

CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION (UK)

JULY 2025

APPG FOR CRITICAL MINERALS HOSTS MEETING ON THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

UK AND FRANCE ANNOUNCE NEW INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP

WELCOMING DESCYCLE TO THE ASSOCIATION





Welcome to the CMA (UK) Monthly Newsletter, featuring updates on the critical minerals space. Read on for:

- APPG for Critical Minerals Hosts Circular Economy Meeting
- UK & France Announce New Industrial Strategy Partnership
- Landmark UK-US Trade Deal Comes Into Force
- Trump Announces 50% Tariffs on All Copper Imports to the US
- Indo-Pacific Quad Announces New Critical Minerals Initiative
- Rare Earths Discussed at EU-China Diplomatic Summit in Beijing
- US Presidential Memorandum Streamlines Project Funding
- UK Industry Anticipates Impacts of New Immigration Reform
- Welcoming Our Newest Member DEScycle to the Association
- Ionic Technologies Wins Big in Latest UK DRIVE35 Funding
- Agratas Reaches Construction Milestone for EV Battery Facility
- CMA (UK) Joins Launch of Critical Minerals Challenge Centre
- US and MP Materials Strike Monumental Rare Earths Deal
- Join CMA (UK) 5th Annual Conference on 1 December in London
- Partnering with Resourcing Tomorrow for London Mining Week
- CMA (UK) & Natural History Museum 2nd Careers Event on 9 October
- Attend Inaugural Critical Minerals Innovation Forum in London
- News Round Up: Cobalt, Copper, Graphite, Lithium, Nickel, Manganese, Rare Earth Elements, Tin, Tungsten, Vanadium
- Events Calendar 2025

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CRITICAL MINERALS APPG CIRCULAR ECONOMY MEETING

On 2 July, Noah Law MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Critical Minerals, welcomed industry leaders, policymakers, academics, and regulators to the Houses of Parliament to explore circularity as both an environmental imperative and a strategic tool for national and economic resilience.

Key policy recommendations included redefining 'waste' to reflect its true value; streamlining permitting for recycling infrastructure; expanding economic incentives and funding opportunities; and collaborating with manufacturers on R&D in modular design and disassembly.

Representatives from Zero Waste Scotland, Camborne School of Mines, European Electronics Recycling Association, Advanced Propulsion Centre (UK), Green Alliance, and others shared diverse perspectives and case studies on responsible and innovative approaches to circularity.





UK & FRANCE LAUNCH INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIP

On 11 July, Ministers of the UK and France released a Joint Statement announcing a new Industrial Strategy Partnership.

The strategy aims to bilaterally grow key sectors for the green and digital transition, boost economic resilience, and foster the exchange of knowledge and best practice to support shared growth and innovation. It reinforces the UK-France trade relationship, worth over £100 billion in 2024.

The Strategy aligns with both nations' recently announced policies, including the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy and the French investment plan, France 2030. As the first partnership of its kind in Europe, it will enhance collaboration on complementary strengths in frontier sectors including clean energy and advanced manufacturing. Critical minerals are a key focus, with explicit plans to strengthen cooperation on securing supply chains.





UK & US KICKSTART LANDMARK TRADE DEAL

On 30 June, the UK-US Trade Deal officially came into force, strengthening the two nations' long-standing 'Special Relationship'. The UK remains the only country to secure such an agreement with the US.

The Trade Deal reflects the agile, sector-specific focus of the UK Trade Strategy, and delivers immediate benefits for the UK including reduced automotive tariffs and zero tariffs on aerospace. These measures will save manufacturers hundreds of millions annually, safeguard hundreds of thousands of British jobs, and keep UK companies globally competitive and at the forefront of innovation.

Critical minerals such as copper, nickel, cobalt, and rare earth elements (REEs) are essential to these sectors. Their strategic importance has prompted ongoing bilateral negotiations on tariff exemptions for steel and aluminum.





US ANNOUNCES 50% COPPER IMPORT TARIFFS

On July 9, President Trump announced a 50% tariff on all copper imports to the U.S., effective as of 1 August 2025. The move follows a Department of Commerce investigation launched in February into national security risks, which made a significantly lower market estimate than announced.

