



Weekly Precious Metals News Articles: September 25, 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

- **Precious Metals Set for Worst Week Since March on Rising**
 - Gold fell with precious metals heading for their biggest weekly losses since March, when the global onset of the coronavirus pandemic panicked markets.
 - The dollar gained as concern over the outlook for global economic growth bolstered the appeal of the currency as a haven, sapping demand for gold. Fears are mounting that rising coronavirus cases, particularly in Europe, may lead to more national lockdowns, denting the outlook for recovery. Gold is down more than 4% this week, while silver has slumped about 14%.
 - Both have succumbed to belated long liquidation and pressure generated by the strength in the general dollar index, which is on track for its biggest weekly gain in almost six months
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-25/precious-metals-set-for-worst-week-since-march-on-rising-dollar>
- **Gold prices drop nearly 3% as rise in coronavirus cases sparks dollar rally**
 - Gold prices settle beneath 50-day moving average.
<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/gold-prices-sink-with-stocks-as-rise-in-coronavirus-cases-sparks-rush-to-dollars-weighing-on-bullion-2020-09-21>
- **Dollar Rallies, Gold Corrects Then Resumes Climb**
 - Summary: After a large correction since March, the dollar looks set for a relief rally.
 - Gold and gold stocks are likely to consolidate further or correct, leading to a great buying opportunity.
 - After that, look for new all-time high gold prices.
<https://seekingalpha.com/article/4375710-dollar-rallies-gold-corrects-resumes-climb>

Semiconductor Related Articles (impacting Precious Metals electronics):

- **Top-10 semiconductor suppliers continue to grow in 2Q20, says Omdia**
 - Building on bullish growth in first-quarter 2020 in weak market conditions, the world's top-10 semiconductor suppliers managed to continue their revenue growth at a rate of 2.4% in Q2'20.
 - PC and server sales continue to grow driven by COVID lockdown restrictions as working and learning from home are becoming the new norm. Additional revenue growth has been enabled by OEM's aggressive inventory strategies in anticipation of second half holiday sales.
<https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20200922PR203.html>
- **Semiconductor Industry: Game Console Demand Strong**
 - During pre-orders for the Sony PS5 on Sep 18, available supply quickly sold out. Server DRAM prices are expected to drop by 15% q-q due to reduced data center investment in 4Q20;

however, consumer products, such as the Apple iPhone 12, Sony PS5, and Nvidia RTX 30 series, should compensate for the slowdown.

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=52152>

- **TSMC to build 2nm wafer plant in Hsinchu, Taiwan – no timeline given**
 - Matt: 2nm is incredibly small pitch, small, lower power, and high precious metals content node. Advanced nodes are seeing precious metals content creep back up to 2% of total semiconductor revenue. Gold, Silver, Ruthenium in particular.
 - Matt: TSMC's 3nm wafer plant launches Q2'2022. TSMC is kicking butt in semiconductor advanced node IC's and AI chips.
<https://focustaiwan.tw/sci-tech/202009230017>

