



# CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION (UK)

## DECEMBER 2025



CMA (UK) HOSTS 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APPG FOR CRITICAL MINERALS HOSTS PARLIAMENT  
BREAKFAST TO KICKSTART LONDON MINING WEEK

CMA (UK) LAUNCHES UK CRITICAL MINERALS  
INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS WITH DBT & INNOVATE UK



# DECEMBER 2025

Welcome to the CMA (UK) Monthly Newsletter, featuring updates on the following news stories:

- CMA (UK) Hosts 5th Annual Conference on 1 December
- APPG for Critical Minerals Hosts Parliament Breakfast
- CMA (UK) Launches UK Critical Minerals Investment Prospectus
- CMA (UK) Attends World Bank & OECD Conferences in Paris
- UK-Quebec Intend to Collaborate on Critical Minerals for Defense
- US EXIM Bank Funds US\$1.25B Copper-Gold Mine in Pakistan
- US Commits Over US\$1 Billion for Critical Minerals in the DRC
- US DoE Launches US\$134M Grant for Domestic REE Supply
- Welcoming Majestic Corporation Plc to the Association
- CMA (UK) Attends BCSECM Workshop at Uni of Birmingham
- CMIC Publishes New Report on Copper & Tungsten Scrap Flows
- Discover the ESG Learning Platform, Satarla Knowledge Hub
- Greenland Grants UK Company License for Graphite Mine
- Opportunity to Contribute to Research on Scotland CRMs
- Satarla Launches New Mining101 Reimagined Course
- News Round Up: Cobalt, Copper, Graphite, Lithium, Nickel, Manganese, Rare Earth Elements, Tin, Tungsten, Vanadium
- Events Calendar 2025

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**Contributors:** Oliver Bacchus, Elliott Trickey, Nareeka Ahir, Niall Beamish, Tiffany Sarfo, Francesca Truono



# CMA (UK) HOSTS 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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Thank you to everyone who joined us for our 5th Annual Conference, Critical Minerals: Transforming the Future, on 1 December at 1 Wimpole Street for London Mining Week.

We were delighted to welcome 300+ experts from across the critical minerals value chain. The event concluded with remarks from the Minister for Industry, Chris McDonald MP, who celebrated the recent Critical Minerals Strategy: Vision 2025, as well as the UK Critical Minerals Investment Prospectus, produced by CMA (UK) with support from Innovate UK and Department for Business & Trade (DBT).

Thank you to all our speakers, exhibitors, partners, and generous sponsors: Bell Geospace, Cornish Metals, Imerys, Mkango Resources, SRK Consulting, Pure Alchemi, Vale Base Metals, and the University of Birmingham. Click the link below to see more photos, highlights & session summaries.

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# APPG FOR CRITICAL MINERALS HOSTS BREAKFAST

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On 1 December, the APPG for Critical Minerals held a breakfast reception in Parliament to mark the beginning of London Mining Week 2025. Sponsored by the CMA (UK), Resourcing Tomorrow, and Innovate UK, the event brought together over 200 attendees, including UK Members of Parliament, foreign government representatives, and senior industry executives.

Speakers included Perran Moon MP (APPG Officer), Mike Hill (Department for Business & Trade), Bruce Adderley (Innovate UK), and Andrew Thake (Resourcing Tomorrow).

The reception also marked the official launch of the UK Critical Minerals Investment Prospectus – a comprehensive showcase of UK critical minerals projects, investment opportunities, and services – produced by the CMA (UK) in partnership with DBT and Innovate UK.

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# LAUNCH OF 2025 UK INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS

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The new UK Critical Minerals Investment Prospectus (Autumn/Winter 2025 version) highlights the growing investment opportunities in the UK's critical minerals sector.

Produced by the CMA (UK) with support from Innovate UK and the Department for Business and Trade, the prospectus outlines key projects across mining, processing, recycling, and associated services for critical minerals.

With global demand for critical minerals rising — particularly in clean energy, electronics, battery technology, and defence — the UK offers investors a chance to participate in developing high-tech supply chains that support future industries. The prospectus provides detailed insights into the sector, allowing investors to make informed decisions in a strategically important and expanding market.

