Prospectivity versus security: Worth the risk?

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The industry is overly focused on the resource - its size, quality and the technical challenges of mining it. The key issue, particularly in frontier and emerging markets, that is too often missed or ignored is whether the resource can be sustainably realized. That, in turn, too often is dependent upon non-technical or above ground issues or risks. Those issues - whether political or community based - may create a security issue. Such issues may prevent realizing the resource, whether in production operations, processing or getting the mineral or metal to market. More time from exploration inception needs to be taken to consider those non-technical risks. Not to do so risks jeopardising the investment and feasibility of any project. This session will draw, from the African-based experience of a non-technical risk management company, the lessons and pitfalls of ignoring non-technical risk during the mining life cycle.

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