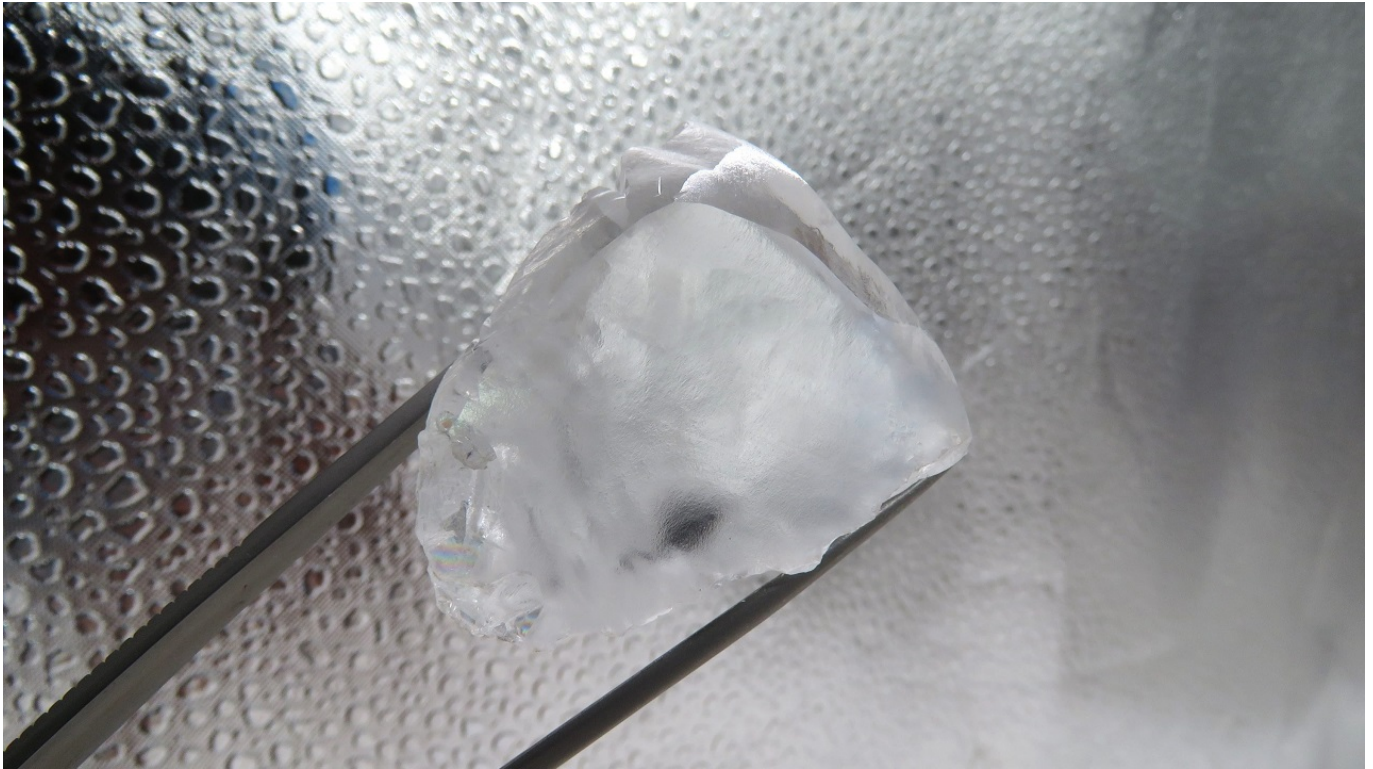


Angola Tender of Special Stones Garnerers \$22M



Trans Atlantic Gem Sales (TAGS) and Angola's Sodiam brought in \$22.3 million at their first joint tender of special rough diamonds from the African country's mines.

The sale, which ended Wednesday, saw 1,329.89 carats offered from five different deposits, national diamond-trading company Sodiam said Thursday.

Despite difficult market conditions, "we still managed to yield a revenue above the producers' expectations with this tender, which show[s] us that there is still some demand for a certain category of stones in the international market," said Sodiam chairman Eugenio Bravo da Rosa.

Among the stones on offer were a 180.98-carat gem-quality stone, and three rare pink stones weighing 66.79, 21.45, and 10.19 carats respectively.

The goods included:

- A pink diamond from Somilwana that sold for \$1.5 million.
- Seven stones from Lulo that together fetched \$15.7 million.
- Eighteen diamonds from the Kaixepa mine that yielded \$2 million.
- Seven rough pieces from Catoca, which went for \$2.1 million.
- Three diamonds from Luele that sold for around \$966,900.

Current weakness in smaller goods for the “mainstream” jewelry market “doesn’t seem to have translated into the large, high-quality stones, where demand and prices remain robust,” added Nick Selby, CEO and managing director of [Lucapa Diamond Company](#), which owns the Lulo mine.

Some 36 companies viewed the goods, and there were 10 winning bidders, TAGS said.

“We believe this has been a very strong start to our relationship with Sodiam,” the [tender house](#) said. “TAGS hope to be able to announce the next event soon, and feature goods from additional mines going forward.”

Image: The 180.98-carat rough. (Lucapa Diamond Company)

