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STRATUM

Strategic Asset Intelligence for African Mining and Critical Minerals

How verified intelligence, evidence standards and confidentiality by design unlock institutional capital for the continent that holds the minerals the world now needs most.

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In this paper

Reader's note. This is the external edition of the STRATUM white paper. It explains what STRATUM is, the problem it addresses and the principles it operates on. It deliberately contains no confidential information: no operator or client identities, no licence numbers, no asset coordinates and no proprietary system internals. Where the paper describes confidentiality measures, it describes the commitment, not the mechanism. Throughout, this edition presents commitments and outcomes rather than methods, sequencing or internal architecture.

This document is for information only. It is not investment advice and nothing in it constitutes an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, securities, tokens or any other financial instrument in any jurisdiction.

SECTION 01

Executive Summary

Africa holds an estimated one-third of the world's critical mineral reserves — lithium, cobalt, rare earth elements, tantalum, niobium, tin — at the exact moment the energy transition, electric mobility and defence industries are competing to secure them. Yet institutional capital reaches African mining more slowly than almost any comparable opportunity, and the reason is not geology. It is information: fragmented records, unverifiable claims and diligence material scattered across formats, languages and jurisdictions.

STRATUM is a Strategic Asset Intelligence Platform built to close that gap. It takes the raw material of mining diligence — licences, assay certificates, technical reports, imagery — and structures it into verified, classified, comparable intelligence. Every data point is labelled by its source. Every asset is assessed against the international reporting standards institutional investors already trust: NI 43-101 and JORC. Access is tiered, so depth of disclosure always matches the vetting of the person reading.

STRATUM is deliberately not a broker, not a marketplace operator and not a counterparty. It is the intelligence infrastructure layer beneath the market: it verifies, structures and protects information, and leaves transactions to the transacting parties.

> **“Africa has never lacked resources. What has been missing is trusted intelligence.”**

At launch the platform carries 17 verified mining assets across African jurisdictions — lithium, tin (cassiterite), rare earth elements and gemstones — with eight open for investor engagement and approximately 70 more in structured verification. Public intelligence is free at stratum.uno; institutional depth is granted by application.

17	8	~70	1/3
VERIFIED MINING ASSETS	LIVE FOR ENGAGEMENT	IN STRUCTURED VERIFICATION	OF WORLD CRITICAL-MINERAL RESERVES HELD BY AFRICA (EST.)

African mineral assets at operational scale — the ground truth STRATUM verifies.

SECTION 02

The Verification Gap in African Mining

Every mining investment decision rests on a chain of claims: that the licence is valid, that the assays are real, that the resource estimate follows a recognised code, that the operator controls the ground it says it controls. In mature markets, decades of standardised disclosure make that chain checkable. Across much of Africa, it is not — not because the assets are worse, but because the record-keeping infrastructure around them never matured at the pace the geology deserved.

The consequences compound in both directions. Investors discount or walk away from genuinely strong assets because they cannot distinguish them from weak ones — the classic market for lemons. Serious operators are punished by the noise around them: a licence holder with certified assays and a compliant technical report competes for attention with promoters holding neither. Capital that does move often pays an opacity premium in time, advisory fees and abandoned deals.

Nigeria illustrates both the history and the opportunity. The Jos Plateau made Nigeria one of the world's significant tin producers for much of the twentieth century, and cassiterite, columbite and gemstone production continue today. The federal government's solid-minerals diversification agenda, and the announcement in June 2026 of a lithium reserve of roughly 3.3 million tonnes near Abuja, signal how much value remains underdocumented rather than undiscovered. What has been missing is the connective tissue: verified, structured, institution-grade information about what exists, who legitimately holds it and what the evidence actually supports.

That connective tissue is what STRATUM builds.

SECTION 03

The Market Moment: Critical Minerals

The demand side has never been clearer. Copper has traded near record highs, with the LME three-month price touching $14,527 a tonne in January 2026, driven in part by AI data-centre build-out. Lithium, cobalt and rare earth elements sit on the critical-minerals lists of the United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Japan and others. In July 2026 a United States executive order directed defence contractors to map and replace critical-mineral suppliers linked to adversary nations — accelerating the search for auditable alternative sources.

