CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION (UK)

JULY 2023

LAUNCHING THE CRITICAL MINERALS INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE (CMIA)

APPG FOR CRITICAL MINERALS: RESPONSIBLE SOURCING: INTRODUCTION TO UK EITI

TATA GROUP INVEST $4B TO BUILD UK GIGAFACTORY
Welcome to our July CMA (UK) monthly newsletter featuring updates on the critical minerals space. Read on for:

- Launching the Critical Minerals International Alliance (CMIA)
- APPG for Critical Minerals: Roundtable on UK EITI
- EU & US Open Negotiations for Critical Minerals Agreement
- Tata Group Invests $4 Billion to Build UK Gigafactory
- Green Lithium's Teesside Lithium Refinery Given Green Light
- Canada to Speed Up Permits for Critical Minerals Projects
- IEA Publishes its First Annual Critical Minerals Market Review
- Circulor: Carbon Tracking for Supply Chain Transparency
- Rio Tinto Buys 15% Stake in Sovereign Metals
- FT: Critical Minerals Shortages Cannot be Solved Alone
- China Imposes Export Restrictions on Gallium & Germanium
- IOM3 Publishes Report on UK Critical Minerals Skills Gap
- Register for Mines and Money Resourcing Tomorrow 2023
- Register for the Digitisation in Mining Stockholm Conference
- Register for AusIMM Critical Minerals Conference 2023
- News Round Up
- Events Calendar

Thanks for reading!
From Team CMA (UK)

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

Would you like to feature in a future edition? Contact Eileen at eileen@criticalmineral.org

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We are delighted to announce that the Critical Minerals Association is rebranding to the Critical Minerals Association (UK), as we are launching the Critical Minerals International Alliance (CMIA).

CMIA brings together our sister associations, CMA Australia and CMA USA, to drive greater collaboration on issues which require multilateral approaches.

Jeff Townsend will be taking on the role of Chief Executive Officer of CMIA and will be joined by Olimpia Pilch, Chief Operating Officer, at CMIA.

Kirsty Benham will be assuming the role of Chief Executive Officer of the CMA (UK).

READ THE FULL ANNOUNCEMENT HERE
On 4 July, the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Critical Minerals hosted 'Responsible Sourcing: Introduction to UK EITI'. The event united stakeholders to discuss the EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative) and the value of transparency for sustainable growth.

The roundtable began with an introduction from the Vice Chair of the APPG, The Rt Hon the Baroness Northover, and a video address from Sir Tony Blair. Baroness Northover then invited multiple people to share their experiences of working with UK EITI: Tim Stern, Deputy Director of the FCDO-BEIS International Energy Unit; Philipa Varris, Head of Sustainability at Horizonte Minerals; and Jeff Geipel, Manager Director of Mining Shared Value.

The session demonstrated the positive impacts that EITI implementation brings to local mining communities, as well as the value of multi-stakeholder dialogue in promoting transparency, democracy, and growth.

READ ON HERE
On 20 July, the Council of the European Union authorised the European Commission to open negotiations with the United States on a Critical Minerals Agreement.

“The Critical Minerals Agreement will be key in diversifying international supply chains of critical minerals,” says Héctor Gómez Hernández, Spain’s Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism. “It will also help to strengthen our cooperation in the context of the green transition.”

According to the negotiation directives, the Critical Minerals Agreement shall be fully consistent with WTO rules and the objectives pursued in the EU Critical Raw Materials Act. It will aim to strengthen the trade and diversification of international supply chains of critical minerals, as well as encourage cooperation on international standards of life cycle assessment, extraction, labelling, recycling and transparency.

READ ON HERE
On 19 July, India-based Tata Group announced that it will invest £4 billion into the construction of a gigafactory in Somerset. It is aiming for 40-gigawatt capacity-- double the size of a standard battery plan-- so it can supply itself and other automakers in the UK.

"We can be incredibly proud that Britain has been chosen as home to Tata Group's first gigafactory outside India, securing our place as one of the most attractive places to build electric vehicles," says Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

According to the The Faraday Institution, Britain will need 5 gigafactories by 2030, along with another 5 by 2040, to meet its net-zero goals. At present, only 1 small facility is operating in the UK, while another is under construction. Both are owned by Japanese company Envision AESC.
On July 28, Green Lithium was granted Planning Permission for its large-scale lithium refinery in Teesside, a huge milestone for the UK and EU's electric vehicle (EV) industry.

The facility will provide much-needed support to the automotive and battery manufacturing industries in the UK and EU, as the demand for lithium processing capabilities increases due to the global shift to EVs.

