UK PRIME MINISTER RISHI SUNAK ANNOUNCES NEXT GENERAL ELECTION FOR 4 JULY

HMT MINISTER BARONESS VERE VISITS HYPROMAG AND UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

CMA (UK) PARTNERS WITH NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM TO DELIVER CAREERS EVENT ON 3 JULY
Welcome to the CMA (UK) Monthly Newsletter, featuring updates on the critical minerals space. Read on for:

- Prime Minister Rishi Sunak Announces Next UK General Election
- HMT Minister Baroness Vere Visits HyProMag & Uni of Birmingham
- CMA (UK) & Natural History Museum to Host Careers Event on 3 July
- CMA (UK) Attends First-Ever Canadian Indigenous Investment Summit
- CMA (UK) Speaks at Reuters’ Industrial Decarbonisation Conference
- New Geoscientist Issue Features CMA (UK) Article on Critical Minerals
- Australia and EU Sign MoU on Bilateral Critical Minerals Cooperation
- Critical Productions on ESG: The New Normal for the Mining Sector
- Met4Tech Launches New Interactive Exhibit at Xplore! Discovery Centre
- Register for Mayer Brown’s Upcoming Seminar on Policy and Capital
- Australia to Invest A$7 Billion in Domestic Critical Minerals Production
- Anglo American Rejects Revised Second Bid of £38.6B from BHP
- IEA Publishes 2024 Global Outlook on Critical Minerals Report
- US DoE Appoints Board for Foundation of Energy Security & Innovation
- Weardale Lithium Submits Planning Application to Durham County
- Dalradian Secures Carbon Neutral Status Plus for Fifth Year Running
- Register for E-Waste World Expo and Conferences 2024
- News Round Up
- Register for the London Indaba 2024
- Events Calendar

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter by joining our mailing list under 'Contact'

This month’s newsletter has been put together by Eileen Maes, CMA (UK), and Tiffany Sarfo.

Would you like to feature in a future edition? Contact our editor Eileen at eileen@criticalmineral.org
On 23 May, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak took the nation by surprise when he announced outside of 10 Downing Street the 4th of July as the date of the next UK general election.

UK Parliament was suspended on 25 May, before being formally shut down on 30 May ahead of an official five-week election campaign. This left only two days for Parliament to pass any outstanding legislation-- a move that means some of the Government’s measures have been abandoned.

The move also overturned expectations of an autumn poll, which was predicated by potentially giving the Conservative Party a better chance of closing the gap with Labour. Labour has been leading in national opinion polls, and has insisted it has a fully organised election campaign prepared to go.

READ ON HERE
On 22 May, Baroness Vere, Parliamentary Secretary at HM Treasury, visited HyProMag and the Birmingham Centre for Strategic Elements and Critical Minerals at the University of Birmingham.

Together with Professors Allan Walton, Paul Anderson, Marika Taylor, as well as Dave Kennedy, Will Dawes, John Speight from HyProMag, the Baroness was given a tour of HyProMag’s pilot plant for recycling of rare earth magnets. The plant was selected last year by the Minerals Security Partnership, a collaboration between 14 nations and the EU, as 1 of 20 strategic projects in the world that “will help to develop responsible critical mineral supply chains”.

The CMA (UK) was pleased to join the visit, and looks forward to continuing to engage with Baroness Vere and her team at HM Treasury on the strategic importance of critical minerals research, innovation and business here in the UK.
The Critical Minerals Association (UK), Natural History Museum, and NERC Target Mineral Resources CDT (Centre for Doctoral Training) have partnered to host a careers event on 3 July from 12 to 5pm, 'Call to Action: Careers for Next Generation Minerals'.

The event, held at the iconic Natural History Museum in London, will give students, teachers and parents the opportunity to speak to industry and academia about the exciting opportunities and progression options that exist here in the UK to pursue a career in critical minerals.

From exploration geologists uncovering the UK’s critical minerals and chemical engineers who discover innovative ways to recycle magnets, to social scientists who map our supply chains and ESG consultants who track product life cycles-- the opportunities in critical minerals are endless.

REGISTER FOR FREE HERE

Call to Action: Careers for Next Generation Minerals

12:00 - 17:00, 3 JULY 2024
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, LONDON

Join our call to action.
On 7 May, McCarthy Tétrault, gigCMO and CIBC partnered to deliver the first-ever Canadian Indigenous Investment Summit at Mansion House in London.

