



## Weekly Precious Metals News Articles: September 4, 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 dips as solid U.S. manufacturing data lifts dollar**
  - Gold is being weighed down by the rise in equity markets and the dollar, but “it’s not very surprising that investors will take a little bit of profit” after Tuesday’s rally in gold.  
<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/09/02/gold-markets-dollar-us-federal-reserve.html>
- **Why do humans turn to gold in times of crisis? It's just metal**
  - The U.S. Mint has sold almost four times as many ounces of American Eagle gold coins this year than all of last year, up to 589,500.
  - Even legendary investor Warren Buffett, who once mocked gold as an investment, now has a \$564 million stake in a gold-mining company through his own company, Berkshire Hathaway, according to regulatory filings on Aug. 14.  
<https://amp-usatoday-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/amp.usatoday.com/amp/5630336002>
- **Central bank gold purchases slows to 8.2 tonnes in July**
  - July was the lowest monthly net purchases since December 2018.  
<https://www.kitco.com/news/2020-09-03/Central-bank-gold-purchases-slows-to-8-2-tonnes-in-July.html?>
- **Gold: Bulls need a break above \$1,991 for a buy signal**
  - Gold likely to continue to trade sideways in the days ahead. The best support for today is at \$1,951/\$1,947.  
<https://www.fxstreet.com/analysis/gold-bulls-need-a-break-above-1991-for-a-buy-signal-202009020807>

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

- **New iPhone shipments to top 63-68 million units in 2H20, says Digitimes Research**
  - Global shipments of the next-generation iPhone devices (tentatively named iPhone 12 lineup) are expected to total 63-68 million in the second half of 2020, a reduction of over five million units compared to the amount shipped a year earlier for the iPhone 11 lineup.  
<https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20200831PD204.html>
- **Apple preparing to ship 75 million new iPhones**
  - Apple Inc has asked its suppliers to produce at least 75 million 5G iPhones for later this year, roughly in line with last year’s launch, in a sign that demand for the company’s most important product is holding up in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic and recession.  
<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/biz/archives/2020/09/02/2003742662>

## **Silver**

- **Silver about to move higher towards \$30.72 – Credit Suisse**
  - Resistance seen next at \$30.72 and eventually we think more meaningfully and what is our base case objective at \$35.23/35.365  
<https://www.fxstreet.com/news/silver-about-to-move-higher-towards-3072-credit-suisse-202009020936>
- **Silver Institute's August 2020 Newsletter and articles**
  - The Silver Promotion Service Opens "Virtual Silver Pavilion"
  - Silver Catalyst Helps Produce More Carbon Dioxide, a Precursor for Everyday Chemicals
  - Silver and Strontium Work Together for Safer Implants
  - U.S. EPA Registers New Nanosilver Active Ingredient as a Materials Preservative
  - Possible Consequence of the Coronavirus: Legionnaires' Disease Bacteria in Buildings
  - Perth Mint Celebrates Chinese "Year of the Mouse" with Silver Bullion Products
  - Mumbai Jewelry Maker Hopes to Keep "Arts and Crafts" Alive in India
  - New Machine Produces Silver-Atom Clusters for Clean-Water Catalyst  
<https://www.silverinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/SNAug2020.pdf>
- **Three 1.2 GW solar projects under development in the Philippines**
  - One of the installations, the Padre Garcia Solar Power Project, will be built by Solar Philippines Batangas Corp. in Batangas province. Two other similarly sized projects – Sta. Rosa Nueva Ecija 3 and General Santos – are now being developed by Solar Philippines Commercial Rooftop Projects Inc.  
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/09/04/three-1-2-gw-solar-projects-under-development-in-the-philippines/>
- **Silver at 7-Year Highs: Grab These 4 Silver Mining Stocks**
  - Our Top Picks in the Industry: (1) Hecla Mining Company HL, (2) Fortuna Silver Mines FSM, (3) Pan American Silver PAAS, (4) Endeavour Silver Corp. EXX:  
<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/silver-7-highs-grab-4-123712368.html>

