Welcome to our May CMA monthly newsletter featuring updates on the critical minerals space. Read on for:

- Japan and UK Sign MoU on Renewable Energy Security
- CMA for Select Committee Inquiry into UK Battery Manufacturing
- APPG on Critical Minerals Reception for HE the President of Zambia
- CMA & Government of Saskatchewan Webinar
- UK Joins US President Biden's Carbon Removal Scheme
- CMA and Innovate UK (UKRI) at CHEMUK 2023
- UK & Saudi Arabia Sign Declaration of Intent on Critical Minerals
- CMA & RSC Closed-Door Workshop on Commercialising R&D
- The Geoscientist Features CMA & GSBF 2nd Annual Conference
- European Commission Approves Spanish EV Battery Scheme
- Register for the Inaugural London Indaba 2023
- Weardale Lithium Extracts Lithium from Geothermal Brines
- CMA & RSC Webinar on Impact of New EU Battery Regulation
- EV Charge Points Planned for National Highways in the UK
- UK’s Largest Vape Recycling Scheme Unveiled
- E-Tech Resources REE Feasibility Study in Namibia
- Register for SEG 2023 Conference: Resourcing the Green Transition
- Dalradian Reduces 75% of Its Carbon Footprint
- Responsible Raw Materials 2023 Conference

From Kirsty, Jeff, Olimpia, Eileen & Sam

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This month's newsletter has been put together by Eileen Maes.

Would you like to feature in a future edition? Contact Eileen at eileen@criticalmineral.org
On 18 May, the Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry of Japan (METI) and the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero of the UK (DESNZ) signed a joint statement declaring a renewable energy partnership between the two nations.

To deliver on the goals of the Paris Agreement, both nations have committed to strengthening global and regional energy security by diversifying supply through the advancement of clean energy technologies, particularly offshore wind.

The partnership will aim to increase renewable energy development and deployment by facilitating the sharing of expertise between METI and DESNZ, particularly on enabling policy, technology innovation, and finance.

READ UK GOV STATEMENT HERE
Following CMA's submission of written evidence, co-founder of the Critical Minerals Association, Jeff Townsend, was called to the Houses of Parliament on 9 May to provide oral evidence to a House of Commons Business Select Committee Inquiry into UK Battery Manufacturing.

Jeff was joined by Jeremy Wrathall, founder and CEO of Cornish Lithium; Simon Moores, founder and CEO of Benchmark Mineral Intelligence; and Paul Lusty, Director of the Critical Minerals Intelligence Centre (CMIC) and the British Geological Survey (BGS).

Jeff explained to the panel that the UK will struggle to compete internationally in building a green economy if Government does not radically ramp up funding.

WATCH THE INQUIRY HERE
On 10 May, the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Critical Minerals hosted a reception at the House of Lords for His Excellency (HE) the President of Zambia, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, and his esteemed delegation.

The event was well attended by Zambian ministers and members of the UK’s critical mineral industry, who enjoyed an evening of speeches, food, drinks, and networking in the beautiful and historic Atlee Room.

CMA was delighted to be part of a wonderful evening that contributed to strengthening UK-Zambia collaboration on critical minerals.

Thank you to the event’s sponsors, Tertiary Minerals and Moxico Resources for supporting this event.
On 10 May, the Government of Saskatchewan delivered a webinar in partnership with the Critical Minerals Association on Saskatchewan's critical minerals sector.

The agenda featured presentations and panel discussions from half a dozen representatives of UK and Canadian Government, such as Greg Quinn OBE, Acting British Consul General Calgary; Andrew Smith, Minister-Counsellor (Economic & Commercial) at the High Commission of Canada in the UK; Kirk Brecht, Executive Director of Mineral Policy at the Ministry of Energy & Resources; Jackie Demerse-Abbasi, Director of Indigenous Economic Development at MTED; and Sheldon Wuttunee, President & CEO of the Saskatchewan First Nations Natural Resource Centre of Excellence.

Special thanks to Ranissah Samah, Agent-General of the Saskatchewan UK Office, for helping to organise the event.

WATCH THE RECORDING HERE
UK Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero Grant Shapps has confirmed that the UK will participate in US President Biden’s Carbon Management Challenge.

