

SOLO PGM MINES LTD

# Mining of Platinum in Albania and Kosovo

## Background of the project

In the region of the borderland between Kosovo and Albania, the eastern part of the Mirdita ophiolite zone is characterized by elevated concentrations of platinum-group elements (PGE). The deposits are identified and partly investigated, but not exploited. The Swiss company BSB+Partner, Consulting Engineers started a project for Platinum exploitation in Albania and Kosovo. A project team was formed to develop the project idea and to promote the cooperation between Swiss Consultants and Engineers with Kosovarian Entrepreneurs and Albanian Scientists. Albania and the neighboring Kosovo are in a process of reconstruction, redevelopment and reconstitution of infrastructural, commercial and legal means after the years of civil war.

The economy of Albania and the former Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) also used to be based on mining. Smelters and refineries were one of the principal sources of employment. The knowledge of mining is widely spread. Over the past decade, industry, mining and infrastructure in Kosovo and Albania have been characterized by massive disinvestments, neglect of operations and maintenance and collateral damage during the hostilities.



## Actual situation

Since 2005 BSB+Partner has found several potential investors mainly of Switzerland to invest about Euro 21 Mio. The company, SOLO PGM MINES LTD (SOLO PGM), is founded by these investors to start first reconnaissance operations.

## Rationale and strategy

The mining economy in Albania and Kososvo are mainly divided in very small companies or in huge international trusts. The first party is very weak organized and has low profit margins, the second party is not very active to start with mining after buying the former social owned companies. The following project with this medium sized company, SOLO PGM, wants to have the flexibility and know-how of the local conditions and to introduce modern infrastructure and techniques to gain higher profit margins.



## Phase I: Reconnaissance of PGE

The Swiss BSB+Partner team incorporate an organization under their leading management to promote a reconnaissance project in Albania/Kosovo.

## Phase II: Prospection

In case of an acceptable result from the geological reconnaissance project a prospecting project will be started for several months.

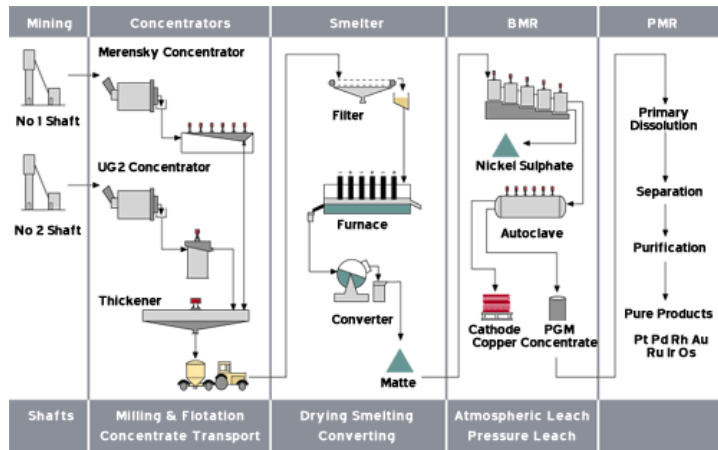
## Phase III: Pre-feasibility study

In case of a positive assessment from the geological prospecting project, a refining and exploitation study will be accomplished by BSB+Partner.

## Phase IV: Feasibility Study

If the results of the pre-feasibility study are convincing in an economic sense, the exploitation of the ores will occur.

In an additional project, the refinery technology for SME sized companies in Kosovo shall be promoted to gain the raw material for trading the precious metals.



## Risks

- Insufficient or minor PGE content in the ore for efficient refining
- No permission for exploitation or export of the ore and/or problems with state facilities at the border
- Political instability and/or rumors in Kosovo
- Personal mine residuals in the border area Albania-Kosovo where the PGE mining should take place.

## Benefits

- Strengthening of the SME economy in Albania and Kosovo
- Job creation in a non central area of Albania and Kosovo
- Sustainable investment into a traditional sector of SE Europe
- Know How transfer in a formerly collapsed branch

## Main Project team:

Dr. Niklaus Rutishauser (chemical engineering)

Dr. Heinrich Kahlert (geological, geophysical, geochemical survey)

Dr. Alexander Kohli (project leader)