## **Precious Metals Mining:**

- **Where Will The World's Next Giant Gold Discovery Be Made?**
  - Canadian Gold and the Quebec Heartland  
<https://www.marketwatch.com/press-release/where-will-the-worlds-next-giant-gold-discovery-be-made-2020-09-01-9197152>
- **Zimbabwe's biggest platinum mine rides out COVID-19 pandemic**
  - Zimbabwe's biggest platinum miner Zimplats (Impala) said Monday its operations were not affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as it posted a 38 percent increase in revenue to \$868, 912 for Fiscal Year.  
[http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off\\_the\\_Wire/2020-09/01/content\\_76656093.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off_the_Wire/2020-09/01/content_76656093.htm)
- **Sylvania Still Looks Cheap After SA Palladium Mines Restart**
  - S. Africa restarted mining sector operations in May after a six-week lock-down due to COVID-19.
  - Norilsk estimates point to a balanced palladium market in 2020 and 2021, but June production data from South Africa shows a different picture.
  - Pd market is likely to remain in a structural deficit for at least a year, which should support high prices. Sylvania looks like a compelling investment opportunity.  
<https://seekingalpha.com/article/4371976-sylvania-still-looks-cheap-after-sa-palladium-mines-restart>
- **Russia-Zimbabwe platinum JV to secure phase 1 funding by end of year**
  - Russian-Zimbabwean platinum venture Great Dyke Investments (GDI) expects to raise up to \$500 million in funding it needs for the first phase of its mining project by the end of this year after the coronavirus delayed talks with lenders.  
<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/russia-zimbabwe-platinum-jv-to-secure-phase-1-funding-by-end-of-year-2020-09-01>

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

- **Auto recyclers stay roadworthy**
  - Decreased activity has affected auto salvage sector revenue, but some trends seem to be working in the industry's favor.  
<http://magazine.recyclingtoday.com/article/september-2020/automotive-recycling-challenges.aspx>
- **Noble metals dissolved without aqua regia**
  - Scientists in Belgium using highly-concentrated aluminium nitrate and aluminium chloride solutions, they were able to dissolve both gold and platinum group metals, and then precipitate out the pure metals, allowing them to potentially be recycled and reused.  
<https://www.chemistryworld.com/news/noble-metals-dissolved-without-aqua-regia/4012369.article?ocid=uxbndlbing>
- **Hydrochloric acid boosts catalyst activity**
  - Hydrochloric acid treatment improves catalysts for removing sulfur from crude oil. A team has developed a synthesis process which increases activity of catalysts for desulfurization of crude oil. The new process could perhaps also be used for catalysts in fuel cells.  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/08/200825110652.htm>
- **Two Advanced in E-waste Recycling: Use of Fruit Peel Waste, Improved Bio-Leaching**
  - Developed a novel method of using fruit peel waste to extract and reuse precious metals from spent lithium-ion batteries in order to create new batteries.  
<https://revolution-green.com/two-advances-e-waste-recycling-use-fruit-peel-waste-improved-bio-leaching/>

## **Platinum**

- **Platinum Continues To Suck The Life Out Of Precious Metal Bulls**
  - Summary: Platinum is the Rodney Dangerfield of the sector.
  - Production is falling as the output costs do not justify increased supplies.
  - PPLT is the most liquid platinum ETF product- The value proposition is compelling, but the price action is repelling.  
<https://seekingalpha.com/article/4372095-platinum-continues-to-suck-life-out-of-precious-metal-bulls>
- **California's new emissions rules target diesel trucks and cargo ships**
  - One rule introduces new emissions standards for heavy-duty diesel trucks, while the other requires more ships docked at ports to either plug into electric power or use other technology to reduce harmful emissions.  
<https://www.engadget.com/california-emissions-rules-trucks-ships-204909207.html>
- **Record Demand to Invest in Gold, Silver, Platinum Nears Half-Billion Dollars Amid Covid Crisis**
  - DEMAND to invest in gold, silver and platinum using BullionVault has totalled nearly half-a-billion dollars over the last 6 months  
<https://www.bullionvault.com/gold-news/invest-gold-090120201>