**DOWNLOAD IT [HERE](#)**

## UK Critical Mineral Investment Prospectus

Showcasing critical minerals  
investment opportunities, projects  
and services across the UK

Autumn/Winter 2025/26



# CMA (UK) ATTENDS WORLD BANK & OECD CONFERENCE

From 4 - 5 December, our Communications Manager Eileen Maes travelled to Paris to attend meetings with the World Bank, OECD, and International Energy Agency (IEA).

Eileen joined the second meeting of the World Bank's RISE (Resilient & Inclusive Supply Chain Enhancement) Working Group, as well as the 'Investment, Resilience and Inclusive Growth' high-level conference at the OECD headquarters.

It was encouraging to see 40+ nations represented, including representatives from UK Export Finance and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. Ministers and ambassadors reaffirmed the need to rapidly scale critical minerals investment, and the G7's commitment to standards-based markets and responsible production.

Thank you to Karim Dahou for the invitation to attend, and his team at the Global Relations & Cooperation Directorate for organising such a great forum.

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# UK & QUEBEC SIGN STATEMENT OF INTENT

On 8 December, the United Kingdom and Quebec signed a Statement of Intent on collaborating to secure critical mineral supply for its defense industries.

Quebec's Minister of International Relations, Christopher Skeete, travelled to London to sign the declaration of intent with the UK Minister for Industry, Chris McDonald MP.

Daniel Robertson, Economic Advisor at the UK Department for Business and Trade, said: "The Statement serves as a foundation from which to forge closer collaboration between government, academia and industry in the UK and Québec... The UK is looking outwards, utilising our world-leading expertise in research, innovation and finance."

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# EXIM BANK FUNDS \$1.25N PAKISTAN COPPER MINE

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On 10 December, the U.S. Import-Export (EXIM) Bank approved financing of \$1.25 billion to the Reko Diq mining project in Balochistan, Pakistan.

Reko Diq is a large, undeveloped copper and gold deposit, and believed to be one of the world's largest resources. The project is a joint venture between Canada's Barrick Gold and Pakistani stakeholders, and aims to start production in 2028.

In a video message, Natalie Baker, the Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Islamabad, stated that EXIM Bank's financing will bring up to \$2 billion "in high-quality US mining equipment and services needed to build and operate the Reko Diq mine".

Baker added that the Trump administration has made the forging of these deals central to American diplomacy.

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# US COMMITS OVER \$1 BILLION FOR DRC CRITICAL MINERALS

On 5 December, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation vowed to commit more than US\$1 billion to support projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), notably a railway linking Congo to the Atlantic via the Lobito Railway Corridor.

The funding would also support a new copper-cobalt venture in partnership with Swiss trading firm Mercuria Energy Trading, and a rehabilitation of the Dilolo-Sakania railway line to enable mineral transport westwards to Angola's coast.

The DFC announcement follows the signature of a strategic infrastructure and minerals agreement between Congo and the US on 4 December. The move is emblematic of a broader strategic push by the U.S. to diversify its critical mineral sources and strengthen its industrial competitiveness.

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# DOE ANNOUNCES \$134M FUNDING FOR RARE EARTHS

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On 1 December, the newly-formed Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation at the US Department for Energy unveiled a Notice of Funding Opportunity for rare earth elements (REE) projects, worth up to US\$134 million.

Under the umbrella of the 'Rare Earth Demonstration Facility' programme, the funding aims to demonstrate and support the growth of commercially viable, integrated extraction and separation facilities in the U.S., reducing reliance on foreign supply and boosting domestic industrial resilience.

Rare earth elements including praseodymium, neodymium, terbium and dysprosium support high-performance magnets used in clean energy, defense, and advanced manufacturing and defence — all sectors at the core of the energy transition and energy security.

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# WELCOMING MAJESTIC CORP TO THE ASSOCIATION

The CMA (UK) is pleased to welcome Majestic Corporation Plc to the association!

Majestic Corporation is a UK-based group committed to making the UK a powerhouse for responsible critical mineral recovery. The company operates advanced WEEE recycling, high-grade PCB processing, and non-ferrous metal recovery, with a new 50,000 sq ft facility being established to strengthen domestic recycling capacity. The expansion aligns with the UK Critical Minerals Strategy: Vision 2035, supporting greater supply chain resilience and reduced reliance on overseas processing.