In anticipation of the tariff, buyers have rushed to stockpile copper, almost matching total 2024 imports and driving COMEX prices well above LME levels. Short-term impacts include a spike in closer seaborne imports from Peru and Chile and diverted shipments from South Africa and Australia, as well as legal complications surrounding delays.

While current inventories may satisfy 2025 demand, the U.S. faces a shortage of domestic smelting capacity. Building new facilities typically takes a minimum of 5 years, and without additional projects in the pipeline, self-sufficiency is not achievable before the next decade.



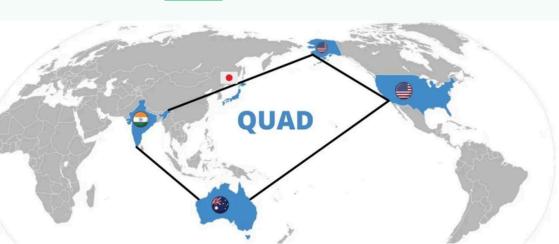


INDO-PACIFIC QUAD LAUNCH MINERALS INITIATIVE

On 1 July, a Joint Statement was released following a meeting in Washington where the US Secretary of State and Foreign Ministers of Australia, India, and Japan reaffirmed their "steadfast commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific."

The Quad raised concerns over the reliability of key supply chains due to non-market policies and practices affecting critical minerals, derivative products, and processing technologies, as well as the risks of economic coercion and price manipulation from overreliance on a single country.

In response, they have launched a flagship Critical Minerals Initiative to strengthen economic security and collective resilience by securing and diversifying supply chains. The initiative prioritises e-waste, critical mineral recovery and reprocessing, and future coordination with private sector partners to drive investment.





RARE EARTH EXPORTS DISCUSSED AT EUCHINA SUMMIT

On 24 July, the European Union (EU) and China held a one-day summit in Beijing to commemorate 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two blocs. At the summit, Chinese export controls on rare earths elements (REE) and permanent magnets were discussed.

President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen stated an agreement was made on a new upgraded supply mechanism that would ease bottlenecks. However, uncertainties remain over the operation of the mechanism. President von der Leyen also stated that significantly more progress is needed to rebalance EU-China trade relations.

The announcement follows earlier calls on 2 July by the EU Foreign Policy Chief for China to end its restrictions on REE exports. Export restrictions on seven REE products and magnets have been in place as of April 2025.





US TO STREAMLINE CRITICAL MINERAL FUNDING

On 30 June, US President Donald Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum on "Simplifying the Funding of Energy Infrastructure and Critical Mineral and Material Projects," aimed at streamlining domestic applications by removing regulatory barriers and duplicative procedures.

The Memorandum instructs federal departments and agencies to pass on information on both pending and existing funding applications to the chairman of the National Energy Dominance Council (NEDC), who will coordinate information sharing to promote inter-agency collaboration.

It also calls for the creation of a unified "common application" for federal funding related to energy infrastructure and critical minerals and materials within 180 days, allowing applicants to apply for multiple opportunities through a one-stop shop process.





UK IMMIGRATION REFORMS COME INTO FORCE

On 22 July, elements of the UK White Paper 'Restoring Control over the Immigration System' came into effect, with potential implications for the critical minerals sector.

Skilled worker route changes may reduce access to subdegree workers in high-demand manufacturing and operational roles. However, enhanced support for highskilled talent could ease science-based recruitment, addressing identified skills gaps in sectors like the circular economy.

Tighter thresholds and shorter post-study visas for international students may hinder recruitment and retention. However, benefits could include increased support for graduate-led innovation and start-ups, with international student levies helping fund technical training.

To contribute to CMA (UK)'s consultation response, please get in touch with Becca at becca@criticalmineral.org.

READ ON HERE

UK Immigration Rules WHITE PAPER 2025



WELCOMING DESCYCLE TO THE ASSOCIATION

CMA (UK) is delighted to welcome our newest member DEScycle to the Association!