The refinery in Teesside will be first in UK and one of the first in Europe, supplying enough lithium to produce over 1 million EV car batteries per year.

Green Lithium's refining process is also 75% less carbon intensive than existing processes, and the facility will create over 1,000 jobs during the construction phase and 250 full-time, highly skilled jobs once operational.

READ ON HERE
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s government hopes to unveil a plan by the end of this year to streamline planning and permitting processes for mining projects.

The US and its allies are pushing to accelerate the production of critical minerals. Canada faces mounting pressure to keep pace with its southern neighbour as the US ramps up efforts to secure the metals needed for electric vehicles, solar panels and wind turbines.

While Canada is home to significant deposits of key minerals, it can take anywhere between 5 to 25 years for a mine operation to be approved. This timeline poses a significant challenge to Canada’s dreams of becoming a key player in the US-led drive to topple China’s dominance over critical mineral supply chains.

READ ON HERE
On 11 July, the International Energy Agency (IEA) published its first annual Critical Minerals Market Review. Its findings note a global surge in planned critical mineral projects, but warns that more work is needed to ensure mineral supply for the energy transition is diversified and sustainable.

The market for minerals that power electric vehicles, wind turbines, solar panels, and other technologies key to the clean energy transition, has doubled in size over the past 5 years, according to the IEA's new report.

Record deployment of clean energy technologies is propelling huge demand for minerals. From 2017 to 2022, the energy sector was the main factor behind a tripling in overall demand for lithium, a 70% jump in demand for cobalt, and a 40% rise in demand for nickel.
Given the global trend toward supply chain transparency and stricter emissions regulations, traceability is critical. It is expected that more stringent measures, like that of the EU Battery Regulation, will be incorporated in future regulations around the globe.

Circulor’s approach to carbon tracking involves dynamically attributing emissions from direct operations and supply chain participants based on material flow. This enables organizations to make informed decisions, achieve their goals, and enhance environmental accountability beyond regulatory requirements.

By providing end-to-end visibility, Circulor customers identify and address emissions hotspots more effectively, create data-based collaboration among their upstream suppliers, and become standard bearers in greater responsibility.

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Global mining company Rio Tinto has purchased a 15% stake in Sovereign Metals for A$40.4m as a "strategic investment" into Sovereign Metals' Kisuya Project.

Sovereign Metals is an Australian miner primarily focused on graphite and rutile exploration and production. The company operates several projects in Malawi, including the Kisuya graphite project which has shown over 99.5% carbon purity and near perfect crystallinity.

The excellent potential of the mine product, combined with Rio Tinto’s position as an established operator, means this deal has the potential to majority scale up graphite production in Malawi and diversify international graphite supply for the energy transition.

Graphite is an essential component in lithium-ion batteries, which are needed to power electric vehicles.

READ ON HERE
A recent article by the Financial Times stressed that 'no country can solve critical mineral shortages alone'.

Written by Jennifer Harris, who served in the White House as the Senior Director for International Economics under President Biden, she urges the US and its allies to cooperate on critical minerals, and fast.

"Achieving the energy transition will demand far more lithium and other minerals by 2030 than the world is on track to produce. Responsibly boosting global production is paramount. Avoiding critical minerals shortages will require some 330 new mines over the next decade, according to Benchmark Minerals, even assuming maximum progress on recycling. This includes 59 new lithium mines; the world currently has a couple of dozen."

READ ON HERE
Beginning from 1 August 2023, China’s Ministry of Commerce is imposing export restrictions on eight items related to gallium and six items related to germanium, in order to “safeguard national security interests”.

The move comes swiftly after the Netherlands announced its own export restrictions on certain semiconductor manufacturing equipment on “national security grounds”. The country was reportedly under pressure from the US to curb their sale of chips to China.

The past few months has seen the Biden administration intensifying its efforts to combat China’s monopoly over the tech sector. Gallium and germanium are crucial chipmaking inputs to missile systems and military technologies, among others. China currently accounts for an estimated 94% of the world's gallium and 83% of germanium.

READ ON HERE
Earlier this year, IOM3 consulted key stakeholders across industry, associations, and academia to undertake a preliminary qualitative assessment of the UK’s critical minerals skills landscape.


CMA (UK)’s Perceptions & Engagement working group advocates for the importance of developing a talent pipeline for critical minerals, as outlined in our 2022 Paper ‘A Talent Pipeline’ which was shared with UK Government. We cannot achieve net zero without valuing and training geoscientists, engineers, and metallurgists.