Urban mining is key to unlocking critical minerals for future generations. Majestic Corp creates value by returning waste materials to the supply chain. They source from a diverse range of materials, including solar infrastructure, battery scrap, and electronic waste, delivering graded metal feedstock to global smelters, refiners, and industrial users.

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Majestic Corporation



# CMA ATTENDS BCSECM CRITICAL MINERALS WORKSHOP

On 10 December, the Birmingham Centre for Strategic Elements and Critical Materials (BCSECM) hosted a workshop at Birmingham Business School, bringing together the whole University of Birmingham critical minerals community for a day of insights and information exchange.

Dr Gavin Harper chaired the day's discussions, and welcomed speakers such as Dean Professor Edgar Meyer, as well as Professors Allan Walton, Paul Anderson, and Robin Mason. The latter set out the many international touchpoints of the University's work, including a recent engagement in India with PM Keir Starmer.

Elliott Trickey, Government Affairs Associate at the CMA (UK), also gave a talk on the new UK Critical Minerals Strategy, published three weeks prior. Thank you to the University of Birmingham for the invitation to participate. We look forward to working closer together in 2026 and beyond.

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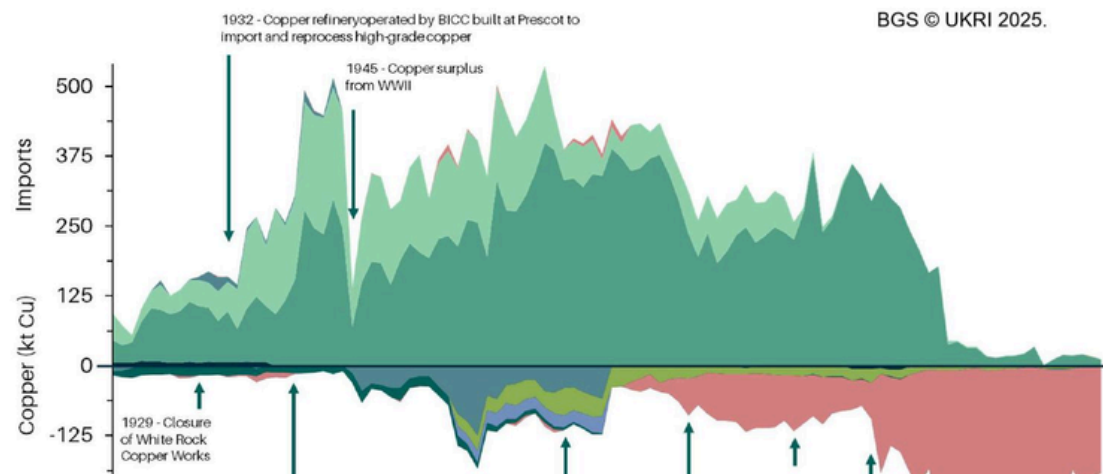
# CMIC PUBLISHES COPPER AND TUNGSTEN REPORT

On 13 December, the Critical Minerals Intelligence Centre (CMIC) based at the British Geological Survey (BGS) published a new report assessing copper and tungsten waste and scrap flows in the UK.

The study synthesises extensive economic and trade datasets to explore the historical and current flows of waste and scrap into and out of the UK. The study also reveals that the UK is a net importer of copper primarily through waste and scrap, which demonstrates the huge potential to build domestic resilience in copper through the circular economy.

The report concludes that the UK's circular economy opportunity can only be achieved with increased collection, separation and recycling, include building capacity for domestic copper refining.

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# LEARN MORE ON SATARLA'S KNOWLEDGE HUB

The Satarla Knowledge Hub is a dynamic online learning platform dedicated to advancing professional skills in risk management, sustainability, and ESG. Designed for flexibility and accessibility, it offers a diverse suite of live virtual training sessions and self-paced on-demand courses that break down complex topics into practical, actionable insights delivered by industry experts.

From foundational e-learning modules to in-depth masterclasses and specialised toolkits, the Hub equips individuals and organisations with the knowledge they need to navigate uncertainty, enhance performance, and drive sustainable impact.

With new content added regularly and bespoke training solutions available, the Satarla Knowledge Hub supports continuous learning and career growth across sectors.