Guests were welcomed at the event with a ceremonial procession led by Hal Eagletail, owner of Eaglestar Enterprises Ltd. Speeches from Hal, the Lord Mayor of London Michael Mainelli, the Hon. Ralph E. Goodale (High Commissioner for Canada in the UK), and Robert Brand (Managing Partner, McCarthy Tetrault) illuminated the history of Transatlantic collaboration and the importance of indigenous leadership in responsible resource development.

CMA (UK) was delighted to attend the event and re-connect with so many familiar faces that we met when we partnered with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) last March to welcome a delegation of indigenous leaders to London for a series of industry roundtables at the Geological Society of London.
From 22 to 23 May, CMA (UK) attended the Reuters Industrial Decarbonisation conference in Amsterdam, joining C-suite executives across decarbonisation sectors to discuss the importance of critical minerals for global electrification and decarbonisation efforts.

CMA (UK) Founder & CEO Kirsty Benham moderated a fireside chat with Gabrielle Gauthey, High Representative of the Chairman and CEO of TotalEnergies to the European Institutions, covering Gabrielle’s analysis of the EU’s Green Deal Industrial Plan, the role of the EU Critical Raw Materials Act, and the European response to driving competitiveness around decarbonisation. She highlighted how innovation funding is a key factor in EU competitiveness.

READ ON HERE
On 23 May, the Geoscientist, magazine of the Geological Society of London, published its summer issue. The issue features an article by the CMA (UK)'s Communications Manager Eileen Maes, highlighting the UK opportunity in developing alternative critical minerals supply chains.

The article outlines the various multi-stakeholder discussions that took place at the CMA (UK) and Geological Society Business Forum's 3rd Annual Conference in London on 27 November 2023. The meeting attracted a diverse audience of over 300 innovators, geologists, policymakers, investors, miners, recyclers, processors, academics, lawyers and many more to discuss the importance of building supply chain resilience, and how policy can enable UK industry to achieve its Green Industrial Revolution and Net Zero ambitions.

READ ON HERE
On 28 May, the European Union (EU) and Australia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a bilateral partnership to cooperate on critical and strategic minerals. The MoU was signed on behalf of the EU by Executive Vice-President and Commissioner for Trade Valdis Dombrovskis and Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry Breton, and behalf of Australia by Resources Minister Madeleine King and Minister for Trade and Tourism Don Farrell.

The partnership aims to support several common objectives based on mutual benefits. In particular, it seeks to enable the EU to diversify its supplies of materials necessary for the green and digital transitions, whilst contributing to the development of Australia's domestic critical minerals sector.

Discover more about our sister association, the Critical Minerals Association Australia (CMA Australia), by clicking on their logo.
ESG: The New Normal

The Journey of a Responsible Mineral, From Compliance to Value: Elevating ESG in Mining.

Stewardship or Greenwashing

While the very nature of mining, extracting materials from the earth, inherently challenges sustainability, the sector offers more than just the extraction of minerals.

Recently, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards have been embraced primarily as a means of aligning with best practices, often pivoting towards compliance especially when investor interest is at stake.

The E, S and G

Companies with demonstrable ESG good practice are on average 4-5% more profitable than competitors.*

We will engage with organisations that are making tangible, practical contributions to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards, beyond mere green-washing. These entities may not market themselves as ESG compliant, yet they implement substantial practices that enhance their operations and promote genuine sustainability, focussing on how these practical actions result in positive impacts, showcasing the real benefits of authentic ESG integration in business.

Impacts & Objectives

Showcasing the changing face of the mining industry in regards to ESG, and the strategic advantage that a good stewardship can have.

If you can’t grow it, you must mine it. So what can we do to ensure this is done to the highest standards.

Who are the companies making sure they are key stakeholders in their environments, and making steps to improve the impact of mining.

Production and costing

- Three days filming on-site
- Five days editing
- Six, social-ready, high impact content pieces: Boost Engagement, shape the conversation

£15,000*

*Excluding applicable expenses and taxes

* ESG compliant firms ‘more profitable’ says Bain & EcoVadis
On 15 April, Xplore! Science Discovery Centre in Wrexham, Wales, launched its brand new exhibition ‘The New Precious Metals: Unearthing the Treasures in Our Everyday Tech’.

Created by a team of experts from Met4Tech, including researchers from the University of Exeter, the exhibit stands at around 3.5 meters in height and allows visitors to try and solve the increasing demand for metal resources either by building more mines, or by repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing metal supply.

The experience allows participants to discover the scale of the growing demand for critical minerals such as cobalt, tin and lithium, as well as learn how critical minerals make a difference in our everyday lives.

**READ ON HERE**
As we approach Net Zero, one aspect of the commitment to fight climate change and reduce carbon emissions has attracted particular attention-- the extent of our dependence on critical minerals for the success of the energy transition.