The Challenge was launched at the Major Economies Forum on Energy & Climate Change (MEF) last month and encourages nations to decarbonise, end deforestation, and promote carbon removal technologies.

The UK has huge potential in carbon storage, with the North Sea and other carbon sinks able to permanently hold up to 78 billion tonnes of carbon. Tapping into these sinks could be worth £8 billion to the British economy, creating around 50,000 new jobs.

READ UK GOV'S STATEMENT HERE

Jeff attended the conference as the Chair of the CLIMATES programme, an Innovate UK-funded programme that develops rare earths research and business projects in the UK. The CLIMATES programme supports innovations in recycling, engagement with international partners, identifying future skills, and unlocking private investment.

Jeff spoke about the importance of critical minerals and the chemicals industry for the UK's critical minerals sector.

Thank you to Innovate UK (UKRI) for inviting Jeff to CHEMUK. CHEMUK will return in 2024 at the NEC in Birmingham.
On 26 May, UK Secretary of State for Business & Trade, Kemi Badenoch, was in Riyadh as part of the second leg of her diplomatic trip across GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) nations to advance a comprehensive regional trade deal.

Secretary Badenoch met with Minister Bandar Al Khorayef, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Industry & Mineral Resources. Their meeting in Riyadh culminated in the signing of a declaration of intent, solidifying the two countries’ commitment to jointly developing resilient and responsible critical mineral supply chains to ensure the global energy transition.

READ ON HERE
In partnership with the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), the CMA's Circular Economy Working Group organised a closed-door workshop on commercialising R&D on 17 May.

The workshop brought together academics who are researching critical minerals extraction from waste, industry leaders developing circular economy processes, and government policymakers building their knowledge in these fields.

The discussion covered what R&D is needed to develop a circular economy for critical minerals, as well of sources of funding, and how to join up innovators, academics, and investors. The event created opportunities for diverse stakeholders to make connections and continue discussions from our joint CMA & RSC circular economy of critical minerals event last year.

If you are interested in joining future workshops or seeing the readout, please contact kirsty@criticalmineral.org.
The Geoscientist, the quarterly magazine of the Geological Society, has published an article in their latest issue ('Land Beneath Sea') about the Critical Mineral Association (CMA UK) and Geological Society Business Forum's (GSBF) second annual conference on 'Delivering the UK's Critical Minerals Ambitions', held in London last November.

The article provides an detailed overview of the presentations and discussions that occurred on the day, and how the environment in the UK has changed since then. It considers recent developments such as the United States' Inflation Reduction Act, the UK Government's Critical Minerals Refresh, and the British Geological Survey's recent survey of the UK's mineral potential.

The article was written by Eileen Maes, Public Affairs and Communications Associate at CMA UK.

READ THE ISSUE HERE
On 11 May the European Commission approved a scheme of €837 million to support Spain’s production of electric vehicle (EV) batteries. The Commission concluded that the scheme is “necessary, appropriate and proportionate to accelerate the green transition” and reduce fuel dependencies.

Estimates suggest that China has more than 100 operational gigafactories compared to just the 6 in mainland Europe. But even with this number, over half of all lithium-ion batteries used in the EU in 2022 were produced locally. The EU is also planning and constructing additional gigafactories, with 50 in total to be in production by 2030.

The UK currently has none in production. According to Statista, the UK will need to host at least 8 by 2040, each with an average production capacity of 15Gwh per year, to meet the expected increase in demand for EV batteries.
Following on from the success of the renowned Joburg Indaba, the inaugural London Indaba is taking place on 26 & 27 June at the InterContinental Park Lane hotel in London.

The conference will focus on Africa’s critical role in the minerals & metals of the future. The continent is home to an abundant amount of critical minerals such as copper, cobalt, nickel, lithium, graphite, rare earths, vanadium, and manganese to name but a few.

Speakers include Minister Nusrat Ghani MP, Minister of State at the Department for Business & Trade and Minister for the Investment Security Unit; Scott E. Woodard, Acting Director of the Office of Energy Transformation at the U.S. Department of State; Rohitesh Dhawan, the President and Chief Executive Officer at ICMM; and Tom Attenborough, the Head of International Business Development at the London Stock Exchange.