READ IOM3’S REPORT HERE
Mines and Money is the leading international event series connecting sophisticated investors from around the world with mining company management teams online and in person.

From 28 to 30 November, Mines and Money will take advantage of Europe's largest and most in-depth mining and energy event, Resourcing Tomorrow, and bring its unrivalled network of thousands of investors to London.

With over 2,000 attendees, this is the perfect chance to engage with the mining industry's biggest players and explore new investment opportunities.

CMA (UK) is proud to partner with Mines and Money to offer an exclusive discount code CMA10 for 10% off your conference pass!

REGISTER HERE
The Digitisation in Europe Conference will illuminate and discuss key innovations in the global mining industry. Taking place in Stockholm on 29-30 August, the event will be composed of 3 sessions dedicated to Artificial Intelligence & Data, Robotics & Automation, and ESG Tech.

Discussions will also cover machine learning, mine design and predictive maintenance, cybersecurity, remote mining operations, higher production efficiency and cost-saving targets, value chain disruptions, decarbonisation technologies and targets, and more.

Mining operators can register for free, and all others can save with our special discount code of CMA20 for 20% off!

Register for access to the conference’s impressive exhibition floor displaying the latest technologies and solutions, a star speaker line-up, and 2 days of industry-wide debate and networking.

REGISTER HERE
Critical minerals are essential components in many of today's rapidly growing clean energy technologies, from wind turbines and solar panels to electricity networks and electric vehicles (EVs).

The pace of the energy transition is driving a skyrocketing growth in demand for these minerals, and in response the supporting industries are growing at unprecedented rates.

To address this rapid growth, AusIMM will launch its inaugural Critical Minerals Conference in 2023, a conference created by industry, for industry.

Taking place at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre from 21-23 November, the event will include a multi-stream format and attract global leaders from industry, academia and government.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE
The following June 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 takes no credit for any articles and makes no endorsement of any of the content.*
Cobalt

• Asia
  ○ China [03.07.23]
    ▪ China set to boost state cobalt reserves by 5k tonnes after tumble in prices.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ China/DRC: CMOC [10.07.23]
    ▪ China Molybdenum Company Limited (CMOC) resumes copper and cobalt shipments from Congo’s TFM mine.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ China/DRC: Gécamines [18.07.23]
    ▪ CMOC agrees to pay $800m to end row with Congo’s Gecamines.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ○ Australia: Australian Mines [19.07.23]
    ▪ The Sconi cobalt-nickel scandium project is expected to be commissioned in 2028.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ US: Glencore [04.07.23]
    ▪ Glencore launches in-house lobbying as US targets cobalt operations in DRC.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Copper

- **Africa**
  - Zambia: Sandfire Resources [02.07.23]
    - Zambia's Finance and Planning Minister to pick investor in Mopani Copper Mines this month from a shortlist of 4 companies.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **Asia**
  - China: ING [03.07.23]
    - ING files Hong Kong lawsuit against legendary Chinese copper trader He Jinbi over $147M debt.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **Europe**
  - Sweden: Boliden [03.07.23]
    - Production partially resumes at Rönnskär copper smelter in Skelleftehamn following a fire at the facility, with production expected to fully resume later this month.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **North America**
  - USA: PolyMet Mining [17.07.23]
    - Glencore proposes to buy remaining stake in copper miner Polymet Mining, which it already owns 82% of.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
Graphite

- **Europe**
  - Norway: Mineral Commodities [03.07.23]
    - After positive resolution to a legal dispute, Mineral Commodities finalises ownership of Skaland graphite project, solidifying its battery anode business.
    - Read the article here.

- **North America**
  - US: Graphite One [17.07.23]
    - Graphite tonnage gains spur Lomiko Metals along pre-feasibility pathway.
    - Read the article here.

- **Oceania**
  - Australia: iTech Minerals [04.07.23]
    - Australian Government approves $1.1M in R&D funding for process to produce battery anode material from Sugarloaf graphite.
    - Read the article here.

  - Australia: Renascor [18.07.23]
    - Australia’s Renascor signs graphite supply deal with Mitsubishi Chemical.
    - Read the article here.

  - Australia: Renascor [17.07.23]
    - Rio Tinto grabs stake in graphite-focused Sovereign Metals.
    - Read the article here.
Lithium

- Africa
  - Zimbabwe: Red Rock Resources [03.07.23]
    - Certificate of Registration submitted to expand lithium license to an additional 94 hectares near Bikita.
    - Read the article here.
  - Zimbabwe [19.07.23]
    - Zimbabwe’s $1 billion lithium plan faces setback as Chinese partner cuts stake.
    - Read the article here.

