PLATINUM is primarily used as an industrial metal today. Some estimates say it now helps create one-fifth of all manufactured objects. Although unprovable, such claims highlight the key role platinum plays in almost every aspect of modern life. First identified as a separate element by European scientists in the mid-18th Century, platinum stood out from all other metals they knew for its hardness, high melting point and resistance to corrosion or chemical reactions. Today those features make platinum invaluable to a huge range of industrial pro

The gold-recycling industry comprises two segments, each constituting a unique market with its own value chain  But what exactly is gold recycling? The World Gold Council, which produced this report jointly with The Boston Consulting Group, defines recycled gold as that sold for cash by consumers or other supply-chain players, such as jewelry manufacturers that sell old stock.  In the event that it becomes enforced, more industrial waste could find its way into the formal recycling system, contributing about 30 percent of total global WEEE by 2025. Stiffening Competition and Overcapacity Risk. There is currently excess capacity in industrial and high-value gold recycling. While the platinum mining industry is hobbled by interunion rivalries, wage negotiations in the country’s gold sector are proceeding.  A confrontation in South Africa’s platinum sector between two important unions, the National Union of Mineworkers and the more militant Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union, has led to disturbances in the form of strikes and legal procedures, disrupting wage negotiations at several mining companies. By contrast, the dominance of the National Union of Mineworkers in gold mining — it represents 65 percent of miners versus the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union’s 17 percent — means the gold sector is not likely to experience similar disruptions.

See how industrial use of platinum is changing