DEScycle is a deep tech company that aims to transform the metals industry. They're creating innovative metal recovery & recycling methods using eco-friendly Deep Eutectic Solvents (DES). These non-toxic salts allow for low-temperature, low-energy operations resulting in low-carbon, low-impact metals.

DEScycle have developed a smelter-replacement technology to disrupt the \$100bn e-waste market, recycling multiple critical metals from a variety of feedstocks, including data center material.

DEScycle will first focus on e-waste recycling and can expand to EV batteries, supermagnets and primary mining.





UK RARE EARTHS TO BENEFIT FROM DRIVE35 FUNDING

On 13 July, the UK Government launched DRIVE35 under its Modern Industrial Strategy to boost business investment in advanced manufacturing by 2035. Backed by £2.5 billion in funding and delivered with the Advanced Propulsion Centre UK, the initiative includes regular funding competitions to support the shift to zero-emission vehicle manufacturing.

Among the successful bids is an £11 million project led by lonic Technologies to establish CirculaREEconomy, bringing together leaders across the rare earth value chain to commercialise its technology, build a UK-based supply chain, and advance rare earth permanent magnet manufacturing essential for electric vehicles.

Project partners include the British Geological Survey, Less Common Metals Ltd, Ionic Rare Earths Ltd, European Metal Recycling, Bentley Motors, Ford UK, and Wrightbus, as well as VACUUMSCHMELZE and GKN Powder Metallurgy.





CMA (UK) ATTENDS LAUNCH OF CHALLENGE CENTRE

On 15 July, Kirsty Benham and Becca Kirk from the CMA (UK) were pleased to attend the formal launch of the Critical Minerals Challenge Centre. Led by Professor Frances Wall from the Camborne School of Mines, University of Exeter, the event explored an ambitious roadmap across extractive technologies, finance & investment, the circular economy, ecology & biodiversity, and policy & regulation.

The afternoon sessions sparked further discussion on the role of AI in mining, innovations in geological exploration, and the UK's Industrial & Critical Minerals Strategies.

We were pleased to catch up with so many of our members, and to join ICMM and the Department for Business & Trade at the first Critical Minerals Challenge Centre Advisory Board Meeting. Thank you to the Centre for organising an inspiring day, and we look forward to promoting the work you do.





AGRATAS REACHES MAJOR MILESTONE IN CONSTRUCTION

Agratas, Tata Group's global battery business, is investing £4 billion in a flagship EV battery manufacturing facility at the former Royal Ordnance Factory site near Bridgwater, Somerset. With strong support from Somerset Council, construction is set to continue for another two years.

The first British-sourced steel frames are now in place, marking visible progress and highlighting Agratas' commitment to domestic supply chains. They are working closely with the local community, providing regular updates and minimising disruption through quieter equipment and a pause on cutting and grinding works on Sundays.

Once complete, the facility will supply nearly half of the UK's EV battery needs by the early 2030s. It will create thousands of jobs, offer educational opportunities, support local businesses across the supply chain, and deliver significant long-term investment to the region.





US STRIKES MONUMENTAL RARE EARTHS DEAL

On July 10, MP Materials, operator of the sole U.S. rare earth elements (REEs) mine, announced a multibillion-dollar deal with the Department of Defense (DoD), making it the largest U.S. investment in critical minerals yet, and positioning DoD as the largest shareholder over China's Shenghe Resources.

The deal aims to boost domestic REE magnet production with forecasted surging demand, and seeks to reduce China's 90% supply dominance, exacerbated by the March export restrictions. The DoD will immediately guarantee a long-sought floor price (double the current Chinese market rate) for key REEs neodymium and praseodymium, potentially raising costs for manufacturers and consumers.

MP Materials will build a second REE magnet facility by 2028 to complement its Texas plant, with a decade-long DoD offtake guarantee. A \$150 million DoD loan will also fund heavy REE separation capabilities at its California site.





SAVE THE DATE: CMA (UK) 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our 5th Annual Conference, Critical Minerals: Transforming the Future, is coming to London on 1 December.

