CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION (UK)

SEPTEMBER 2023

CMA (UK) & GSBF ANNOUNCE 3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE: THE UK OPPORTUNITY

SOUTHWEST MINERAL EXPLORATION & MINE DEVELOPMENT VISIT WITH HM TREASURY & DBT

CMIA HOSTS GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN
Welcome to our September CMA (UK) monthly newsletter featuring updates on the critical minerals space. Read on for:

- CMA (UK) & GSBF Announce 3rd Annual Conference
- Southwest Mineral Exploration & Mine Development Visit
- UK Pledges £1.6B to International Climate Finance
- CMIA Hosts Government of Saskatchewan for Fireside Chat
- CMIA & CMA (UK) Attend Cornish Mining Conference 2023
- UK’s Largest EV Charging Hub Opens in Birmingham
- Canada, India Talk Critical Minerals Despite Diplomat Spat
- Indonesia Proposes Critical Minerals Deal with the US
- US, Saudi Arabia in Talks to Invest in African Minerals
- Magnitio and CoTec Form Joint Venture for REE Magnet Recycling
- HyProMag Aids UK Circular Supply of Wind Turbine Magnets
- BMW Secures £600M to Keep Electric Mini Production in the UK
- UK Government Excludes Offshore Wind from New CfD Funding
- Circulor Provides Battery Passport to Navigate New EU Regulation
- IEA Publishes 2023 Breakthrough Agenda Report
- Shortage of Young Mining Engineers in US, UK, Canada
- Register for the SMMT Global Conference
- Register for Resourcing Tomorrow 2023
- Welcoming Northern Lithium to CMA (UK)
- News Round Up
- Events Calendar

This month's newsletter has been put together by Eileen Maes, CMA UK, and Lily Dickson, University of Leeds.

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Would you like to feature in a future edition?
Contact Eileen at eileen@criticalmineral.org
On 27 November, the Critical Minerals Association (UK) and Geological Society Business Forum’s 3rd Annual Conference is returning to Burlington House in London!

The year’s theme is ‘The UK Opportunity’, and the day’s various presentations, panels, and roundtables will explore topics from across the critical minerals supply chain.

In 2022 we welcomed over 300 stakeholders from across the world and the whole value chain, as well as representatives from UK and foreign Governments. This year we invite you to join us at the beautiful and historic Geological Society and Royal Society of Chemistry for a day full of discussion, cross-sector collaboration, food, drink, and networking.

Don’t miss out on our early bird discounts and register on Eventbrite today. There are limited tickets available so click on the image below to book now to avoid disappointment:
On 20-21 September, the Critical Minerals Association (UK) joined officials from HM Treasury and the Department for Business & Trade (DBT) on a tour of various mineral exploration and mine development sites in the Southwest of England.

The group visited Tungsten West’s Hemerdon Mine, Cornwall Resources in Redmoor, Imerys British Lithium’s Pilot Plant, Cornish Lithium’s Trevalour Hard Rock project and United Downs Lithium in Geothermal Waters project, and finished the tour at Cornish Metals’ South Crofty mine.

Also visiting the sites were: Sue Penaluna, Principal Planning Officer, Devon County Council; Ellie Inglis-Woolcock and Tim Warne, Cornwall Council; Professors Eva Marquis and Frances Wall, Camborne School of Mines; and Cherilyn Mackrory MP for Truro & Falmouth, as well as her Chief of Staff, Ruth Jury.

READ ON HERE
At the recent G20 summit in India, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced a £1.62bn financial package for the Green Climate Fund. The Fund was established at COP15 following the Copenhagen Accord, to help developing nations achieve their climate adaptation and decarbonisation targets.

The UK’s new pledge is its single largest contribution to the Fund, and represents a 12.7% increase on their previous commitment.

“The UK is stepping up and delivering on our climate commitments, both by decarbonising our own economy and supporting the world’s most vulnerable to deal with the impact of climate change,” Sunak said. “This is the kind of leadership that the world rightly expects from G20 countries. And this government will continue to lead by example in making the UK, and the world, more prosperous and secure.”

READ ON HERE
On 27 September, the Critical Minerals International Alliance (CMIA) and Critical Minerals Association (UK) were delighted to host the Government of Saskatchewan at One Birdcage Walk in London.

We were joined by Saskatchewan Government officials, as well as Mike Crabtree, CEO of the Saskatchewan Research Council, and the Hon Jeremy Harrison, Saskatchewan’s Minister of Trade & Export Development, for a fireside chat.

