significant problem. If someone is selling you an ounce of gold, how do you know it is real gold or the amount they claim? How do you know the purity of gold? Person-to-person transfer of gold is risky. Transporting of gold is risky. Security and storage of gold is risky. Person-to-intuition, and the reverse, is also risky. Many of the current physical gold storage facilities state that you have a piece of the large gold block. This approach has the risk of the facility selling more pieces of gold than they physically have on hand. This can lead to a significant shortage should owners wish to withdraw their amount of gold. The prior art has not solved these problems in any way that the common man can avoid the significant risks of owning and trading physical gold. Transferring gold from one country to another involves a lot of local and international rules and regulations.

[0006] From all of the above, there exists a need for a system that overcomes the above-described problems associated with the current state of the art.

SUMMARY

[0007] To overcome the problems associated with the current state of the art, and to provide a safe, secure method of trading gold or other precious metals, a system and method are provided which provide quality verification, storage, and transactions in a secure environment and meeting government laws and regulations using a blockchain public register, allowing individuals and institutions a novel method for use of physical precious metals such as gold.

[0007a] In accordance with a first aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a system. The system includes a physically secure environment configured to receive precious metal thereto, retain the precious metal therein, and the release precious metal therefrom. The system further includes a precious metal registration system configured to record precious metal

identification information, ownership status information and ownership information of precious metal, location information of precious metal, and certification information and de-processing information of precious metal. The system is further configured to receive precious metal into the physically secure environment by at least one of inspecting a quality of the received precious metal and certifying a quality value of the received precious metal, at least one of receiving the certified precious metal in or processing the certified precious metal into a standard uniform characteristic, and registering the certified precious metal in the standard uniform characteristic in the registration system by providing a registration indicia on one of the registered precious metal or a container containing the registered precious metal, and a corresponding registration record in a precious metal registration database of the registration system. The system is further configured to retain and manage precious metal within the physically secure environment by assigning an ownership record associated with one particular registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic from a first owner to a second owner, transferring the one particular registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic from a first storage facility within the physically secure environment to a second storage facility within the physically secure environment, and assigning an unassigned registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic to a third owner and updating the assigned registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic in the registration system with ownership information of the third owner. The system is further configured to release registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic from the physically secure environment by de-processing precious metal in the standard uniform characteristic by removing location information from a corresponding registration record in the precious metal registration database,

and physically removing the de-processed precious metal from the physically secure environment.

[0007b] In accordance with a second aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided another system. The system includes a physically secure environment configured to receive precious metal thereto, retain the precious metal therein, and the release precious metal therefrom. The system further includes a precious metal registration system configured to record ownership status information and ownership information of precious metal, and location information of precious metal. The system is further configured to receive precious metal into the physically secure environment by at least one of inspecting a quality of the received precious metal and certifying a quality value of the received precious metal, at least one of receiving the certified precious metal in or processing the certified precious metal into a standard uniform characteristic, and registering the certified precious metal in the standard uniform characteristic in the registration system by providing a registration indicia on one of the registered precious metal or a container containing the registered precious metal, and a corresponding registration record in a precious metal registration database of the registration system. The system is further configured to retain and manage precious metal within the physically secure environment by assigning an ownership record associated with one particular registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic between owners. The system is further configured to release registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic from the physically secure environment by de-processing precious metal in the standard uniform characteristic by removing location information from a corresponding registration record in the precious metal registration database, and physically removing the de-processed precious metal from the physically secure environment.

[0008] The Secure Environment Public Register is a method and system that allows precious metals bar or units to be certified, specially numbered to provide exact linkage to an owner, allow secure movement of precious metals between secure facilities, and through blockchain, allow secure transfer of ownership between individuals, organizations, international institutions,

and countries. The SEPR allows gold and other precious metals to be easily in commerce with all the advantages of holding precious metals. The SEPR system will also allow exact audits of the metal bars on hand and avoid over-selling units since each bar is serialized and ownership is documented in a public register.

[0009] The primary example of the Secure Environment Public Register (SEPR) system is built on one or more secure storage facilities connected with secure transfer transportation equipment that verifies shipping and receipt of precious metals between secure facilities, different locations, countries, or with the metal owners. The secure environment has controlled entry and exit points for accepting metals, analyzing metals, refining metals to achieve the proper quality, forming metals to a designated weight, engraving, packaging, serial numbering, each metal bar, then entering each serial-numbered metal bar into a register. Each secure facility has exact accountability of the metal bars it holds. The register can be a blockchain register, Non-Fungible Token (NFT) or any other public register system. The blockchain, NFT, or other public register system confirms to the owner assurances of quality, quantity, location, and security whereby the system allows for secure transfer of metals between secure storage facilities either physically or virtually, and to and from individuals and between individuals. The serial number can be on the bar or the packaging, or both.

[0010] The secure environment has one of more said secure facilities, secure entry and exit points. The entry points are configured to receive, inspect, process, and verify quality of metals entering the secure environment. The entry points have instruments to measure the weight and quality of metal they are receiving in the secure facility. The secure facility has a machine that can processes metals entering the secure facility and can form metal bars to specific quality and weight specified in a bar unit. The entry point has equipment for engraving or labeling metal

bars with a unique identification number. The secure facility has a register and documents each metal bar to include physical location and assigned owner. Each secure storage facility has a secure structure sufficient for storage of metal bars, a secure access protocol to maintain security and accountability of metal bars.

