

Exploration success—disruption in discovery

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Disruption, thinking differently, and being ahead of the curve are keys to mineral discovery. At Ivanhoe, we have attempted to anticipate important trends in worldwide development—such as the rise of China, the effect of increased Chinese consumption on world resources and prices, and the importance of air pollution and climate change. Given these developments, it is clear that electricity will be the key—how it is generated, stored, and used. We look at the periodic table of elements and ask which will be more in demand in the future we foresee. It is clear that electricity is key, including how it is generated and how it is stored. All of these trends suggest that copper, nickel, cobalt, and platinum will be in demand. Anticipating what resources the world will need and then looking for those places in the world that could contain world-class deposits of these minerals, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, for the unbelievable Kakula-Kamoa copper deposits, or South Africa, for the Platreef platinum-nickel deposit, should be the goal. Too many of those in exploration focus on what is “hot” now rather than looking further into the future. Discovery demands forward thinking in terms of commodities and geology and then having the confidence that with a good team of people, hard work, and enthusiasm the resources needed in the future will be found, actually making the world a better place.