Supply chains are being redrawn around a single question: can the origin, legitimacy and quality of the material be proven? Jurisdictions and assets that can answer with evidence will attract a structural premium. Africa's share of the world's reserves means the continent will be central to any answer — and the platforms that make African assets verifiable will sit at the centre of the capital flows that follow.

— **Energy transition.** EV batteries, grid storage and renewables are mineral-intensive; each is reshaping demand for lithium, cobalt, nickel, copper and rare earths.

— **Defence and strategic stockpiling.** Governments increasingly treat mineral supply as national security, with procurement rules that reward traceable origin.

— **Supply-chain diversification.** Manufacturers are actively reducing concentration risk, opening the door for new, verified sources.

THE STRATUM DOCTRINE

Transparency about evidence. Discretion about identity.

Every data point labelled by its source. Every operator protected until vetting and undertakings are complete. The two commitments are not in tension — together, they are the product.

SECTION 04

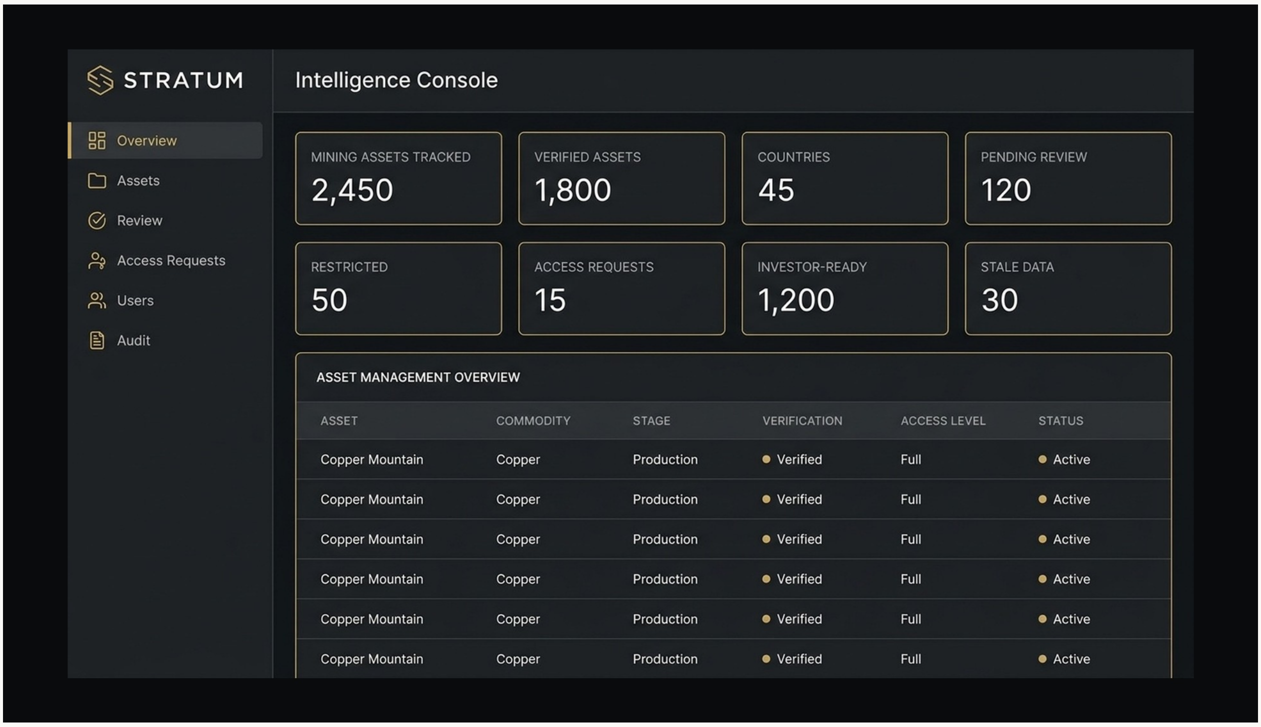
The STRATUM Model: Intelligence Infrastructure

STRATUM's position in the market is defined by three refusals. It does not broker deals. It does not take positions in the assets it covers. It does not sell placement — an asset cannot pay its way to a better verification status. These refusals are what make the intelligence trustworthy: STRATUM's only stake is in being right.

