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### CITY BEAT GLEN NORRIS

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**T**IN isn't usually thought of as one of the sexiest commodities. But that may be about to change as demand for the metal, which usually ends up on supermarket shelves as baked bean and jam containers, skyrockets thanks to the hi-tech sector.

**Joe David**, the new boss of ASX-listed tin miner Elementos, says tin is increasingly replacing lead as the solder in computer semiconductors and other electronic components.

Lead is considered too toxic these days for use in such products.

David (illustrated), a 36-year-old mining engineer, says increased demand from tech companies has seen prices for tin soar to record highs of \$US34,462 a tonne this year. That is potentially very good news for Brisbane-based Elementos, which is developing its Oropesa tin project in Spain's mining hub of Andalucia.

David says the company acquired Oropesa in 2019 with \$US26m (\$34m) so far invested in developing the project. Once operational, tin from the open-cut mining operation

could be shipped to smelters in Europe and Asia. Elementos also has a tin project at Cleveland in northwest Tasmania that operated as an underground mine from 1968 to 1986.

David tells City Beat that the fact the company's two mines are located in developed western countries was a huge plus. While "Bond villain" nations such as Myanmar have big tin deposits, they don't have the best human rights or environmental

records, which makes lenders and regulators increasingly nervous.

David, who grew up on the Sunshine Coast, joins a pretty impressive bunch at Elementos, including former Bechtel Group executive **Andy Greig**, the company's non executive chairman. When not chairing Elementos, Greig drives an impressive Aston Martin around town complete with crafted orange leather seats.