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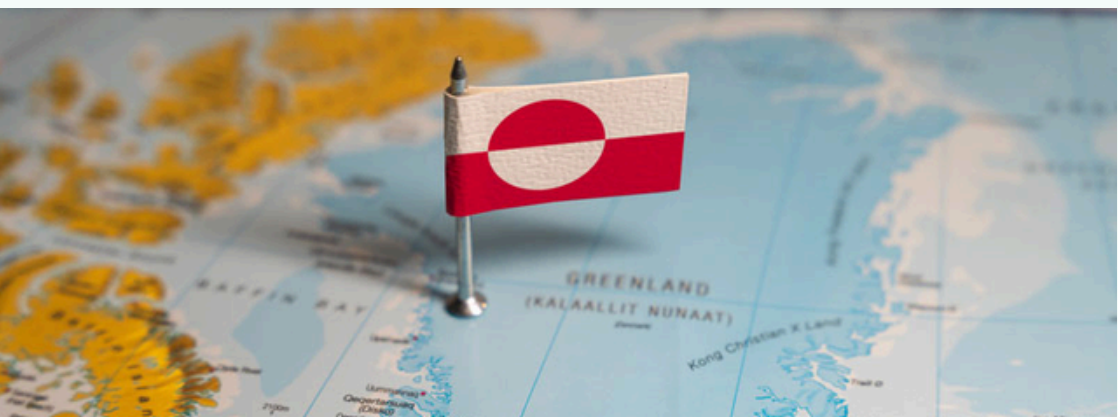
# GREENLAND GRANTS UK LICENCE FOR GRAPHITE MINE

On 8 December, the Government of Greenland awarded a 30-year licence to UK Company GreenRoc Strategic Materials for the Amitsoq graphite project in southern Greenland. The deal was signed by Greenland's Minister for Mineral Resources, Naaja H. Nathanielsen, marking it as the third such permit granted by Greenland this year.

The Amitsoq deposit is among the world's highest-grade graphite resources, with a JORC-compliant resource estimate of 23 million tonnes at a grade of 20.41% graphitic carbon — equivalent to roughly 4.7 million tonnes of graphite content.

Once in production, the mine is expected to deliver around 80,000 tonnes of high-purity graphite concentrate annually. Graphite concentrate is ideally suited for use as anode material in lithium-ion batteries, underpinning the growth of EVs, energy storage, and other clean energy technologies.

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# RESEARCH PROJECT ON SCOTLAND CRM SUPPLY CHAINS

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On behalf of ClimateXChange, Scotland's centre of expertise on climate change, Logika Group and the Institute for European Environmental Policy are undertaking a research project on Scotland's Critical Raw Materials (CRM) Supply Chain for the Net Zero Energy Sector.

The project aims to map CRM supply chains for Scottish businesses, identify future supply chain needs and risks, and explore the growth of the circular economy to mitigate risks.

The project is currently welcoming input from subject matter experts through a questionnaire. Respondents must respond by 16 January 2026, and are free to only answer questions relevant to their expertise.

If you'd prefer to share your thoughts via email or call, please reach out to Edward ([eworsdell@ieep.uk](mailto:eworsdell@ieep.uk)) or Emma ([emmawatkins@logikagroup.com](mailto:emmawatkins@logikagroup.com))

**RESPOND TO SURVEY [HERE](#)**

climateXchange

Scotland's centre of expertise connecting  
climate change research and policy





# SATARLA LAUNCHES NEW MINING101 COURSE

Satarla has launched a new on-demand course called 'Mining 101 Reimagined: From Exploration to Closure and Beyond'. The course is a comprehensive onboarding material for anyone new to the sector, working alongside it, or hoping to deepen their understanding of how mining works.

Learners will explore the full mining value chain from exploration through to closure and post-closure; the key roles, activities, and deliverables at each stage; the driving forces shaping the modern mining sector from population growth and technology to ESG and responsible sourcing; and the cross-disciplinary nature of mining and its connection to global sustainability challenges.

Now available through the Satarla Knowledge Hub, Mining 101 Reimagined can also be customised and branded for organisations, making it ideal for internal training.