REGISTER HERE
Weardale Lithium has successfully extracted lithium from geothermal brines and produced a sample of lithium carbonate using Direct Lithium Extraction (DLE). This marks the first time lithium carbonate has been produced from geothermal brines in North East England.

Weardale Lithium conducted test-work after securing a grant from the Advanced Propulsion Centre (APC) Automotive Transformation Fund (ATF). All their DLE trials have produced positive results, with high rates of extraction and recovery. It confirms that geothermal brines in the Eastgate Boreholes of County Durham are amenable for lithium production.

The successful extraction of lithium represents a step forward in the UK’s ambitions to produce a domestic supply chain. Congratulations to Weardale Lithium for this achievement!

**READ ON HERE**
On 3 April, the Critical Minerals Association and Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) held a webinar on the impact of new EU battery regulation on the UK’s battery materials sector. The new law addresses technical developments and challenges to enhance and improve sustainability across the supply chain.

The impact of the regulation to UK cell manufacturers is significant. It requires all battery components to be traceable, meaning it is now the cell manufacturer's responsibility to show the environmental impact of their entire product. This involves understanding and disclosing data on the production of components all the way down to the mining/extractive stage.

WATCH THE WEBINAR HERE

Circular Economy
IMPACT OF NEW EU BATTERY REGULATIONS ON THE UK’S BATTERY MATERIALS SECTOR

3 April 2023, 10-11am BST
National Highways, which operates 4,500 miles of road networks in the UK, is planning to install around 2,500 rapid EV chargers by the end of the decade.

The plans were confirmed on 18 May through the body’s new strategic plans for 2025 to 2030. It was published shortly after the International Energy Agency (IEA) published the 2023 edition of their Global Electric Vehicle Outlook. The Agency predicts a 35% increase in EV sales this year, meaning 1 in 5 car sales will be electric.

The Local Government Association estimates that there will be up to 11 million EVs and hybrid vehicles in the UK by 2030, and this rapid uptick will necessitate additional charging infrastructure.

READ ON HERE
At least 1.3 million disposable vapes are thrown away in the UK every week. Most of these will not be recycled. The consequences are more than problematic. Disposable vapes account for littering, plastic pollution, and the wasting of its precious lithium-ion batteries.

Vape technology provider FEELM has launched a major UK-wide recycling scheme in partnership with Royal Mail and waste management firm Waste Experts. Under the scheme, customers will be able to return their used single-use vapes to either a participating vape shop or directly via post.

The scheme is now open in London, Birmingham, and Manchester, with nation-wide rollout planned for the future.

For every ten devices deposited, RELX will provide a free vape, to incentivise use of the scheme. But calls for the total banning of disposable vapes is intensifying.

READ ON HERE
E-Tech Resources has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) aimed at exploring the potential of a feasibility study for a rare earth separation plant in Namibia with two other Namibian rare earth operators.

Addressing the global bottleneck in rare earth element (REE) separation, E-Tech recognises the need for a de-risked supply chain for these strategic critical minerals. While various separation technologies are available, the establishment of separation facilities requires substantial upfront capital investment, a reliable supply of raw materials, and a critical mass to ensure viable operation.

Jim Megann, President of E-Tech Resources, comments: "Through this collaboration, we aim to leverage our collective expertise, resources, and networks to explore the possibility of developing a sustainable and environmentally responsible facility that meets international standards."

READ ON HERE
Mineral resources are critical to supporting sustainable development. The Society for Economic Geologists' (SEG) 2023 Conference: Resourcing the Green Transition will address the major challenges presented by the accelerated consumption of energy and strategic metals.

Speakers will present visionary papers that reflect the wider environmental, social & governance considerations that can advance the responsible utilisation of the planet's resources.

The event will be a world-class opportunity to network, and even includes programmes that specifically connect students and early career professionals with industry leaders.

This year SEG has partnered with CMA to offer an exclusive discount code on conference passes. Use the code SEG2023CMA at checkout for 10% off!

REGISTER HERE
Dalradian, which is developing an copper-gold-silver mine in west Tyrone, has reduced its total carbon footprint by 75% from its 2019 baseline.

Their efforts, which include local tree-planting in Northern Ireland and an internationally certified 300MW solar power project in India, has helped the company achieve Carbon Neutral Plus status for 4 years in a row. Silver and copper, minerals included in Dalradian’s polymetallic deposits, are vital for the production of solar panels.