The event was opened by Saskatchewan’s Agent-General in London, Ranissah Samah, and followed by the Hon Minister and Mr Crabtree, who outlined Saskatchewan’s critical minerals strategy, opportunities, and actions to a packed room of UK industry, finance, and Government.

Critical Productions, a professional media production company that aims to make responsible mining a reality, was on site to film the event.

WATCH THEIR VIDEO HERE
From 13-14 September, Jeff Townsend (Founder, CMIA & CMA UK) and Becca Kirk (Biogeochemistry Consultant, CMA UK) attended Cornish Lithium and ABMEC’s Cornish Mining Conference in Cornwall.

The event celebrated the growth of UK mining in the past few years, with exciting updates announced from various exploration and mining companies. There was inspiring progress reported from many of CMA’s members, such as Imerys British Lithium, Cornish Lithium, and Cornish Metals.

Jeff Townsend also delivered a presentation on the geopolitical pressures affecting the industry, and how the Critical Minerals International Alliance (CMIA) and CMA (UK) are helping the UK form crucial partnerships with like-minded nations to develop alternative, responsible, resilient critical mineral supply chains.

FIND OUT MORE HERE
CMA (UK) is delighted to welcome Northern Lithium, our newest member, to the Association!

Established in 2017, Northern Lithium is a privately owned UK mineral exploration and development company, based in County Durham and focused on delivering a secure domestic supply of lithium initially from the North East of England.

Having formalised agreements with the owners of certain key mineral rights within the Northern Pennine Orefield, including across large areas of Weardale, Co. Durham, Northern Lithium is responsibly developing known lithium in saline brine mineral reserves deep within the underlying granite, using innovative and sustainable exploration and extraction methods.

Northern Lithium recently announced that it has joined forces with membrane filtration experts Evove, based in the North West of England, to produce battery-grade lithium at industrial scale, achieved by processing its saline brines, extracted from the Northern Pennine Orefield, through Evove’s specialist pilot plant in Widnes, using innovative new Direct Lithium Extraction (DLE) technology developed by Evove.

READ ON HERE
The UK’s largest Electric Vehicle (EV) charging facility was officially opened by Chancellor Jeremy Hunt at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham on 7 September. The £8m project is believed to mark the UK’s biggest private investment deal in EV charging infrastructure to date, which Hunt has dubbed “a huge vote of confidence” in the sector.

Venue operator NEC Group partnered with The EV Network and bp pulse to develop and deliver the new ‘Gigahub’. The facility hosts 150 rapid charging points and 16 ultra-rapid charging points, all of which are capable of operating simultaneously. There are also accessible bays with rapid chargers, bringing the total number of chargers to 180.

Some 7 million people visit the NEC each year. Additionally, more than 50 million vehicles pass through the local road system each year, given its proximity to the M42 and M6.

READ ON HERE
On 18 September, India’s Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi met with Ranj Pillai, the premier of Canada’s Yukon Territory, to boost critical minerals cooperation.

This meeting comes amid tense diplomatic relations between Canada and India surrounding the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Colombia. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said authorities are “pursuing credible allegations” linking New Delhi agents to the crime scene, which the Indian Government dismissed as “absurd”.

No details have been given about the content of Minister Joshi and Pillai’s meeting, but Reuters predicts that India wants in on the Yukon’s base metal resources. India is increasingly interested in the critical minerals space, having increased its list from 12 to 30 minerals and joined the US-led Minerals Security Partnership (MSP). Its state-owned international critical mineral investment company KABIL has also been actively investigating projects in South America.
On 6 September, Indonesian President Joko Widodo met with U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris on the sidelines of meetings hosted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta.

An Indonesian Government ministry reported that Indonesia has asked the US to begin talks on a critical minerals trade deal, so exports from Indonesia can be covered under the Inflation Reduct Act (IRA).

The IRA stipulates that a certain amount of critical minerals in an electric vehicle (EV) battery must be produced or assembled in North America, or by a free trade partner, in order for the EV sold in the US to be eligible for tax credits.

Indonesia does not have a free trade agreement with the United States, but the resource-rich country has ambitions to become a major player in the manufacturing of EVs and their batteries, leveraging its vast nickel reserves.
Maginito Limited, a subsidiary of Mkango Resources Ltd., and CoTec Holdings Corp. have formed a 50/50 Joint Venture to roll out HyProMag rare earth magnet recycling technology in the US.

HyProMag’s technology was developed at the University of Birmingham, underpinned by approximately US$100 million of research and development funding, and has major competitive advantages versus other rare magnet recycling technologies, which are largely focused on chemical processes but do not solve the challenges of liberating magnets from end-of-life scrap streams.