Join industry experts and Mayer Brown lawyers from Europe and the United States in central London on 18 June to highlight market trends and legal developments in the critical minerals space at Mayer Brown’s seminar on ‘Policy, Capital Investment and M&A in Critical Minerals’.

CMA (UK) Founder Jeff Townsend will be speaking on a panel covering developments in the US Inflation Reduction Act and EU Critical Raw Materials Act. Our members also feature on the day’s agenda, with ARCH Emerging Markets Partners, Cornish Lithium and Wood Mackenzie covering issues such potential sources of capital for new projects, structuring joint ventures and investment.

REGISTER HERE
On 14 May, the Australian Government announced a large investment package of A$15 billion to bolster the nation’s domestic manufacturing and renewable energy sectors.

The funding feeds into Australia’s strategic effort to diminish dependence on foreign suppliers for essential technologies and enhance its economic resilience. It includes $7 billion to incentivise domestic critical minerals production, aimed at covering 10 percent of processing and refining costs for Australia’s 31 critical minerals.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese stated: “Our plan will maximise the economic and industrial benefits of the international move to Net Zero and secure Australia’s place in a changing global economic and strategic landscape.”

READ ON HERE
On 13 May, Anglo American rejected BHP's second bid of £34bn, valuing ordinary shares at approximately £27.53. Commenting on the decision, Chairman of Anglo American, Stuart Chambers, stated that BHP has "again failed to recognise the value inherent in Anglo".

Following this bid rejection, Anglo American has announced plans to divest their platinum, coal and diamond assets to focus on its copper, iron ore and crop nutrients businesses.

BHP proposed a revised third bid on 22 May worth £38.6bn, which was unanimously rejected, in part due to Anglo American's concerns about the structure which “has the potential for material value leakage to be disproportionately suffered by Anglo American's shareholders".

Anglo American have extended their takeover deadline, giving its rival until 29 May to propose another binding bid.

READ ON HERE
Critical minerals have risen up the global policy agenda in recent years due to increasing demand, supply chain bottlenecks and geopolitical concerns. The dynamic nature of the market necessitates greater transparency and reliable information to facilitate informed decision-making, as underscored by the request from G7 ministers for the International Energy Agency (IEA) to produce medium- and long-term outlooks.

The IEA’s Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2024 follows its inaugural review of the market last year, providing a snapshot of industry developments in 2023 and early 2024 as well as outlooks for the demand and supply of critical minerals based on the latest technology and policy trends.

The report is also accompanied by an updated version of the Critical Minerals Data Explorer, an interactive online tool that allows users to explore the latest IEA projections.

READ ON HERE
On 9 May, the US Department of Energy (DoE) announced the inaugural Board of Directors for its first-ever agency-related foundation, the Foundation for Energy Security and Innovation (FESI).

Authorized through the 2022 CHIPS and Science Act, FESI is an independent entity that supports the DOE in its critical mission to ensure America's security and prosperity through transformative and innovative science and technology solutions that address energy and environmental challenges.

US Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm stated: "The FESI Board of Directors will help meet the Department’s goals and bring to life the biggest, boldest solutions to the challenges of our time." The Board comprises a diverse group of experts from government and industry, bringing together a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Discover more about our sister association, the Critical Minerals Association USA (CMA USA), by clicking on their logo
On 9 May, Weardale Lithium submitted a planning application to Durham County Council for the phased construction of a lithium extraction plant in Weardale. The 16.5-acre facility for processing geothermal groundwater from existing wells will be located on the brownfield, former cement works at Eastgate. The facility forms part of a wider regeneration plan for the site, abiding by the highest environmental and safety standards.

The local consultation process was carried out ahead of filing the planning application, and community engagement was positive with considerable support expressed for the development and regeneration of the site.

Scaling up of Weardale Lithium’s project to full commercial production over the next 4 years would produce approximately 10k tonnes of lithium carbonate per year, creating around 125 jobs and generating an estimated £1bn of gross economic value for the North East region.
Dalradian has secured its Carbon Neutral Plus status for 2023, the fifth year running.

To date it has reduced its total carbon footprint by 75.4% from its 2019 baseline, through measures such as switching to 100% renewable energy, the use of electric vehicles, and tree planting in Northern Ireland.

Sustainability & Community Relations Officer, Oonagh McKenna, commented: “It has been a collective effort to increase our energy efficiency across all our operations. We are also proactively looking forward to how we can manage our emissions post planning approval, when our operations ramp up. We are working with suppliers to ensure the best solutions for our future operations, researching best available technology and alternative energy sources.”
E-Waste World, Europe's leading conference and exposition dedicated to electronics recycling, is returning to Messe Frankfurt in Germany from 26 - 27 June 2024.

