion) and it was expected to climb in valuation to more than 30 trillion (\$25 billion) in the next four years.  
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaeltaylor/2020/09/17/critical-tesla-ev-supplier-lg-chem-to-spin-off-battery-business/>
- **Kia Plans to Become a More EV-Focused Brand**
  - Kia plans to roll out seven new electric vehicles and launch them by 2027. The company calls its upcoming EV lineup “diverse” and says it’s going to include models “across several vehicle segments” beginning with the first model, codenamed CV, out next year.  
<https://www.autoweek.com/news/green-cars/a34043704/kia-plans-to-become-a-more-ev-focused-brand/>
- **Next Gen LiB Design: LG Chem has succeeded in flying at high altitude with a lithium-sulfur battery for the first time in Korea**
  - Loaded a lithium-sulfur battery on a solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicle (EAV-3) developed by Korea Aerospace Research Institute
  - Confirmed a stable charge/discharge function of a lithium-sulfur battery in the extreme environment of the stratosphere  
<https://www.suasnews.com/2020/09/lg-chem-has-succeeded-in-flying-at-high-altitude-with-a-lithium-sulfur-battery-for-the-first-time-in-korea/>

Regards –