CoTec Holdings Corp. is a Canadian ESG-focused company that acquires innovative technologies that fundamentally change the method which minerals can be extracted and processed. It will fund 100 percent of feasibility and development costs, with expected funding amounting to around £30 to £50m.
HyProMag Ltd is set to participate in a groundbreaking, grant-funded project to develop the UK’s first circular supply chain for wind turbine rare earth magnets.

With a consortium of academic and industry partners including European Metal Recycling Limited (ERM), the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Capapult, Magnomatics, and the University of Birmingham, the project Re-RE Wind aims to establish sustainable and safe decommissioning of wind turbine nacelles, designs for recycling, and more.

The first generation of wind turbines are now nearing their end-of-life, and the Project aims to catalyse a low-carbon decommissioning programme, unlocking a new domestic source of rare earths for the UK.

According to a Mkango Resources press release, the Re-RE Wind Project cements HyProMag’s position as the UK’s leading rare earth magnet recycler, and signposts the scaling up of recycling and magnet manufacturing in the UK.

READ ON HERE
After weeks of speculation, BMW announced on 11 September that it will safeguard its 4,500 jobs at the Mini factory in Cowley, Oxfordshire.

More than half of all electric vehicles (EVs) manufactured in the UK last year were manufactured at Cowley. More than 3 million Minis have already been produced at the Cowley plant to date, and at present around 1,000 are completed there each day.

But production capacity will need scale to meet the UK’s incoming 2035 ban on petrol and diesel car sales. From 2024 onwards, the plant will produce BMW’s next-generation ICE Minis, with further EV models to be launched in 2026.

BMW also operates a petrol engine manufacturing plant for minis in Birmingham and a site producing panels in Swindon.

READ ON HERE
The UK Government’s latest CfD (Contracts for Difference) allocation round saw a total of 95 clean energy projects approved, with onshore wind and solar accounting for the majority of funding allocation.

However, a swathe of stakeholders and green groups have raised concerns over its exclusion of offshore wind projects. Not a single offshore wind farm was approved, despite the Government’s commitment to build 50GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030.

Simon Virley CB, Head of Energy & Natural Resources at KMPG, said: “This outcome reflects the growing inflationary and supply chain pressures affecting the offshore wind sector in recent years, which is making it harder to deliver these projects at the strike prices and other auction parameters set by the Government.”

Critical minerals such as rare earth elements are needed to build wind turbines, but its market suffers from geopolitical and supply chain problems that contribute to price volatility.

READ ON HERE
The EU Battery Regulation requires proof of sustainable, responsible, and circular sourcing for batteries to access the European market, and mandates that all batteries have a digital battery passport by February 2027.

The Regulation sets a global precedent, which will have widespread implications. There are a growing number of other global regulations requiring digital product identities - for example, in the U.S., the Clean Vehicle Tax Credit and Inflation Reduction Act increasingly require material traceability for batteries seeking to qualify for tax incentives.

All participants within the EU battery value chain, including OEMs, midstream producers, miners, and recyclers, will need to abide by the Regulation to sell its products in the EU.

Circulor’s Battery Passport enables customers to comply with the Regulation, demonstrating requirements like embedded carbon footprint, responsible sourcing, recycled content, and state of health performance.

FIND OUT MORE HERE
On 14 September, the International Energy Institute (IEA) released its Breakthrough Agenda Report 2023, which accesses the impact of international collaboration in accelerating the transition to clean technologies and sustainable solutions in key sectors.

It was prepared by the IEA, the International Renewable Energy Agency, and the UN Climate Change High-Level Action Champions at the request of world leaders.

This second report in the series assesses last year’s progress across 5 key sectors: power, hydrogen, road transport, steel, and agriculture. The assessment is used to inform governments, businesses, and civil society of actionable next steps to strengthen intra- and inter-sector collaboration.

This year, the report includes 2 more sectors – cement and buildings – which means the Breakthrough Agenda now covers more than 60% of global emissions.

**EXPLORE THE REPORT HERE**
Across the US, UK and Canada, enrolment or graduation from university courses related to mining engineering has slipped in recent years.

At the UK’s prestigious Camborne School of Mines, traditionally an important feeder school for the global industry, numbers from its undergraduate courses has also fallen. Fewer students want to be geologists or engineers, partly due to mining’s negative image regarding pollution, human rights, and gender equality.

The industry has been left with an aging workforce, forcing it to recruit from outside the traditional talent pool, instead through apprenticeship programs and internal training.

This labour shortage and block in the talent pipeline comes at a crucial time, when nations all over the world are scrambling to boost output and secure supply of the critical minerals needed to achieve Net Zero.