- Europe
  - Portugal: Savannah Resources [14.07.23]
    - Savannah Resources raises $8m for lithium project.
    - Read the article here.

- South America
  - Chile: BYD Co. [03.07.23]
    - Chinese EV producer BYD deploys engineering team to $290M lithium processing project in Chile.
    - Read the article here.
  - Argentina: Y-TEC [02.07.23]
    - Argentina’s first plant for lithium batteries to commence operations in September, using metal extracted locally by US company Livent Corp.
    - Read the article here.
Manganese

- **Asia**
  - India: MOIL [03.07.23]
    - Manganese major MOIL sees record quarterly production in April-June 2023.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **Europe**
  - Czechia: Wood [05.07.23]
    - Wood to design Europe's largest high-purity manganese processing facility.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **North America**
  - US [06.07.23]
    - Manganese and graphite for batteries receives US investment.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
Nickel

• Asia
  ◦ Indonesia: Morowali Industrial Park [24.07.23]
    ▪ Indonesian nickel mine takes green steps as environmental concerns mount.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ◦ Australia: Poseidon Nickel [04.07.23]
    ▪ Exciting assay results announced from latest drill program at Lake Johnston site, identifying 7 zones of anomalous nickel.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ◦ Australia: St George Mining Ltd [02.07.23]
    ▪ Maiden drilling program of nickel-copper sulphide targets commences at the Ajana Project; 17 drill holes planned across Northampton Mineral Field.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• South America
  ◦ Brazil: Horizonte Minerals [06.07.23]
    ▪ Horizonte Minerals receives mining approval for Araguaia nickel project.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Rare Earth Elements

• Asia
  ◦ Vietnam
    ▪ Vietnam aims to raise raw rare earths output to 2 million tonnes a year by 2030; seeks to become one of world's largest reserves.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Europe
  ◦ United Kingdom [19.06.23]
    ▪ Ionic starts producing rare earth oxides at Belfast recycling plant.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ◦ Australia: MetalsGrove Mining Ltd. [03.07.23]
    ▪ Exploration company wraps up first reverse circulation drilling program at the Bruce Rare Earth Element Prospect in Northern Territory.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ◦ Australia: Kingfisher Mining [10.07.23]
    ▪ Kingfisher Mining fields promising rock chip results (up to 18.84% rare earth elements) at Mick Well as lithium exploration continues.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Tin

- Africa
  - Namibia: Andrada Mining [03.07.23]
    - Mining company reports record level of tin-in-concentrate production at Uis mine.
    - Read the article here.

- Europe
  - United Kingdom: Cornish Metals Inc [04.07.23]
    - Cornish Metals identifies further high-grade tin mineralisation that "serves to confirm and add further confidence to the mineral resource estimate" for its flagship South Crofty Project in Cornwall.
    - Read the article here.

Tungsten

- North America
  - Canada: Rackla Metals [05.07.23]
    - Rackla Metals stakes new ground in the Tungsten District of the Northwest Territories.
    - Read the article here.

- Oceania
  - Australia: Group 6 Metals [04.07.23]
    - Group 6 Metals begins commercial production at its Dolphin Tungsten mine in Tasmania.
    - Read the article here.
Vanadium

• North America
  ○ Canada: Globex Mining [06.07.23]
    ▪ Globex Mining's Quebec iron-vanadium royalty property receives expression of interest for potential $420M funding.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ○ Australia: QEM [03.07.23]
    ▪ Aspiring vanadium miner QEM short lists 3 energy giants for its 1GW of wind and solar to power its proposed Julia Creek vanadium project.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Australia: Viking Mines [12.07.23]
    ▪ Viking Mines talks growth drilling program at Canegrass Vanadium Project.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Europe
  ○ Finland: Neometals and Glencore [13.07.23]
    ▪ Neometals and Glencore sign offtake agreement for Finnish vanadium project.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• South America
  ○ Brazil: Largo [20.07.23]
    ▪ Largo improves vanadium production.
    ▪ Read the article here.
EVENTS CALENDAR

AUGUST

- Society of Economic Geologists: **SEG 2023 Conference: Resourcing the Green Transition** | London, UK | 26-29 August 2023
  - Register here

- Mining Innovation Network | **Digitisation in Mining Europe** | Stockholm, Sweden | 29-30 August 2023
  - Register here

SEPTEMBER

- Cornish Lithium and ABMEC: **The UK Mining Conference In Cornwall** | Falmouth, UK | 13-14 September 2023
  - Register here

NOVEMBER

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

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

Interested in speaking and / or attending?

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