Our conferences welcome hundreds of experts across the globe and value chain from industry, academia, government and professional & support services. Our line-up features C-suite executives, UK and foreign ministers, and international organisations discussing the strategic importance of critical minerals, the challenges we face to secure responsible supply, and the solutions required to address it.

Due to the overwhelming interest and turnout at our 4th Annual Conference, we are re-locating to 1 Wimpole Street, a highly versatile venue offering a blend of traditional and modern spaces. Ours is a must-attend event for anyone interested in the future of critical mineral supply chains.

Interested in attending, speaking, exhibiting, sponsoring, or hosting a side event? Contact eileen@criticalmineral.org





PROUD TO BE PART OF LONDON MINING WEEK 2025

London is set to become the global capital of mining with the launch of London Mining Week - a new initiative by Beacon Events uniting industry leaders, investors, policymakers, and innovators for five days of mining-focused events.

Decision-makers from around the world will converge on the city for a week of high-level meetings, capital markets access, world-leading legal expertise, and global agenda setting.

The CMA (UK) is pleased to be an official part of London Mining Week, with our 5th Annual Conference, **Critical Minerals: Transforming the Future**, and Drinks Reception taking place at 1 Wimpole Street on Monday, 1 December.

Get 10% off your delegate passes to Resourcing Tomorrow by using our exclusive discount code **LMW10**.

READ ON HERE



WHERE LONDON BECOMES THE CENTRE OF THE GLOBALMINING CONVERSATION





CMA (UK) & NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM HOST CAREERS EVENT

We are pleased to announce the second edition of our Careers for Next Generation Minerals event, co-hosted with Natural History Museum. The event is free to attend for all students, parents, and teachers interested in learning more about trades, apprenticeships, further education, and career opportunities in the critical minerals sector.

From exploration geologists uncovering the UK's critical minerals potential and chemical engineers who discover innovate ways to recycle magnets, to social scientists who map our global supply chains and ESG consultants who monitor and design project sustainability — the opportunities in critical minerals are endless.

Interested in speaking, exhibiting, sponsoring, or organising a class trip? Contact eileen@criticalmineral.org

Critical Minerals Ca Ca Natural History Museum

SIGN UP HERE

Careers for Next Generation Minerals



Thursday, 9 October 2025 | 12:00 - 17:00



The Natural History Museum | London

Calling all students, parents, and teachers to discover the world of critical minerals!

Come along and enjoy a live recreation and screening of a documentary, an interactive exhibition featuring universities & employers, and presentations from young professionals who work in the industry.



ATTEND 2025 CRITICAL MINERALS INNOVATION FORUM

The CMA (UK) is pleased to partner with the inaugural Critical Minerals Innovation Forum, taking place in London from 5 to 6 November. This new summit brings together UK and global stakeholders to tackle key challenges in the sector, from supply gaps and geopolitical risk to evolving legislation and commercial uncertainty.

The agenda will cover pressing issues such as human rights risks in cobalt sourcing from the DRC, roadmaps to circularity and scaling pilot projects, and practical examples of innovative low-carbon technologies.

CMA (UK) members benefit from 10% discount off your ticket passes. Contact our team to receive the exclusive code.

READ ON HERE

CONFERENCE

Critical Minerals Innovation Forum

5-6 November 2025 | London

WE'LL BE THERE, JOIN US!



Key participants from

























ATTEND THE 58TH ESTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year marks the 58th Earth Science Teachers' Association (ESTA) Annual Conference, a flagship event that will bring together around 80 teachers, lecturers, and education professionals from across the country.

A keynote on geology in mining, talks on industrial minerals, hands-on workshops, a Natural History Museum tour, and a conference dinner in Bloomsbury.

Support the 58th Annual Conference and show your commitment to Earth science education. Packages range from Gold (£2,300) with keynote sponsorship, Silver (£1,500) and Bronze (£900) with exhibition and branding, to Supporter (£500). Bespoke options like workshop or teacher sponsorship are also available.

