

IT-BESTENLISTE

MITTELSTAND



Die besten IT-Lösungen für den Mittelstand

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MITTELSTANDSPRESSE

DRUCKEN

19.02.2019

Osmium: Rarest precious metal on the verge of challenging global diamond industry, expert says

Baierbrunn, 19.02.2019 (PresseBox) - Kitco News, one of the world's leading sources for metals market information, recently broadcast an interview featuring the precious metal 'osmium'. The little-known element has only been available for a few years and is already set to provide new opportunities for investors and for the making of premium jewellery.



Osmium Disk und Osmium Runi[...]

"Osmium is incredibly rare. It's one of the rarest metals on this planet," says Bodo Albrecht in the interview with Kitco News. Mr Albrecht is founder of BASIQ Corporation, a precious metals and consulting firm based in Westfield (NJ), United States.

Osmium is co-mined with platinum and there are only two cubic metres of osmium minable on this planet. "You have to mine 10,000 tons of platinum ore to get one ounce of osmium. This is how rare it is," continues Albrecht.

To date, the metal has not been very popular. Osmium in its raw form is an unspectacular grey powder and reacts with air to form osmium tetroxide, a poisonous substance. A breakthrough occurred in 2013, when it became possible to crystallise osmium in a process which renders the metal inert and therefore harmless. The result are beautifully sparkling osmium crystals which reflect light with a distinct blueish-silvery tint.

"This is obviously intended as a jewellery item but it's also an investment item now that the metal can be formed into one ounce round bars and stored, with a very high value density," says Mr Albrecht.

The German-based Osmium-Institute is marketing the metal globally and working on finding local partners. "They have partners in 20 countries of the world. They are in the United States, in North America. They are all over Europe. They are developing in Asia, in Australia, and these crystals will be available through wholesale jewellers, through retailers and then a trading market will eventually emerge."

Crystallising osmium somewhat resembles rearranging carbon atoms when making diamonds. "If you for a moment think of osmium like a diamond¾a diamond is made of carbon and carbon is an entirely different material. So, osmium is our new carbon."

With artificially grown diamonds currently flooding the market, the timing for alternatives could not be better according to Mr Albrecht. With interest in the metal rising, supplies are likely to struggle to meet demand. "It is foreseeable that the osmium's rarity will actually increase. So, you will find fewer and fewer osmium and one day it may actually run out because the concentration is getting so low."

Another advantage of osmium are the high ethical standards for sourcing the raw material. The reason is that the ore containing the osmium comes from the mines that supply platinum for automotive catalysts. These companies underwent comprehensive programs to ensure compliance with strict ethical and sustainability standards. This helps preventing issues such as the infamous blood diamonds, an image that the gemstone industry could never quite get rid of. "It's guilt free, if you will."

The full interview is available for streaming here: <https://www.kitco.com/news/video/show/Kitco-News/2260/2019-02-01/The-Rare-Precious-Metal-You-Need-in-Your-Life>

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