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

- **Mitsubishi Power Americas will build three next-generation hydrogen power plants, including one in Ohio**
  - Mitsubishi Power Americas will build 3 power plants (New York, Virginia & Ohio) designed to replace natural gas with cleaner-burning hydrogen produced from renewable sources.  
<https://www.craigslist.com/energy-and-environment/mitsubishi-power-americas-will-build-three-next-generation-hydrogen-power>
- **Hiringa Energy and HYZON Motors to Deploy Fuel Cell-Powered Heavy Trucks in New Zealand in 2021**
  - This agreement supports Hiringa strategy to roll out over 1,500 FCEVs by 2026

<https://www.hiringa.co.nz/post/hiringa-energy-and-hyzon-motors-to-deploy-fuel-cell-powered-heavy-trucks-in-new-zealand-in-2021>

- **Renewables-powered 25 MW electrolyser at Dutch port**
  - The large-scale green hydrogen facility is being developed by Dutch energy company VoltH2 at the North Sea Port. The project is planned to be expanded to 100 MW.  
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/09/02/renewables-powered-25-mw-electrolyser-at-dutch-port/>
- **With zero-emissions truck mandates coming, OEs promise ‘cheaper than diesel’ hydrogen fuel cells — but key hurdles remain (article 1 of 3)**  
<https://www.ccidigital.com/hydrogen-fuel-cell-future/>
- **Hydrogen-powered Class 8 rigs: How fuel cell trucks produce electric power and how they’re fueled (article 2 of 3)**  
<https://www.ccidigital.com/hydrogen-powered-class-8-rigs-electric-refuel/>
- **‘You can’t just fill a battery’: Proponents say hydrogen power is trucking’s best path forward, critics argue otherwise (article 3 of 3)**  
<https://www.ccidigital.com/hydrogen-power-trucking-forward-critics-argue/>
- **New generation of hydrogen vehicles may use less platinum**
  - We have developed a catalyst which, in the laboratory, only needs a fraction of the amount of platinum that current hydrogen fuel cells for cars do  
<https://www.mining.com/new-generation-of-hydrogen-vehicles-may-use-less-platinum-research/>
- **Hydrogen vehicle fuel cells are getting cheaper and more sustainable**
  - The 50 grams of platinum needed for the catalysts is substantially higher than what the average non-H2 powered cars currently need, (<1 gram). Researchers from the University of Copenhagen have developed a new type of catalyst that requires a far less platinum.  
<https://www.hydrogenfuelnews.com/hydrogen-vehicle-fuel-cells-are-getting-cheaper-and-more-sustainable/8540412/>
- **Hydrogen’s Profit Potential Still a Decade Away, RWE Says**
  - While green hydrogen -- made from renewable power sources -- is increasingly seen as one of the best ways to reduce emissions from industry and transportation, production costs are still double that of making the fuel from natural gas, according to BloombergNEF.  
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/finance/markets/hydrogen-e2-80-99s-profit-potential-still-a-decade-away-rwe-says/ar-BB18Cvzf>
- **France devotes €30 billion to energy transition**
  - The French government will use around €9 billion of its new €30 billion global investment package to support the development of a hydrogen economy, as part of the country’s Covid-19 recovery plan.  
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/09/04/france-devotes-e30-billion-to-energy-transition/>
- **Time to get real: amid the hydrogen hype, let’s talk about what will actually work**
  - Amid the current hydrogen hype, there is little discussion about when the technology can realistically become commercially viable, or the best ways it can be used to cut emissions.  
<https://theconversation.com/time-to-get-real-amid-the-hydrogen-hype-lets-talk-about-what-will-actually-work-144579>