Co-located and composed of three separate events (E-Waste World Conference & Expo, Battery Recycling Conference & Expo, and Metal Recycling Conference & Expo), this series allows for valuable multidisciplinary and cross-sector discussion on supply chain security, the e-waste challenge, and advancing towards sustainability and circularity.

The event will provide access to 200+ Exhibitors from around the world at the free-to-attend Expo, 3,000+ attendees, and a 4-stream Conference hosted by 100+ industry experts.

READ ON HERE
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

• Asia
  ○ China: National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration [23.05.24]
    ▪ China to purchase significant amount of cobalt to bolster national reserves.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ Canada: Electra Battery Materials Corp [13.05.24]
    ▪ Electra Battery Materials plans to build the first battery grade cobalt sulfate refiner in North America.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ USA: Fortune Minerals Ltd [17.05.24]
    ▪ Fortune Miners to receive $6.3m from Department of Defense to improve cobalt production.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Canada: Nord Precious Metals Mining Inc [21.05.24]
    ▪ Castle East project shows high potential for cobalt after significant silver intercepts discovered.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Copper

• Asia
  ○ China: Zijin Mining Group Ltd [17.05.24]
    ▪ Major copper producer in China announces plans to produce 50% more copper by 2028.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Africa
  ○ Ethiopia: KEFI Gold and Copper PLC [23.05.24]
    ▪ KEFI Gold and Copper announces launch of its Tulu Kapi Gold Mines Project.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Zambia: Midnight Sun Mining Corp [23.05.24]
    ▪ Midnight Sun prepares for exploration at its Solwezi project after acquiring $10 million investment.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ Canada: Abitibi Metals Corp [16.05.24]
    ▪ Abitibi Metal’s maiden drill program results show high grade copper at it’s B26 polymetallic deposit.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Europe
  ○ Norway: BHP [23.05.24]
    ▪ BHP agrees to exploration alliance with Kingsrose Mining for nickel and copper in Finland and Norway.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Graphite

- **Africa**
  - Malawi: Sovereign Metals Ltd [14.05.24]
    - Sovereign Metals announces “world-leading” downstream test results from its Kasiya Project
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **Europe**
  - Sweden: Talga Resources Ltd [24.05.24]
    - Talga Resources to develop open-pit mine and graphite anode refinery at Vittangi anode project in northern Sweden.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **North America**
  - USA: Lithium Energy Ltd [16.05.24]
    - Lithium Energy and NOVONIX Ltd to combine graphite assets under new company, Axon Graphite Ltd.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
  - USA: Lomiko Metals Inc [23.05.24]
    - Lomiko Metals awarded $8.35 million Technology Investment Agreement grant from Department of Defense.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **Oceania**
  - Australia: Lincoln Minerals [14.05.24]
    - Lincoln Minerals to present graphite producing capabilities EU’s annual trade mission.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
Lithium

• Africa
  ○ Ghana: Atlantic Lithium Ltd [15.05.24]
    ▪ Edward Nana Yaw Koranteng appointed as an independent director.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Mali: Ganfeng Lithium Co., Ltd [17.05.24]
    ▪ Ganfeng Lithium to operate Goulamina lithium mine after finalising agreement with the Mali government.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Asia
  ○ South Korea: Iondrive Ltd [14.05.24]
    ▪ Iondrive shares initial exploration results of its South Korean lithium exploration project with KoBold.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Middle East
  ○ Saudi Arabia: Ma’aden [21.05.24]
    ▪ The Saudi state-owned mining company announces successfully extraction of lithium from seawater.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ Canada: Sienna Resources Inc [24.05.24]
    ▪ Sienna Resources progresses its portfolio after acquiring Case Lake West Cesium and Spodumene Pegmatite Project.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Manganese

• Africa
  ○ Botswana: Giyani Metals Corp. [02.05.24]
    ▪ Giyani Metals draws down $5.7 million of a $16 million convertible loan to advance its K.Hill project.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Asia
  ○ China: Firebird Metals Ltd [07.05.24]
    ▪ Firebird Metals announces positive results of feasibility study showcasing low-cost, battery-grade manganese sulphate production potential.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ USA: Buxton Resources Ltd [14.05.24]
    ▪ Buxton Resources secures 100% ownership of the Matrix Manganese Project in Arizona after signing binding earn-in agreement with Solution Metals.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ USA: Element 25 Ltd [20.05.24]
    ▪ Element 25 receives permit allowing the company to progress with the construction of manganese sulphate monohydrate refinery in Louisiana.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ○ Australia: South32 [23.05.24]
    ▪ South32 open to purchasing Anglo American manganese assets.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Nickel