Silver

- **Germany could add 140 GW of small solar by 2030**
 - The government is aiming for 100 GW of installed generation capacity this decade but analysts suggest 170 GW will be needed to avoid electricity shortages and solar rooftops could hold the key.
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/09/21/germany-could-add-140-gw-of-small-solar-by-2030/>
- **Netherlands allocates 3.34 GW of PV in spring round of 2020 SDE+ program**
 - The Dutch government awarded 3.91 GW of renewable-energy capacity in the program's latest round. It set aside €4 billion for the exercise, but only used €3.3 billion, including €2.1 billion for PV.
 - The Dutch have selected 6,882 PV projects with a combined capacity of 3,340 MW in the first round of its 2020 program. The state-run Rijkdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO) agency had previously preselected PV projects, totaling 4,032 MW.
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/09/22/netherlands-allocates-3-44-gw-of-pv-in-spring-round-of-2020-sde-program/>
- **Essential Science: Can antimicrobial coatings kill coronavirus?**
 - Silver is a powerful antimicrobial agent, showing effectivity against a variety of microorganisms. Once the element has entered the bacterial cell, it accumulates as silver nanoparticles with large surface area causing cell death. The process is also aided by the bacterial cell becomes a reservoir for silver, passing on silver ions to other cells.
<http://www.digitaljournal.com/tech-and-science/science/essential-science-can-antimicrobial-coatings-kill-coronavirus/article/578204#ixzz6YniPA2rL>
- **Silver Prices Move North on Recovery in Industrial Activity**
 - The white metal's prices had dropped to 11-year lows to \$11.68 an ounce in March as the COVID-19 pandemic induced lockdowns impacted industrial demand. Production had also been impacted as mines had to shut down. However, silver has bounced back with a bang and rode past \$29 per ounce in August — levels last seen in 2013. Silver futures for December delivery closed at \$27.10 an ounce on Sep 17. In fact, silver has yielded a gain of 51% year to date, outshining gold's rally of 26.6%.
<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/silver-prices-move-north-recovery-135301712.html>

Precious Metals Mining:

- **Sibanye-Stillwater looking to buy gold mines outside South Africa -CEO**
 - Sibanye, the world's largest producer of platinum and rhodium, aims to acquire gold mines outside South Africa, Froneman said, in a bid to diversify its geographical exposure.
<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/sibanye-stillwater-looking-to-buy-gold-mines-outside-south-africa-ceo-2020-09-21>
- **Gold and Silver Explorers are Bringing in More Funding Than Ever Amid the Gold Run**

- Mining companies raised \$1.48 billion in August, making August 2020 the biggest month for mining funding in more than six years. Investors are looking to capitalize on the gold run by throwing money at gold explorers and producers with prime mining assets that are set up for big returns.
<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/gold-and-silver-explorers-are-bringing-in-more-funding-than-ever-amid-the-gold-run-301135207.html>
- **Russian plan to dig biggest Zimbabwe platinum mine clears hurdle**
 - A project that aims to develop Zimbabwe's biggest platinum mine (Darwendale) has cleared a significant hurdle, with the African Export-Import Bank completing a due diligence study allowing it to proceed with a \$500-million syndicated funding programme.
- **Canada's Wheaton Precious Metals plans London listing amid surge in gold prices**
 - Canada's Wheaton Precious Metals (WPM) has announced plans to list on the London Stock Exchange as demand for precious metals from investors has been surging amid turbulence in equity markets.
 - Wheaton, one of the world's largest companies involved in buying gold and silver, has a market capitalization of about \$23bn. On those indices, its shares have risen more than 70% this year.
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/canadas-wheaton-precious-metals-plans-london-listing-amid-surge-in-gold-prices-113553560.html>
- **Gold miners insist they won't splurge despite price surge**
 - Miners are opting to give more cash back to shareholders rather than plotting takeovers which the market may disapprove of with the COVID-19 pandemic far from over.
 - "We don't need to, and will not be, chasing volume," Newmont Chief Executive Tom Palmer told the Gold Forum Americas conference. "In this current gold price environment, we are actively assessing an increase to our sustainable dividend."
<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/gold-miners-insist-wont-splurge-173206997.html>

E-Waste & Precious Metals Recycle Related:

- MacDermid Alpha, world's largest Gold Wet Chemistry supplier, partnered with Advanced Chemical Company for recycle.
 - MacDermid Alpha, the world's largest gold chemistry producer for the semiconductor and electronics industry (\$2B wet chemistry segment), has announced a partnership with Advanced Chemical Company to reclaim and recycle its spent chemistries.
 - Reclaim sales brochure link below.
<https://files.constantcontact.com/05cc9a4b301/89ed5b45-e82e-4ea3-9b18-3357d6e60e2f.pdf>
- **Less than half the gold sent to big refiners comes from mines: LBMA**
 - The LBMA said refiners it accredits processed 4,836 tonnes of gold in 2018, an amount worth around \$300 billion at current prices. 2,127 tonnes came from large industrial mines, 26 tonnes supplied by small/artisanal mines, and 2,683 tonnes was recycled gold such as jewellery, bars & coins returned to the market.
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/less-than-half-the-gold-sent-to-big-refiners-comes-from-mines-lbma/ar-BB19iOsD>
- **Four Surging U.S. Exports, Up \$1 Billion, Foretell Tomorrow's World**
 - U.S. exports have fallen \$156.25 billion this year, with 26 specific export categories having plunged more than \$1 billion. But four exports have bucked the trend and surged more than \$1 billion.
 - Those four exports are computer chips, machinery to make computer chips, platinum and scrap precious metal (quite possibly platinum).
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kenroberts/2020/09/22/four-surging-us-exports-up-1-billion-foretell-tomorrows-world/#404d944d2cdd>
- **Solar Panels Generate Mountains of Waste**

- Ms. Folk admits that sustainability requires proper e-waste management. Yet she laments, “Solar presents a particular problem. There is growing evidence that broken panels release toxic pollutants ... [and] increasing concern regarding what happens with these materials when they are no longer viable, especially since they are difficult to recycle.”
<https://townhall.com/columnists/dugganflanakin/2020/09/17/solar-panels-generate-mountains-of-waste-n2576390>

Platinum

- **Shell Catalysts & Technologies’ C2 Front-End Selective Hydrogenation Catalyst chosen by three largest petrochemical plants in China**
 - Shell Catalysts & Technologies has expanded its catalyst sales to 17 ethylene producers in the China market.
<https://www.shell.com/business-customers/catalysts-technologies/resources-library/trade-release-shell-catalysts-technologies-c2-front-end-selective-hydrogenation-catalyst-chosen-by-three-largest-petrochemical-plants-in-china.html>
- **Platinum Glass Fibre: World’s Biggest Offshore Wind Farm Will Boast World’s Largest Installed Turbines**
 - SSE Renewables and Equinor are developing the 3.6GW Dogger Bank project in U.K. waters, to be built in three 1.2GW phases, each using Haliade-X’s 220-meter rotor.
<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/worlds-biggest-wind-farm-will-boast-worlds-largest-installed-turbines>

Fuel Cells/Hydrogen Economy Related Articles:

- **How fuel cells can make a more reliable power grid**
 - How do we maintain a reliable electric grid? Fuel cells and clean hydrogen should be part of the solution.
<https://www.whittierdailynews.com/2020/09/19/how-fuel-cells-can-make-a-more-reliable-power-grid/>
- **Iberdrola sets up green hydrogen unit**
 - In Puertollano Spain, Iberdrola will develop the largest green hydrogen plant for industrial use in Europe. The green hydrogen produced will be used in an ammonia factory operated by Fertiberia, Spain’s largest fertilizer supplier. The project will feature a 100 MW solar plant, a 20 MWh Li-ion battery system and a 20 MW hydrogen electrolyser.
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/09/22/iberdrola-sets-up-green-hydrogen-unit/>
- **Breaking News: Trevor Milton out at Nikola Motor**
 - Sources close to the embattled fuel cell truck manufacturer are reporting that founder Trevor Milton has resigned as executive chairman of Nikola Motor and has departed the company effective immediately.
 - He will remain as one of the company’s largest shareholders, but will not have a say in how the company is managed going forward. Milton owns approximately 82 million shares or 20% of the company, worth about \$2.8 billion.
 - Milton is the founder of Nikola Motor, creating a vision for a hydrogen-powered trucking industry. His comments about the capabilities of Nikola and the hydrogen-powered trucking network he planned to build have occasionally stretched beyond what is physically possible, leaving many detractors to highlight these statements as proof that the company is a scam.
<https://www.freightwaves.com/news/breaking-news-trevor-milton-out-of-nikola>
- **Daimler unveils long haul hydrogen fuel truck**
 - The announcement also stated that the semi trucks would be ready for series productions within the decade.