## **Palladium**

- **EU gains power to recall vehicles for flouting emissions rules**
  - Matt: Will OEM’s in the EU become more paranoid and add more PGM’s/design margin into their catalytic converters?  
<https://europe.autonews.com/automakers/eu-gains-power-recall-vehicles-flouting-emissions-rules>
- **A Run On Comex Palladium Is Happening Now, And Platinum Could Be Next**

- Summary” Pd September deliveries hit a record 322, with 245 contracts still open, to either be delivered or cash settled. Total deliveries estimated ~567.
- 76% of registered supply is about to be stood for delivery.
- Higher percentage of palladium traders is calling for delivery than ever before in history.
- The situation is similar in platinum, which saw a record 4,131 contracts delivered in July. There is enough platinum to satisfy only 4,928 contracts, and 47,369 remain open.
- Most of these will roll over, but if more than 4,928 remain open by September 29, shorts will have to bid away remaining eligible platinum to satisfy longs who stand for delivery.  
<https://seekingalpha.com/article/4372431-run-on-comex-palladium-is-happening-now-and-platinum-be-next>

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

- **Ruthenium and Platinum: TSMC plans to introduce 16nm embedded MRAM**
  - TSMC announced, during the company's virtual European technology symposium, that it is developing MRAM technologies for its 16nm FinFET platform. The company expects to offer flash-like configuration risk production starting in 4Q21 and RAM-like risk production scheduled for 4Q22.
  - Matt: This is a significant announcement from the world's premier advanced semiconductor firm.  
<https://mail.yahoo.com/d/folders/4/messages/ALXQzNNCCXePX05NhQISuNZ4GTO>
- **Alternative to ammonia via the Ru/Haber-Bosch process? A new strategy for the electrochemical reduction of nitrate to ammonia**
  - Researchers have recently devised a new electrochemical strategy to produce ammonia through the reduction of nitrate.
  - <https://phys.org/news/2020-08-strategy-electrochemical-reduction-nitrate-ammonia.html>
- **Rhodium price on track for new record as mine output plummets**
  - The recovery in auto sales is boosting demand, particularly given the lack of alternatives in catalyst chemistry given rhodium's role in reducing NOx (nitrogen oxide) emissions.  
<https://www.mining.com/rhodium-price-on-track-for-fresh-record-as-mine-output-plummets/>

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

- **Lithium metal enabler for low temperature batteries**
  - US Scientists demonstrated a new route to improving battery performance by integrating a self-assembling Li layer which forms on the surface of the anode, preventing the formation of dendrites. While their prototype has a very short lifetime (200 cycles), the group is convinced approach could lead to better performing batteries, and is particularly promising for low temperature applications.  
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/08/31/lithium-metal-enabler-for-low-temperature-batteries/>
- **Eos announces 1.5 GWh of zinc battery storage in Texas, California**
  - The summer of battery storage rolls on, with developers of zinc hybrid cathode technology announcing big news.  
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/09/02/eos-announces-1-5-gwh-of-zinc-battery-storage-in-texas-california/>
- **Multi-million financing provided for JM's new battery materials site in Poland**
  - EBRD and KfW IPEX-Bank provide €135 million loan for JM's new plant
  - JM's site will produce 10,000 tonnes per year of its cathode material, eLNO®  
<https://matthey.com/en/news/2020/multi-million-financing-provided-for-jms-new-battery-materials-site-in-poland>
- **One of the Brains Behind Tesla Found a New Way to Make Electric Cars Cheaper**
  - What's the secret to building a more affordable electric vehicle? JB Straubel has an answer. It starts with a pile of old cellphones.  
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/one-of-the-brains-behind-tesla-found-a-new-way-to-make-electric-cars-cheaper-11598673630>

Regards –