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# NEWS ROUNDUP

The following news articles from Argus Media, Mining Weekly, Mining Magazine, Financial Times, and others, provide an overview of critical mineral mining for:

- Cobalt
- Copper
- Graphite
- Lithium
- Nickel
- Manganese
- Rare Earth Elements
- Tin
- Tungsten
- Vanadium

*The Critical Minerals Association (UK) takes no credit for any articles and makes no endorsement of any of the content.*

# Cobalt

- Africa
  - Angola [17.12.25]
    - US finances Lobito Corridor to link DRC's and Zambia's cobalt and copper mines to Angola's Atlantic port.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
  - Democratic Republic of Congo [07.12.25]
    - DRC tightens cobalt export rules by adding stricter quota verification and upfront royalty payments, increasing uncertainty for exporters.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
  - United States [05.12.25]
    - The US is considering an equity stake in a Gécamines-Mercuria venture to market Congolese cobalt and copper, giving US buyers priority access.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- Europe
  - Russia: Nor Nickel [07.12.25]
    - Nor Nickel fully restores cobalt production at its Murmansk facility after repairs from a 2022 fire, lifting Russia's sole cobalt output back to full capacity.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
  - Australia: True North Copper [17.12.25]
    - Drilling at Aquila prospect in Queensland confirms strong copper-silver mineralisation with cobalt credits.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

# Copper

- Africa
  - Ethiopia: Askari Metals Ltd [11.12.25]
    - Askari Metals receives government backing for its Nejo Gold and Copper Project in Ethiopia.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- Asia
  - Azerbaijan: Anglo Asian Mining PLC [11.12.25]
    - Anglo Asian reports its highest monthly copper output on record following equipment upgrades at its Gedabek flotation plant.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- Europe
  - Romania: Euro Sun Mining Inc [18.12.25]
    - ESM signs multi-facility agreement with Trafigura to advance its Rovina Valley copper-gold project.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- South America
  - Chile: Codelco [04.12.25]
    - Codelco to provide up to 800,000 tonnes of copper concentrate annually to Glencore for at least ten years, following signing of memorandum of understanding.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
  - Peru: Glencore Peru Holding [13.12.25]
    - Glencore Peru Holding purchases 47.8% ownership stake of Compañía Minera Quechua from Pan Pacific Copper, a subsidiary of JX Advanced Metals.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

# Graphite

- Africa
  - Tanzania: Volt Resources Ltd [11.12.25]
    - Volt Resources and Unbounded Opportunities Fund sign binding term sheet to progress its Bunyu graphite project.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
  - Malawi: Sovereign Metals [15.12.25]
    - Sovereign Metals enters agreement with the International Finance Corporation to advance its Kasiya Rutile-Graphite Project in Malawi.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- Europe
  - Greenland: GreenRoc Mining PLC [09.12.25]
    - GreenRoc Mining acquires 30-year exploitation for Amitsoq graphite deposit.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
  - USA: Titan Mining Corp [12.12.25]
    - Titan Mining commences ore processing at Kilbourne graphite demonstration facility.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
  - Australia: International Graphite Ltd [17.12.25]
    - International Graphite receives Development Approval for proposed graphite processing facility.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

# Lithium

- Africa
  - Ghana: Atlantic Lithium [11.12.25]
    - Ghana's government temporarily withdraws ratification of the mining lease for the Ewoyaa lithium project.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
  - Mali: Kodal Minerals [01.12.25]
    - Kodal Minerals announces its maiden shipment of 28,950t of lithium spodumene concentrate from the Bougoni lithium mine.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- Europe
  - Czech Republic: European Metals [28.11.25]
    - Czech government grants €360 million for the Cinovec lithium project, considered a strategic asset under the EU Critical Raw Materials Act.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
  - Germany: Vulcan Energy [02.12.25]
    - Vulcan Energy secures a €2.2 billion financing package to fund Phase One of its Lionheart lithium project in the Upper Rhine Valley.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
  - United States: Smackover Lithium [17.12.25]
    - Smackover joint venture receives three expressions of interest worth over \$1 billion to finance first phase of brine development in Arkansas.
    - [Read the article here.](#)



# Manganese

- Africa
  - Gabon: Eramet [04.12.25]
    - Eramet announces plans to boost manganese outputs from its operations in Gabon by investing in rail infrastructure.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
  - South Africa: Transalloys [31.05.25]
    - South Africa's last remaining manganese smelter at risk of closure due to soaring electricity prices.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- Asia
  - India: MOIL [01.01.26]
    - MOIL revises prices of different manganese ores and other products, effective from 1 January 2026.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
  - Timor-Leste: Estrella Resources Ltd [03.12.25]
    - Estrella Resources shares positive updates for its Ira Miri project following Induced Polarization survey.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
  - Australia: Black Canyon Ltd [10.12.25]
    - Black Canyon shares plans to conduct a 20,000m drilling campaign across its Wandanya Manganese and Iron Project.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