Dalradian is accredited by Carbon Footprint Ltd, a leading sustainability & climate change solutions provider. Dr. Wendy Buckley from Carbon Footprint said: “We have worked with Dalradian over the last 4 years... They endeavour to find additional ways of reducing their carbon footprint at every turn, through all activity."
As criticality continues to dominate the narrative and shape policy initiative worldwide, the incredible complexity of mineral value chains as well as the geostrategic, political, environmental, and social implications of redesigning them are often misunderstood or underestimated.

The sheer variety of circumstances and parties makes it essential to collaborate across disciplines and functions to achieve real change.

The 2023 Responsible Raw Materials conference from 9-12 May explored how the sector should improve quality of dialogue, foster greater trust, and facilitate innovation for more responsible and sustainable mineral value chains.

To watch clips of the conference, day reviews, and experts sharing their perspectives, click the link below.

MORE HERE
The following March news articles from Argus Media, Mining Weekly, Mining Magazine, 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 takes no credit for any articles and makes no endorsement of any of the content._
Cobalt

• Asia
  ○ Indonesia [11.05.23]
    ▪ Indonesia overtakes Australia and the Philippines as world’s second largest producer of cobalt, generating 9.5kt in 2022 (5% of global supply) at almost 4x the CO2 footprint.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Africa
  ○ DRC [26.05.23]
    ▪ Cobalt hydroxide prices tumble as Tenke mine in DRC restarts exports.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ○ DRC [24.05.23]
    ▪ DRC aims to boost its stake in cobalt and copper joint venture with Chinese firms from 32% to 70%.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ Canada: Canada Silver Cobalt Works [30.05.23]
    ▪ Recent reforms to the Ontario Mining Act includes streamlined permit to recover historic mine wastes, such as the Beaver Mine and Castle Mine stamp mill tailings.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Copper

• Asia & Oceania
  ○ China & Australia [10.05.23]
    ▪ Australia exports $40m of copper to China for the first time since diplomatic spat in 2020; Minister Don Farrell to travel to Beijing for trade talks.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Africa
  ○ Botswana: Sandfire Resources [25.05.23]
    ▪ Sandfire Resources produces first copper at new Bostwana mine.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• South America
  ○ Chile: SQM & Codelco [18.05.23]
    ▪ CEO of SQM Ricardo Ramos to commence talks with state miner Codelco on lithium projects.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ○ Peru: Ministry of Energy & Mining [10.05.23]
    ▪ Following turbulent local protests, Peruvian copper production finally rose 20.4% to 219k mt in March, thanks largely to Southern Copper and Antapaccay.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ○ Chile: Marimaca Copper Corp [18.05.23]
    ▪ Updated MRE from Canadian company announces 44% increase in indicated resources at the Marimaca Oxide Deposit.
    ▪ Read the article here.
• North America
  ○ Canada: Lomiko Metals [25.05.23]
    ▪ Graphite tonnage gains spur Lomiko Metals along pre-feasibility pathway.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Africa
  ○ Tanzania: Black Rock Mining [23.05.23]
    ▪ Black Rock Mining secures off-take deal for graphite with Posco.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ○ Tanzania: Walkabout Resources [26.05.23]
    ▪ Walkabout Resources completes 3 year plan at Lindi Jumbo graphite mine.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ○ Kenya: Marula Mining [24.05.23]
    ▪ Marula establishes copper-graphite subsidiary in Kenya.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ○ Australia: International Graphite [22.05.23]
    ▪ International Graphite receives $3m grant from Australian Government for proposed mine at Springdale.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Lithium

• South America
  ○ Chile: American Lithium Corporation [11.05.23]
    ▪ Canadian miner ALC receives authorisation to carry out additional exploration near its lithium project in the Puno region, known as Macusani Yellowcake.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]
  ○ Brazil: Galileo [11.05.23]
    ▪ President Lula da Silva announces Brazil's investor-friendly model to lithium in bid to tap the EV boom.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]
  ○ Chile: Albemarle Corporation [11.05.23]
    ▪ Albemarle to expand lithium operations in Atacama salt flat as early as 2028 with direct lithium extraction (DLE) technology.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]