<https://www.hydrogenfuelnews.com/daimler-unveils-long-haul-hydrogen-fuel-truck/8540570/>

- **Ballard announces Audi hydrogen fuel cell technology collab**
 - https://www.hydrogenfuelnews.com/ballard-announces-audi-hydrogen-fuel-cell-technology-collab/8540580/?mc_cid=685f999f9f&mc_eid=70c1246d58
- **Next stop hydrogen for new rail project**
 - Three British companies unite to develop new hydrogen fuelling infrastructure that could soon allow for the roll out of zero emission trains on the UK rail network.
<https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4020425/stop-hydrogen-rail-project>
- **Airbus unveils three hydrogen-powered aircraft concepts**
 - 1) A turbofan design, 120-200 passengers, range of 2,000+ nautical miles, powered by a modified gas turbine engine running on (liquid) hydrogen will be stored and distributed via tanks located behind the rear pressure bulkhead.
 - 2) A turboprop design, 100 passengers, turboprop, powered by hydrogen combustion in modified gas turbine engines, range 1,000+ nautical miles.
 - 3) A turboprop design, 100 passengers, turboprop, powered by hydrogen combustion in modified gas turbine engines, range 1,000+ nautical miles.
<https://www.h2-view.com/story/airbus-unveils-three-hydrogen-powered-aircraft-concepts/>



Palladium

- **EU ramps up emissions reduction target to 55 pct by 2030**
 - The European Commission has announced plans to increase its climate ambitions, raising its greenhouse gas emissions reduction target from 40% to 55% by 2030, based on 1990 levels, a target that will require significant increases in energy efficiency and renewable energy shares.
<https://reneweconomy.com.au/eu-ramps-up-emissions-reduction-target-to-55-pct-by-2030/>
- **Should You Invest in Palladium?**
 - This precious metal can help diversify and hedge overall portfolio risk.
<https://money.usnews.com/investing/investing-101/articles/should-you-invest-in-palladium>
- **Rising Chinese Car Sales Widens Gap Between Platinum, Palladium ETFs**
 - The disparity between platinum and palladium ETFs has widened this year as a strong rebound in Chinese car sales helped fuel demand for gasoline autocatalysts.
<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/rising-chinese-car-sales-widens-203126664.html>

PGM Minor Metals (Rhodium, Iridium, Ruthenium)

- **Rhodium's Meteoric Rise**
 - Summary: Rhodium prices are making new records on tight market conditions (supply and demand).
 - Prices should be expected to remain at elevated levels amid heightened price volatility.
 - The sharp increase in rhodium prices will have negative consequences for demand in the medium to long term.
 - Rhodium prices rose during August and into September, reaching a record \$14,500 on 15 September.
<https://seekingalpha.com/article/4375746-rhodiums-meteoric-rise>
- **Rhodium supply deficit to widen: refiner Heraeus**

- Heraeus said the rhodium market is expected to move into a deeper deficit of 55,000 oz in 2020, greater than the 20,000 oz deficit noted in 2019, which in turn will continue to provide support for prices in the near term.
<https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/metals/091820-rhodium-supply-deficit-to-widen-refiner-heraeus>
- **Ruthenium Catalyst R&D: L&T evaluating tech for CO₂-to-methanol plant**
 - L&T and NTPC announced a partnership to put up a demonstration plant to convert carbon dioxide into methanol. This small step, L&T hopes, will mean a giant leap into the green fuels of the future.
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/lt-evaluating-tech-for-co2-to-methanol-plant/article32545296.ece>
- **Ruthenium: Ultra-fast magnetic switching with potential to transform fiber optical communications**
 - The new discovery of ultra-fast toggle switching using laser light on mirror-like films of an alloy of manganese, ruthenium and gallium known as MRG could help with all three problems.
<https://phys.org/news/2020-09-ultra-fast-magnetic-potential-fiber-optical.html>
- **Ruthenium Catalyst: Stanford researchers create new catalyst that can turn carbon dioxide into fuels**
 - A new process shows promise in turning the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide back into usable fuels, and yields four times as much fuel as previous approaches.
 - The team succeeded by combining ruthenium and iron oxide nanoparticles into a catalyst. This nugget of ruthenium sits at the core and is encapsulated in an outer sheath of iron. This structure activates hydrocarbon formation from CO₂. It improves the process start to finish.
<https://news.stanford.edu/2019/10/17/new-catalyst-helps-turn-carbon-dioxide-fuel/>

