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## Breakthrough puts gold into catalysts

The World Gold Council (WGC) and Nanostellar, a developer of emission control technologies, have agreed a long-term strategic partnership to introduce gold into the automotive catalyst market.

Nanostellar has developed NS Gold, a catalyst formulation for use in the automotive industry that includes gold alongside traditional platinum and palladium metals. The inclusion of gold is said to enable manufacturers of light

and heavy-duty diesel engines to reduce noxious emissions by as much as 40% more than existing pure platinum catalysts.

Attempts to use gold as a lower cost alternative to platinum have, until now, been thwarted by technical challenges concerning catalyst durability. Independent tests now confirm Nanostellar's breakthrough which, if adopted by the automotive industry, could lead to an increase in industrial demand for gold,

which in 2006 totalled 16.1 million ounces (458 tonnes).

According to Johnson Matthey, during 2007, 4.24 million ounces (119 tonnes) of platinum is expected to be used in automotive catalysts – an increase of 2.3% percent from 2006. At current platinum prices of approximately \$1,400 to \$1,450 per ounce, the total value of platinum use in automotive catalysts during 2007 is expected to exceed \$6 billion.