• North America
  ○ Canada: LithiumBank Resources [26.05.23]
    ▪ LithiumBank stock soars on economics of $2 billion Alberta project.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]
  ○ USA: Livent
    ▪ Livent and Australian company Alkem to merge in $10.6 billion all-stock deal, uniting assets on four continents to become third largest lithium player just behind SQM and Albemarle.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]
Manganese

• North America
  ◦ USA: South32 Hermosa [08.05.23]
    ▪ Biden administration expedites approval of manganese-zinc mine in southern Arizona.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Africa
  ◦ Ivory Coast: Mako Gold Ltd. [24.05.23]
    ▪ Mako Gold on fast-track to test Korhogo manganese with drilling underway.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Europe
  ◦ Czech Republic: Euro Manganese [15.05.23]
    ▪ Euro Manganese in off-take talks for complete Czech production.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Nickel

- **Africa**
  - Tanzania: Lifezone Metals (BHP Group) [21.05.23]
    - BHP-backed Tanzania nickel miner in talks for offtake contracts.
    - Read the article here.

- **Asia**
  - China [26.05.23]
    - China's refined nickel imports slump to near 20-year lows.
    - Read the article here.

- **Europe**
  - UK: London Metals Exchange [12.05.23]
    - Scandal forces LME to issue tighter rules around nickel handling; warehouses required to carry out additional checks, including 'touch inspection'.
    - Read the article here.

- **North America**
  - Canada: Power Nickel [30.05.23]
    - Power Nickel focused on building the world's first high-grade, carbon-neutral nickel mine in Quebec.
    - Read the article here.
Rare Earth Elements

• Europe
  ○ UK: HyProMag [17.05.23]
    ▪ UK’s first centre for rare earth magnet recycling to open in Birmingham.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Germany: Siemens Gamesa [25.05.23]
    ▪ Siemens Gamesa to cut reliance on China for rare earths and permanent magnets.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Asia
  ○ Malaysia: Lynas Rare Earths Ltd. [07.05.23]
    ▪ Malaysia grants extension to keep Lynas rare earths unit open.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Vietnam [05.05.23]
    ▪ Vietnam boosts rare earths output by tenfold.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Tin

• Oceania
  ○ Australia: Flynn Gold [23.05.23]
    ▪ Flynn Gold hits up to 3.58% tin and 0.16% lithium at Laffer Prospect in Tasmania.
    ▪ Read the article here.

Tungsten

• Oceania
  ○ Australia: Group 6 Metals [09.05.23]
    ▪ Group 6 Metals raises funds to commence operations at Tasmanian tungsten mine.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Europe
  ○ Almonty Industries Inc [15.05.23]
    ▪ Almonty to reopen Los Santos tungsten mine in Spain utilising new flotation approach.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Vanadium

- **Africa**
  - South Africa: Vanadium Resources [26.05.23]
    - Steelpoortdrift project powers beyond feasibility studies, revealing one of the largest undeveloped high-grade vanadium deposits in the world.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **Europe**
  - Finland: NeoMetals [22.05.23]
    - Finnish vanadium project classed as 'critical'.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **North America**
  - Canada: Phenom Resources Corp [31.05.23]
    - Phenom Resources signs MoU to gain 5% equity interest in private Japanese battery company.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **Oceania**
  - Australia: Australian Vanadium (AVL) [31.05.23]
    - AVL enters A$49 million Commonwealth grant agreement with Australian Government to advance vanadium project in Western Australia.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
JUNE

• **2023 EITI Global Conference** | Dakar, Senegal | 13 - 14 June
  ◦ [Register here](#)

• **26th World Mining Congress** | Brisbane, AUS | 26 - 29 June
  ◦ [Register here](#)

• **The 2023 London Indaba** | London, UK | 26 - 27 June
  ◦ [Register here](#)

AUGUST

• Society of Economic Geologists: **SEG 2023 Conference: Resourcing the Green Transition** | London, UK | 26-29 April
  ◦ [Register here](#)

NOVEMBER

• CMA & GSBF | **3rd Annual Critical Minerals Conference** | UK Parliament, Burlington House | 27 Nov 2023

• CMA & Beacon Events: Mines and Money Resourcing Tomorrow | London, UK | 28-30 November
  ◦ [Register here](#)

Interested in speaking and / or attending?

Contact our events team for more information at events@criticalmineral.org