[0011] The secure environment has a secure transportation system which allows secure transfer of said gold bars between secure facilities.

[0012] The secure environment has a secure ownership accountability system, such as a blockchain register system to document ownership, transactions, and physical location of each metal bar.

[0013] Metal bar location is important since investors may want to locate different quantities of bars in different countries. A key factor in owning physical gold is deciding which countries you want to locate the physical gold or other precious metals. International uncertainty and crises play a major part in diversification and confidence levels where to store precious metals. The SEPR system allows storage and transferring of metal bars between countries seamlessly and documented in a public register. The SEPR system would take into consideration international laws, storage requirements, and banking protocols.

[0014] The primary example of the SEPR system is using gold and silver and other metals. An alternate example of the SEPR method and system is using other metals such as palladium, copper, or rare earth minerals.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] FIG. 1 depicts the primary components of the Secure Environment Public Register system and method.

CLAIMS

1. A system comprising:

a physically secure environment configured to receive precious metal thereto, retain the precious metal therein, and the release precious metal therefrom; and

a precious metal registration system configured to record

precious metal identification information,

ownership status information and ownership information of precious metal,

location information of precious metal, and

certification information and de-processing information of precious metal;

the system further configured to receive precious metal into the physically secure environment by

at least one of inspecting a quality of the received precious metal and certifying a quality value of the received precious metal,

at least one of receiving the certified precious metal in or processing the certified precious metal into a standard uniform characteristic, and

registering the certified precious metal in the standard uniform characteristic in the registration system by providing a registration indicia on one of the registered precious metal or a container containing the registered precious metal, and a corresponding registration record in a precious metal registration database of the registration system;

the system further configured to retain and manage precious metal within the physically secure environment by

assigning an ownership record associated with one particular registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic from a first owner to a second owner,

transferring the one particular registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic from a first storage facility within the physically secure environment to a second storage facility within the physically secure environment, and

assigning an unassigned registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic to a third owner and updating the assigned registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic in the registration system with ownership information of the third owner; and

the system further configured to release registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic from the physically secure environment by

de-processing precious metal in the standard uniform characteristic by removing location information from a corresponding registration record in the precious metal registration database, and

physically removing the de-processed precious metal from the physically secure environment.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the physically secure environment further comprises a plurality of storage facilities.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the physically secure environment further comprises a secure transportation system that transports the precious metal between at least two remote storage facilities.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the precious metal comprises at least one from the group of gold and silver.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the precious metal identification information comprises a unique identification number for a smallest indivisible unit of the precious metal stored within the physically secure environment.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein ownership status information comprises one of an unassigned ownership status or an assigned ownership status.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the ownership information comprises ownership entity identification information.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein location information comprises at least one of a location of origination or a location of reception into the physically secure environment and a location of current disposition within the physically secure environment.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein certification information comprises information related to one of a particular standard of quality of the precious metal or a particular standard of composition of the precious metal.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the de-certification information comprises information indicating a voided previous certification for the precious metal.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the certified quality or the quality of the received precious metal comprises one of a standard of purity value or a standard of composition quantity.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the standard uniform characteristic comprises

a non-divisible weight or mass when the certified precious metal is received into and retained within the physically secure environment, and

one of the standard of purity value or the standard of composition quantity.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein the registration indicia comprises a received location indicia, certification indicia and a unique identifier indicia.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein transferring further comprises a secure transportation system within the physically secure environment.

15. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second storage facilities are located in one of distinct geographic locations or country having a secure transportation system connected between the first and second storage facilities.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second storage facilities are located in one of a same geographic location or country.

17. A system comprising:

a physically secure environment configured to receive precious metal thereto, retain the precious metal therein, and the release precious metal therefrom; and

a precious metal registration system configured to record

ownership status information and ownership information of precious metal, and

location information of precious metal;

the system further configured to receive precious metal into the physically secure environment by

at least one of inspecting a quality of the received precious metal and certifying a quality value of the received precious metal,

at least one of receiving the certified precious metal in or processing the certified precious metal into a standard uniform characteristic, and

registering the certified precious metal in the standard uniform characteristic in the registration system by providing a registration indicia on one of the registered precious metal or a container containing the registered precious metal, and a corresponding registration record in a precious metal registration database of the registration system;

the system further configured to retain and manage precious metal within the physically secure environment by assigning an ownership record associated with one particular registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic between owners; and

the system further configured to release registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic from the physically secure environment by

de-processing precious metal in the standard uniform characteristic by removing location information from a corresponding registration record in the precious metal registration database, and

physically removing the de-processed precious metal from the physically secure environment.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the system is further configured to retain and manage precious metal within the physically secure environment by assigning an unassigned registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic to an owner and updating the assigned registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic in the registration system with ownership information of the owner.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the system is further configured to retain and manage precious metal within the physically secure environment by transferring the one particular registered precious metal of the standard uniform characteristic from a first storage facility within the physically secure environment to a second storage facility within the physically secure environment.