LEARN MORE HERE
International trade of automotive products is facing increasingly complex geopolitical, environmental, and industrial policies.

With the participation of senior global automotive executives, policy makers, trade experts, and the media, the SMMT Global Trade Conference on October 18 will bring together high-profile speakers to address global and regional trade priorities for the sector.

The flagship SMMT Trade Report will also be launched during the event.

The Critical Minerals International Alliance is delighted to be a Supporting Partner of the Conference this year, with Olimpia Pilch (Chief Operating Officer, CMIA) speaking on a UK-focused panel and Jeff Townsend (Founder, CMIA) attending the in-person drinks reception.

**REGISTER HERE**
This year the Critical Minerals Association (UK) is continuing its partnership with Mines and Money to bring Resourcing Tomorrow 2023 back to London.

Join over 2,000 key players from across the mining and energy industries, including investors, educators, government officials, suppliers, and operators from around the world, to grow relationships and do business at the Business Design Centre in Angel.

Click below to register, and don't forget to use CMA (UK)'s exclusive discount code at checkout.

READ ON HERE
The following September 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**
  - DRC: Eurasian Resources Group [24.08.23]
    - Congolese Government bids to buy back prized copper and cobalt deposits owned by Kazakh-backed mining and producing company.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
  - Zambia: KoBold Metals [25.09.23]
    - Kobold Metals, backed by billionaires Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates, plans new Zambian copper and cobalt mine within a decade
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **North America**
  - Canada: Quebec Nickel Corp [12.09.23]
    - Quebec Nickel reports new nickel-cobalt bearing ultramafic intrusion a Decros project in Quebec.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **Oceania**
  - Australia: Cobalt Blue Holdings Ltd [26.09.23]
    - Company advances towards integrated cobalt supply strategy with new Mining Lease for Broken Hill cobalt project in New South Wales.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
Copper

• Africa
  ○ DRC: CMOC Group [25.09.23]
    ▪ Chinese company ends dispute with state miner Gecamines, plans to raise copper output in DRC mines to 600k metric tons next year.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ○ Zambia: KoBold Metals [25.09.23]
    ▪ Kobold Metals, backed by billionaires Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates, plans new Zambian copper and cobalt mine within a decade
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ Panama: First Quantum Minerals [09.09.23]
    ▪ First Quantum reaches deal with Panama copper mine union, avoids strike
    ▪ Read the article here.

• South America
  ○ Chile: Codelco [18.09.23]
    ▪ Chilean miner ends long-term contracts to supply copper to Chinese clients, potentially facing pressure from Washington to supply Western smelters.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ○ Peru: Ministry of Energy & Mines in Peru [08.09.23]
    ▪ Ministry says copper production in Peru up 17.7% from last year, thanks to improved performances at Marcobre and Sociedad Minera Cerro Verde.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Graphite

• Africa
  ○ Madagascar: Tirupati Graphite [21.09.23]
    ▪ Tirupati to continue to invest in fellow graphite miner PranaGraf after resolving operational challenges in Madagascar and new asset in Mozambique.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ○ Tanzania: Evolution Energy Minerals Ltd [28.09.23]
    ▪ Evolution Energy is granted new Mining License for Chilalo Graphite Project, extending project life.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ○ Tanzania: Marula Mining Plc [28.09.23]
    ▪ Africa-focused mining and development company announces interest secured in the Nyori Green Graphite Project.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ○ Uganda: Blencowe Resources [22.09.23]
    ▪ Blencowe receives US$5million grant from US Government-backed Development Finance Corp. for definitive feasibility study on Orom-Cross project.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ Canada: Electric Royalties [28.09.23]
    ▪ Electric acquires additional royalty on Bissett Creek graphite project in Ontario.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Lithium

- Africa
  - Ghana: Atlantic Lithium [08.09.23]
    - Minerals Income Investment Fund of Ghana (MIIF) invests US$32.9m in developing Ewoyaa Lithium Project and broader lithium portfolio in Ghana.
    - Read the article here.

- Europe
  - Portugal: Savannah Resources [18.09.23]
    - Portuguese lithium developer looks for financing partners, denies reports that the company and its Barroso project are for sale.
    - Read the article here.

  - Portugal: Lusorecursos [08.09.23]
    - Environmental agency APA approves one of the nation’s first lithium mines, with production expected to commence in late 2027.
    - Read the article here.

- North America
  - USA: Albemarle [12.09.23]
    - World’s largest lithium producer receives $90m from Pentagon to expand domestic production.
    - Read the article here.