SIGN UP HERE

ESTA

The 58th ESTA Annual Conference

Inspiring Tomorrow's Geologists

University College London 12th - 14th September 2025



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

- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): Buenassa [01.07.25]
 - DRC signs strategic partnership with local firm Buenassa to develop cobalt and copper refinery.
 - Read the article here.
- DRC: Chemaf Resources Ltd. [17.07.25]
 - US consortium involving special forces veterans seeks to acquire DRC cobalt miner, Chemaf.
 - Read the article here.
- DRC: KoBold Metals [19.07.25]
 - DRC signs framework agreement with US firm KoBold Metals for mineral exploration.
 - Read the article here.

Asia

- o India [01.07.25]
 - India sends geologists to Zambia to explore for cobalt and copper deposits.
 - Read the article here.

Oceania

- Australia: Cobalt Blue Holdings Ltd [07.07.25]
 - Cobalt Blue secures three-year extension to major project status for Broken Hill Cobalt Project.
 - Read the article here.

Copper

Africa

- Zambia: Vedanta Resources Ltd. [17.07.25]
 - Vedanta Resources announces plans to refurbish copper smelters at its Konkola Copper Mines to increase production capabilities.
 - Read the article here.

Asia

- o Azerbaijan: Anglo Asian Mining PLC [21.07.25]
 - Anglo Asian Mining successfully begins production at its Demirli copper mine in Azerbaijan.
 - Read the article here.

North America

- o Canada: Northstar Gold Corp [09.07.25]
 - First Nation-Owned Minto mine reports twofold increase in copper-gold reserves.
 - Read the article here.
- o Canada: FireFly Metals Ltd [24.07.25]
 - Firefly Metals' geophysical survey reveals major greenfields targets at Green Bay copper-gold project.
 - Read the article here.
- Canada: Teck Resources Ltd [25.07.25]
 - Teck to extend its Highland Valley Copper operational mine life after receiving approval from the British Columbia Government.
 - Read the article here.

Graphite

Africa

- Uganda: Blencowe Resources PLC [17.07.25]
 - Blencowe shares promising drill campaign results from its Orom-Cross graphite project.
 - Read the article here.
- Mozambique: Syrah Resources Ltd [23.07.25]
 - Syrah Resources to restart graphite shipments from its Balama graphite mine.
 - Read the article here.

North America

- USA: U.S. Commerce Department [17.07.25]
 - US Government plans to introduce 93.5% antidumping duties on anode-grade graphite from China.
 - Read the article here.
- USA: Titan Mining Corp [21.07.25]
 - Titan Mining announces that it is on track to become America's only vertically integrated graphite producer by early 2026.
 - Read the article here.

Lithium

Africa

- Democratic Republic of Congo: KoBold Metals [18.07.25]
 - KoBold Metals sign agreement with the DRC to acquire the Roche Sure lithium deposit in Manono.
 - Read the article here.

Asia

- China [09.07.25]
 - China discovers 490 m/t of lithium ore deposits in Central Hunan province.
 - Read the article here.
- o China [15.07.25]
 - Major Chinese lithium firms see stock declines after issuing H1 profit warnings attributed to lower lithium prices.
 - Read the article here.

North America

- USA: EnergyX [09.07.25]
 - GM backed startup EnergyX acquire 35,000 acres in the Smackover formation from Pantera Lithium.
 - Read the article here.

South America

- o Bolivia: [04.07.25]
 - Tensions persist in congress over \$2 billion worth in lithium contracts to Chinese and Russian firms
 - Read the article here

Manganese

Africa

- o Ghana: Ghana Manganese Company [10.07.25]
 - Ghana announces plans to build the country's first manganese refinery after working visit to Tianyuan Manganese Industry.
 - Read the article here.
- South Africa [16.07.25]
 - State-owned railway company Transnet signs manganese rail transport contract with United Manganese of Kalahari.
 - Read the article here.
- Botswana: Giyani Metals Corp [22.07.25]
 - Giyani Metals aims to raise C\$3 million from private placement to advance its K.Hill manganese project.
 - Read the article here.

Oceania

- Australia: South32 [22.07.25]
 - South32 exceeds manganese production forecasts following tropical storm recovery.
 - Read the article here.