BEV / LiB Battery Market News

- **‘European cobalt supply hinges on circular economy’**
 - Amid an uptake in EV sales, researchers are examining battery material supply chains. A report has indicated policy-driven circular economy strategies must be introduced in Europe if the bloc is to strengthen its resilience to volatility in the cobalt market.
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/09/22/european-cobalt-supply-hinges-on-circular-economy/>
- **Cobalt demand for 5G technology to challenge electric vehicles**
 - Larger batteries, using lithium cobalt oxide chemistry (LCO), are needed in 5G phones because the antenna, used to transmit and receive radio waves, need more power than those in 4G phones.
 - "5G will be a major source of cobalt demand in the years ahead," said George Heppel, analyst CRU, which expects cobalt demand for portable devices to rise to 73 000 t by 2025 from 45 000 t this year.
https://www.miningweekly.com/article/cobalt-demand-for-5g-technology-to-challenge-electric-vehicles-2020-09-21/rep_id:3650
- **Nickel market - is a boom or bust ahead of us?**
 - Musk made a reference to nickel during one of Tesla’s post-earnings conference calls saying,
 - “Well, I’d just like to re-emphasize, any mining companies out there, please mine more nickel. Okay. Wherever you are in the world, please mine more nickel and don’t wait for nickel to go back to some long — some high point that you experienced some five years ago, whatever. Go for efficiency, obviously environmentally friendly nickel mining at high volume. Tesla will give you a giant contract for a long period of time, if you mine nickel efficiently and in an environmentally sensitive way. So hopefully this message goes out to all mining companies. Please get nickel.”
<https://www.kitco.com/commentaries/2020-09-21/Nickel-market-is-a-boom-or-bust-ahead-of-us.html?>
- **Tesla in discussions with Canadian mining company for low carbon nickel supply: report**
 - Talks follow an agreement between Tesla and Glencore for cobalt acquisition
<https://www.foxbusiness.com/technology/tesla-discussions-low-carbon-nickel-supply>

- **Li-Cycle to build battery recycling 'Hub' in the USA**
 - The Canadian recycling company Li-Cycle is now giving details of its announced first battery recycling plant in the USA. The company will invest \$175+ million US dollars in this plant in Rochester, New York. Construction is scheduled to begin next year & to be completed in 2022. The capacity of the facility is expected to be equivalent of ~120,000 e-car battery packs.
<https://www.electrive.com/2020/09/19/li-cycle-to-build-battery-recycling-hub-in-the-usa/>
- **Russian Indigenous communities are begging Tesla not to get its nickel from this major polluter**
 - Every year in August and September, the people of Ust'-Avam, a remote indigenous community located in the Taimyr region of the Russian Arctic, toss nets into the Avam River to catch tugunok fish, an important traditional food. This year, the community stopped fishing early, around the start of the month. There were no tugunok to be found. Nor could locals find the fish at other common sites along the river basin fed by Lake Pyasino, which lies just a few miles north of the industrial city of Norilsk.
<https://grist.org/justice/russian-indigenous-communities-are-begging-tesla-not-to-get-its-nickel-from-this-major-polluter/>
- **Several trends favor copper, nickel**
 - Panelists at Euromoney Trading Asia event see electric vehicles among factors keeping copper and nickel producers busy in 2021 and beyond.
<https://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/copper-nickel-demand-supply-trading-asia-2020-evs/>
- **ISRI 2020 Fall Commodity Spotlight Series: Nickel surge could be on hold until 2022**
 - Speakers during the ISRI 2020 Fall Commodity Spotlight Series discuss nickel and stainless market fundamentals.
<https://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/nickel-stainless-market-outlook-through-2022/>

Regards –