• Africa
  ○ Botswana: Si6 Metals Ltd [27.05.24]
    ▪ Si6 increase tenement area by 45% to further investigate nickel-copper-silver deposit at Limpopo Mobile belt in Botswana.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Asia
  ○ Indonesia: PT CNGR Ding Xing New Energy [23.05.24]
    ▪ PT CNGR Ding Xing New Energy becomes the first Indonesian brand to have nickel product listed on London Metal Exchange.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ Canada: Core Nickel Corp [09.04.24]
    ▪ Core Nickel shares results of successful drilling program of its Halfway Lake project in the Thompson Nickel Belt in Manitoba.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ○ New Caledonia [17.05.24]
    ▪ Nickel prices surge as civil unrest erupts in New Caledonia, the world's third-largest producer of nickel.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Rare Earth Elements

• North America
  ○ USA: University of Utah [20.05.24]
    ▪ Researchers at the University of Utah discover REE concentrations at active coal mines in Utah and Colorado.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ○ Australia: Meteoric Resources NL [01.05.24]
    ▪ Meteoric Resources to supply 3,000 metric tonnes of rare earth oxide Neo Performance Materials after signing preliminary agreement.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Australia: Meryllion Resources Corp [21.05.23]
    ▪ Meryllion Resources granted permit allowing to company to commence maiden drill program at its ionic rare earth element project.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Australia: Venture Minerals Ltd [24.05.24]
    ▪ Venture Minerals announces recent drilling report; results show highest-grade intersection to date from Jupiter Rare Earths Project.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• South America
  ○ Brazil: Perpetual Resources Ltd [16.05.24]
    ▪ Perpetual Resources and Mineracao Serra Do Sao Domingos sign binding term sheet.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Tin

- Europe
  - Spain: Elementos Ltd [15.05.24]
    - Elementos resumes definitive feasibility study after modifying project layout to address ESG issues.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- Oceania
  - UK: Stellar Resources Ltd [24.05.24]
    - Stellar Resources secures $10 million in funding to advance its Heemskirk Tin Project.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

Tungsten

- North America
  - USA: Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory [06.05.24]
    - Tungsten clad nuclear fusion device breaks record by sustaining hot fusion plasma for approximately six minutes.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- Oceania
  - Australia: EQ Resources Ltd [09.05.24]
    - EQ Resources receives $13.1m Queensland Investment Corporation accelerate expansion plans at the Mt Carbine Tungsten Mine.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
Vanadium

- **Africa**
  - South Africa: Bushveld Minerals Ltd [07.05.24]
    - Bushveld Minerals to sell its Vanchem processing plant
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **Oceania**
  - Australia: Surefire Resources NL [02.05.24]
    - Surefire Resources files provisional patent for high yield vanadium recovery process.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

  - Australia: Viking Mines Ltd [20.05.24]
    - Viking Mines announces successful production of vanadium pentoxide flake for the first time at Canegrass Project.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

  - Australia: Australian Vanadium Ltd [21.05.24]
    - Australian Vanadium receives final payment from Australian government after successfully constructing vanadium electrolyte manufacturing facility and manufacturing a high-purity vanadium electrolyte.
    - [Read the article here](#)
The Critical Minerals International Alliance (CMIA) will be attending this year’s The London Indaba, taking place from 25 - 26 June at the InterContinental Park Lane in London.

The London Indaba takes a pan-African focus on the vital role African countries will play in supplying the minerals and metals of the future, such as PGMs, copper, cobalt, nickel, lithium, graphite, REEs, vanadium, and manganese.

The conference will explore the diverse opportunities for African countries to meet global demand and satisfy investor expectations, offering spaces for finance, industry and government to discuss and network.

REGISTER HERE
EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE

- Cornish Lithium, ABMEC Events | **UK Mining Conference in Cornwall** | Princess Pavilion, Falmouth, UK | 12 - 13 June
  - Register here

- Minerals Engineering International (MEi) | **Mill Circuits 2024** | Cape Town, South Africa | 13 - 14 June
  - Register here

- Society for Motor Manufacturers & Traders (SMMT) | **SMMT International Automotive Summit** | IET London | 25 June
  - Register here

- TransWorld Events | **E-Waste World Conference & Expo 2024** | Messe Frankfurt, Germany | 26 - 27 June
  - Register here

Interested in upcoming events?
Contact eileen@criticalmineral.org

What’s Your Story?

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