Baselworld 2014: Classic Fusion Tourbillon Firmament

Its dial is made from osmium crystal — osmium is the rarest metal on our planet. The result is exceptionally brilliant. A World First made possible thanks to a Swiss firm.

It’s a new material. It’s a world’s first. It’s exclusive to Hublot. Here’s a watch with a dial made from osmium crystal.

What is osmium? As far as we are aware, this is the rarest metal on our planet. The origin of osmium dates back to the formation of the Earth and the primitive solar nebula. Metal alloys from the same group—which have a very high melting point—must have formed at depths over 2,500 km where the temperature is sufficiently high to melt these elements. Conditions necessary to produce these materials exist only in the surface, almost unchanged since the formation of our planet.

Where is osmium found? Osmium is part of the platinum group and is therefore found in the same place as platinum, mainly in Russia and South Africa. Approximately 10,000 tonnes of platinum are mined each year whereas 26 grams of osmium is estimated to be contained in 1,000 tonnes of ore, or 10,000 tonnes of platinum, which is too rare a metal.

What are its properties? As a material, the rarest metal on Earth. It is also very hard. It is also the densest and heaviest metal at 22.6 grammes theheavier than platinum, iridium or osmium.

In its compact and crystallised form, it becomes a material in air and its brilliance will never fade. Osmium is unique amongst metals. And there lies the wonder of certain crystal dials: osmium crystals vary in size from hundreds of millimetres to just a few millimetres, making osmium its crystal form one of the great metal novelties in the precious metals market. Thanks to the research of a team of scientists and researchers based in the Swiss Cantons of Vaud, osmium, crystallised using a highly sophisticated process, this enables it to reach its melting point (5,000 degrees Celsius), changing its structure and transforming it into osmium crystal.

The result is breathtakingly unique and its natural brilliance is intense: hence the name of the watch Classic Fusion Tourbillon Firmament as its brilliance evokes the wonder of the heavens.