# Nickel

- Africa
  - Tanzania: Lifezone Metals [11.12.25]
    - Lifezone Metals announces progress on Kabanga nickel project towards a final investment decision in 2026.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- Asia
  - Indonesia: Nickel Industries Limited [11.12.25]
    - Nickel Industries receives approval to lift ore quota at Hengjaya Mine for the year.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- Europe
  - Sweden: Gungnir Resources Inc. [08.12.25]
    - Gungnir announces designation of Lappvattnet nickel project as a property of national interest.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
  - United Kingdom: Ironic Metals [03.12.25]
    - Ironic Metals emerges as a new joint venture developing technology to produce low-carbon nickel and iron.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
  - Canada: First Atlantic Nickel Corp. [04.12.25]
    - First Atlantic announces expansion of drilling program at nickel alloy project in Newfoundland.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

# Rare Earth Elements

- Africa

- Malawi: Lindian Resources [15.12.25]
  - Australia's Lindian Resources awards infrastructure contracts for Malawi REE project.
  - [Read the article here.](#)

- Asia

- China [15.12.25]
  - China begins general license grants for REE products.
  - [Read the article here.](#)
- Vietnam [11.12.25]
  - Vietnam tightens rules on REE exports to promote supply chain development.
  - [Read the article here.](#)

- North America

- United States: USA Rare Earth [10.12.25]
  - USA Rare Earth advances commercialisation plans for REE project in Texas.
  - [Read the article here.](#)
- United States: Ionic Mineral Technologies [14.12.25]
  - Ionic MT discovers significant deposit of rare earth elements in Utah.
  - [Read the article here.](#)

# Tin

- Asia
  - China: Sun Yat-sen University [04.12.25]
    - A new tin-sodium layered anode developed in China significantly improves sodium-metal battery stability and energy density, improving performance.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
  - Indonesia [15.12.25]
    - Indonesia's tin exports rebounded in November as export quotas were reissued after the government's crackdown on illegal mining disrupted supply.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

# Tungsten

- Asia
  - South Korea: Almonty Industries Inc. [16.12.25]
    - Almonty delivers first ore at Sangdong mine, marking the shift to active mining and supporting non-Chinese tungsten supply.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
  - United States: Guardian Metal Resources [27.11.25]
    - Guardian Metal Resources advances tungsten projects in Nevada with US defense backing.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

# Vanadium

- Asia
  - China: Rongke Power [31.05.25]
    - Jimusaer Vanadium Flow Battery Energy Storage Project in Xinjiang province, the world's largest vanadium flow battery, officially goes online.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
  - Kazakhstan: Ferro-Alloy Resources [05.12.25]
    - Ferro-Alloy announces £1.55 billion equity raise to finance the Balasausausqandiq vanadium project.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
  - United States: Invinity Energy Systems [09.12.25]
    - UK company's vanadium flow battery tested at the U.S Department of Energy.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
  - Australia: Enerflow [10.12.25]
    - Chinese company announces joint venture with Jemni Investments to develop a 350MW vanadium flow battery project cluster.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
- South America
  - Argentina: Blue Sky Uranium [17.12.25]
    - Blue Sky launches a core drilling program at the Amarillo Grande Uranium-Vanadium Project in the Rio Negro Province.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## JANUARY 2026

- **Future Minerals Forum** | King Abdulaziz International Conference Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | 13 - 15 January
  - [Register here.](#)
- Interdisciplinary Institute for Reserach & Development| **International Conference on Mining Waste Management and Engineering Solutions (ICMWES - 26)** | Birmingham, UK | 21 - 22 January
  - [Register here](#)

## FEBRUARY 2026

- Hyve Events: Invest in Africa Mining Indaba| **Mining Indaba 2026** | Cape Town, South Africa | 9 - 12 February
  - [Register here.](#)

## MARCH 2026

- Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada | **PDAC 2026** | Toronto, Canada | 1 - 4 March
  - [Register here.](#)

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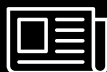
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