- South America
  - Argentina: Stellantis, Argentina Lithium & Energy [28.09.23]
    - Automaker behind Crysler, Alfa Romeo, etc. invests $90 million for 20% stake in ALE.
    - Read the article here.
Manganese

• Africa
  ▪ Ivory Coast: Mako Gold [24.08.23]
    ▪ Mako Gold confirms manganese discovery at Korhogo mine site.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]

  ▪ Gabon: Eramet [31.09.23]
    ▪ Eramet resumes manganese mining military coup against President Ali Bongo.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]

• North America
  ▪ Canada: Manganese X Energy Corp. [28.09.23]
    ▪ Manganese X Energy’s first high purity manganese samples ready for EV compliant testing.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]
Nickel

• Asia
  ○ Indonesia: Glenore [28.09.23]
    ▪ Mining giant to stop financing a lossmaking nickel mine in Caledonia, as Indonesian supply surges.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ USA: Talon Metals Corp [12.09.23]
    ▪ Canadian company signs $20.6m deal with US Department of Defence to advance nickel exploration at Tamarack project in Minnesota.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ○ Canada: Avante Mining [27.09.23]
    ▪ Nickel exploration company announces first assay results from maiden drilling programme of 5 holes at Voisey West nickel project in Nain, Labrador.
    ▪ Read the article before.

  ○ Canada: Quebec Nickel Corp [12.09.23]
    ▪ Quebec Nickel reports new nickel-cobalt bearing ultramafic intrusion a Decros project in Quebec.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• South America
  ○ Brazil: Brazilian Nickel [19.09.23]
    ▪ Brazilian Nickel appoints new COO, CFO, and Project Director, adding significant experience in building operations and securing finance.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Rare Earth Elements

• Africa
  ○ South Africa: Rainbow Rare Earths Limited [05.09.23]
    ▪ Phalaborwa pilot plant successfully produces its first batch of mixed rare earth sulphates, weighting approx. 3kg.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Tasmania: ABx Group [28.09.23]
    ▪ ABx Group acquires two substantial exploration licenses in northern Tasmania, boosting its rare earth prospects.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Asia
  ○ China [07.09.23]
    ▪ Chinese rare earth prices jump to their highest in 20 months, as mining operation suspended in major producer Myanmar.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ China [25.09.23]
    ▪ China sets 2023 rare earth mining quota at 240k tonnes, up 14% yoy.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Europe
  ○ UK: Rainbow Rare Earths Limited [27.09.23]
    ▪ London-listed company conditionally agrees to issue 30 million new ordinary shares to raise $4.5 million.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Tin

- Africa
  - Namibia [09.08.23]
    - China’s refined tin output drops 13% on-month.
    - Read the article here.

- Europe
  - UK: Cornish Metals [21.09.23]
    - South Crofty tin min’s headgear structure, the New Cooks Kitchen Shaft, to be renovated and revived.
    - Read the article here.

  - UK: Cornish Metals [27.09.23]
    - Cornish Metals commences wet commissioning of South Crofty Water Treatment Plant.
    - Read the article here.

Tungsten

- Asia
  - China: Ministry of Natural Resources [28.09.23]
    - Chinese Government sets 2023 mining quota for tungsten concentrate at 111k metric tonnes.
    - Read the article here.

  - South Korea: Almonty Industries [02.09.23]
    - Almonty Industries advances Sangdong tungsten mine towards production, one of the largest tungsten mines in the world.
    - Read the article here.
Vanadium

• North America
  ○ USA: Invinity Energy Systems plc [26.09.23]
    ▪ US Department of Energy funds projects that will use 84 MWh of Invinity’s next-generation product, code-named ‘Mistral’, in 6 sites across the country.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ○ Australia: Australian Vanadium, Technology Metals Australia [30.08.23]
    ▪ AVL signs scheme implementation deed to acquire and subsequently merge with TMT for A$217m.
    ▪ Read the article here.
EVENTS CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- Weardale Lithium: **North East Future Resources Conference** | Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK | 4 - 5 October 2023
  - Register here

- Terrapinn: **Solar & Storage Live 2023** | Birmingham, UK | 17 - 19 October 2023
  - Register here.

NOVEMBER

- RINA: Products in Compliance Conference | London, UK | 15 - 16 November
  - Register here.

- CMA & GSBF | **3rd Annual Critical Minerals Conference** | UK Parliament, Burlington House | 27 November 2023
  - Register here

- CMA & Beacon Events: **Mines and Money Resourcing Tomorrow** | London, UK | 28 - 30 November 2023
  - Register here

Interested in speaking and / or attending?

Contact eileen@criticalmineral.org
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