Nickel

Africa

- o Tanzania: BHP Group, Lifezone Metals [22.07.25]
 - BHP opts to sell interests in their Kabanga nickel project in Tanzania to Lifezone Metals.
 - Read the article here.

Asia

- China [06.07.25]
 - China expands nickel reserves amidst low prices and US tensions.
 - Read the article here.
- o Indonesia [09.07.25]
 - Indonesian refiners reducing output and workforce following nickel price plunge.
 - Read the article here.
- Mongolia: Asian Battery Metals [01.07.25]
 - Asian Battery Metals announces high-grade copper-nickel results from Oval Discovery in Mongolia.
 - Read the article here.

South America

- Colombia: South32 [06.07.25]
 - Australian miner South32 agrees to sell its Cerro Matoso ferronickel mine in Colombia as it adjusts portfolio to focus on copper and zinc.
 - Read the article here.

Rare Earth Elements

Asia

- Myanmar [08.07.25]
 - China threatens to stop purchase of REEs mined in militia controlled areas of northern Myanmar.
 - Read the article here.

Europe

- European Union [02.07.25]
 - EU foreign policy chief urges China to end restrictions on export of REEs after meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister.
 - Read the article here.

North America

- United States: Apple [15.07.25]
 - Apple signs \$500 million deal with US company MP Materials for rare earth magnet production, following China export curbs.
 - Read the article here.
- United States [15.07.25]
 - Pentagon agrees to buy stake in MP Materials, which operates the only REE mine in the US.
 - Read the article here.
- United States: Ramaco Resources [21.07.25]
 - Ramaco Resources plans to extract REEs from coal at new Brook Mine in Wyoming.
 - Read the article here.

Tin

Africa

- o DRC: Gulf States [16.07.25]
 - New study carried out in partnership with the consultancy EY estimates total Gulf investment in Africa's critical mineral projects totalling \$2.2bn.
 - Read the article here.

Asia

- Hong Kong: Asia Tin Week 2025 [21.07.25]
 - Asia Tin Week to take place in Hong Kong from 19 to 21 November 2025, marking first time the event is to be held outside mainland China.
 - Read the article here.

Tungsten

North America

- USA: Guardian Metal [30.06.25]
 - 2.66% grade tungsten discovered at historic US mine as critical minerals race heats up.
 - Read the article here.

Oceania

- Australia: EQ Resources [30.06.25]
 - EQ Resources receives EXIM letter of interest for Mt Carbine tungsten project in Queensland.
 - Read the article here.

Vanadium

Africa

- South Africa: Vanadium Resources (VR8) [22.07.25]
 - VanRes, subsidiary of VR8, executes binding supply agreement with China Precious Metals for offtake of 100,000 tonnes of vanadium-rich magnetitude direct shipping ore (DSO) from Steelpoortdrift over 2 year period.
 - Read the article here.

Asia

- China: Huaneng Group [04.07.25]
 - Chinese Huaneng Group completes construction of the world's largest vanadium redox flow battery (VRFB) energy storage project in Xinjiang.
 - Read the article here.

Oceania

- Australia: Atlantic Vanadium [16.07.25]
 - Atlantic Vanadium loses mining license against local council, following Supreme Court of Western Australia ruling over Crown land.
 - Read the article here.



EVENTS CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2025

- Roar B2B Limited | Environmental Services & Solutions Expo | NEC, Birmingham | 17 18 September
 Register here.
- Westminster Energy, Environment and Transport Forum |
 Next steps for UK critical minerals policy, supply and
 sector development | London | 24 September
 Register here.

OCTOBER 2025

- CMA (UK) & Natural History Museum | 2nd Edition: Careers for Next Generation Minerals | Natural History Museum, London | 9 October
 - Register here.

DECEMBER 2025

- CMA (UK) 5th Annual Conference: Transforming the Future | 1 Wimpole Street, London | 1 December
 - Register here.





OUR MEMBERS

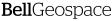




















































MAYER BROWN





































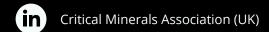


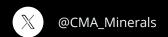














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Contact our editor Eileen@criticalmineral.org