The model instead is infrastructure. Like a ratings framework, an exchange's listing standards or a title registry, STRATUM creates value by making other parties' transactions possible, faster and safer. Operators gain a credible, confidential channel to institutional attention. Investors gain structured, source-labelled intelligence they can defend to committees. Governments and communities gain a market in which legitimate, documented operations outcompete informal claims.

> **"STRATUM's only stake is in being right."**

The platform applies artificial intelligence where it belongs — reading, structuring and cross-referencing large volumes of technical documentation — while keeping human editorial and verification judgement over what is published and how it is classified. AI accelerates the work; it does not replace the standard.



The STRATUM intelligence console — live asset intelligence at stratum.uno.

SECTION 05

Evidence Standards and Source Classification

The heart of the platform is a simple discipline applied without exception: every data point is labelled by where it came from, and the label travels with it everywhere it appears.

- **Public record.** Sourced from government registries, gazettes and published filings.
- **Project-supplied.** Provided by the operator or its representatives; presented as such, never silently upgraded.
- **Technical interpretation.** Analysis derived from data — clearly marked as interpretation, with its inputs identified.
- **Independently verified.** Confirmed through certified laboratories, accredited professionals or documents whose provenance has been established.

SOURCE LABEL	WHAT IT MEANS	HOW TO READ IT
PUBLIC RECORD	Government registries, gazettes, published filings.	A verifiable baseline.
PROJECT-SUPPLIED	Provided by the operator or its representatives.	Disclosed — never silently endorsed.
TECHNICAL INTERPRETATION	Analysis derived from data, with inputs identified.	An expert view, marked as one.
INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED	Certified laboratories, accredited professionals, established provenance.	The strongest evidence on the platform.

Every field on the platform carries one of these four labels — and the label travels with the data wherever it appears.

On top of source classification sits standards alignment. Assets are assessed against NI 43-101 and JORC — the reporting codes used by the Toronto and Australian exchanges and recognised by institutional mining investors worldwide. A compliant technical report is displayed as exactly that; reporting prepared under JORC guidelines is labelled as exactly that; and a bare claim earns no badge at all. Claims of compliance are checked, not taken at face value.

The result is that two assets can sit side by side on the platform with visibly different evidence quality — and the difference is the point. STRATUM does not flatter its coverage. It shows investors what is known, what is claimed and what is proven, and lets the evidence set the price of attention.

Core logging under NI 43-101 and JORC-aligned classification — evidence before assumption.

SECTION 06

Confidentiality by Design

Mining is a discreet industry for rational reasons. Premature disclosure of an operator's identity, holdings or precise location can trigger speculation on adjacent ground, security risks at site and negotiating disadvantage. Most intelligence products resolve the tension between transparency and discretion by sacrificing one of them. STRATUM's answer is architectural: transparency about evidence, discretion about identity.

- — **Aliased by default.** On public and standard member surfaces, operators appear under a neutral verified reference — the market sees that a verified operator holds a verified asset, not who they are.
- — **Tiered depth.** Five access levels govern how much detail any reader sees, from headline intelligence at the public tier to full technical depth for vetted institutional members.
- — **Identity by approval.** Identity disclosure is never bundled with a subscription. It follows a specific, logged request, then vetting, then the protections both sides require, including non-disclosure undertakings.
- — **Audited access.** Institutional data rooms carry field-level permissions and complete audit trails; who saw what, and when, is always answerable.

This is why serious operators list. STRATUM is the rare channel through which an asset can be credibly marketed to institutions without its owner standing in public. The confidentiality commitment is not a feature of the product; it is the reason the product can exist.

SECTION 07

Platform Capabilities

- **Interactive geospatial intelligence.** A continent-scale map environment that moves from regional context to individual concessions, with detail that deepens by access tier.
- **Verified asset dossiers.** Structured intelligence on each asset: commodity, development stage, evidence quality, risk and opportunity factors — every field source-labelled.
- **Secure tiered data rooms.** Institutional-grade document rooms with field-level permissions, audit trails and staged disclosure.
- **AI-assisted analysis.** Technical documentation processed into structured, comparable intelligence under human verification judgement.
- **Market and policy intelligence.** A curated news and signals layer connecting global critical-minerals developments to the assets they affect.
- **STRATUM X.** The commissioned tier: hyperspectral scanning of client-selected ground and bespoke digital-twin construction for qualifying engagements.

Public access is free and requires no registration. Paid membership deepens analytical access; institutional tiers are granted by application and subject to compliance clearance before any sensitive depth unlocks.

ACCESS LEVEL	HOW IT IS GRANTED	WHAT IT SEES
PUBLIC	Free. No registration.	Headline intelligence: the map, commodity and evidence status, market signals.
MEMBER	Subscription.	Analytical depth: fuller dossiers, comparisons, curated intelligence.
INSTITUTIONAL	Application, vetting and compliance clearance.	Data rooms and documents at approved depth; operator identity only by specific approved request.

Depth follows vetting — never payment alone.

SECTION 08

How Engagement Works

STRATUM stays out of the transaction. Assets enter coverage, pass structured verification and are published at tiered depth with identity protected. Vetted parties engage by application, under compliance clearance and the undertakings both sides require, and any transaction is concluded directly between the parties with their own advisers. STRATUM provides transactional advisory through **OGZ Ventures** (19 years of experience in the sector) — advisory only, never brokerage. STRATUM remains the intelligence layer beneath the deal — not the middleman inside it.

EXPLORE		APPLY & CLEAR		ENGAGE DIRECTLY
Free intelligence at stratum.uno. No registration.	>	Vetting, compliance clearance, undertakings.	>	The parties transact between themselves, with their own advisers.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Nothing is tokenized that has not first been verified.

The intelligence platform is live today. Everything the platform grows into stands on what has already been verified.

SECTION 09

The Road Ahead

The intelligence platform this paper describes is live today, and it is the foundation for everything STRATUM offers next.

STRATUM X — commissioned intelligence. For qualifying engagements, STRATUM X extends verification from documents to the ground itself, including satellite and hyperspectral observation of client-selected areas and bespoke digital-twin construction. STRATUM X is application-only.

STRATUM XT — regulated transaction capability. In time, STRATUM intends to extend into regulated transaction infrastructure for verified mineral assets, including real-world asset (RWA) tokenization — built on the principle that nothing is tokenized that has not first been verified. STRATUM XT will operate only within applicable regulatory frameworks and will be available by application. Early interest can be registered at stratum.uno.

THE PLATFORM	STRATUM X	STRATUM XT
LIVE TODAY	BY APPLICATION	AHEAD — REGULATED
Verified, source-labelled asset intelligence. Free public tier; deeper access by application.	Commissioned ground-truth: satellite and hyperspectral observation, bespoke digital twins.	Tokenization and settlement of verified assets, within applicable regulatory frameworks.

One platform, three ways to engage it — every one of them standing on verification.

References to STRATUM XT are forward-looking and relate to a capability that has not yet launched. Nothing in this paper is an offer of securities, tokens or any other financial instrument, in any jurisdiction.

SECTION 10

Governance, Compliance and Responsible Sourcing

- **Know-your-customer before depth.** Institutional access follows identity verification; sensitive depth follows compliance clearance, not payment alone.
- **Undertakings before identity.** Identity disclosure and deal-room depth are preceded by non-disclosure and non-circumvention undertakings.
- **Traceability as a by-product.** Because every data point is source-labelled, the platform naturally supports responsible-sourcing and mineral-traceability review.
- **Editorial independence.** Verification status cannot be bought; coverage decisions are editorial, and the evidence taxonomy applies identically to every asset.

STRATUM's ambition is simple: for its verification profile to be a shorthand institutions trust, because it is applied consistently, conservatively and without exception.

SECTION 11

About STRATUM

STRATUM is a mineral asset intelligence platform serving investors, institutions and governments engaged in African mining and critical minerals. Built by an African-led team of operators and technologists, the platform combines geospatial mapping, verification against international reporting standards and AI-assisted analysis to support due diligence on mining, energy and infrastructure assets across the continent. STRATUM maintains offices in London, Lagos and Accra.

Public intelligence is free at **stratum.uno**. Institutional access and STRATUM X are granted by application.

Dawn over an African open-pit operation. The ground truth of the next industrial era — verified.

Website: stratum.uno **Contact:** channel@stratum.uno **Media line:** +44 7346 814523

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The STRATUM platform was created by **OGZ Ventures** and **Tech Bros Africa**.