

CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION (UK)

SEPTEMBER 2024

UK FOREIGN SECRETARY HIGHLIGHTS CRITICAL MINERALS IN FIRST FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

UK MINISTERS SEEK TRADE DEAL WITH GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL

UK AND INDONESIA SIGN CRITICAL MINERALS MOU



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

- Register for CMA (UK) 4th Annual Conference: Breaking New Ground
- UK & Indonesia Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Critical Minerals
- UK Ministers Visit Riyadh to Boost Trade with Gulf Cooperation Council
- UK Foreign Secretary Highlights Critical Minerals in First Policy Speech
- US Department of Energy Announces Additional \$3B for Critical Minerals
- Saskatchewan Research Council to Produce First REEs in North America
- LME Lags Rival Exchanges as Battery Minerals Trading Gains Momentum
- US & Norway Sign MoU on 'Market-Oriented' Critical Minerals Cooperation
- China Lodges Complaint to World Trade Organisation Over Canadian Tariffs
- Green Lithium and Rio Tinto Partner to Develop UK Lithium Supply Chain
- APC UK Announces £4.6M in Funding to Strengthen EV Supply Chain
- Less Common Metals to Lead CLIMATES-Funded REE Recycling Project
- Circular Economy Showcase Honours Achievements of NICER Programme
- CSaP Releases Report on Critical Mineral Supply Chain Workshop
- Critical Productions on ESG: The New Normal for the Mining Sector
- News Round Up
- Events Calendar

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This month's newsletter has been put together by Eileen Maes, CMA (UK), and Lily Dickson.

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









On 2 December, the Critical Minerals Association (UK) is hosting its 4th Annual Conference, Critical Minerals: Breaking New Ground, at the Royal College of Physicians in London.

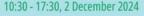
The event will cover the transformative political, economic and social disruptions and advancements of the past year, from MoUs signed by Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) nations, to the enactment of the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act and the work towards building a competitive Europe.

Presentations and panel discussions will explore emerging issues such as new tools for prospectivity, growing UK innovation for global impact, advancements in ESG, provenance, partnerships and battery passports.

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Royal College of Physicians, London



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UK & INDONESIA SIGN CRITICAL MINERALS MOU

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On 17 September, Anneliese Dodds, UK Minister of State for Development and Minister of State for Women and Equalities, arrived in Jakarta to strengthen partnerships with Indonesia on green growth, climate, and the empowerment of women and girls.

The 3-day visit to Indonesia (from 16 to 19 September) was the Minister's first visit to Southeast Asia in her new role. It comes as the UK and Indonesia celebrate the 75th year of their diplomatic relationship.

While in Jakarta, the Minister signed two sets of bilateral memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with Indonesia's National Planning Agency (Bappenas) on development cooperation as well as strategic collaboration on critical minerals with the Ministry for Energy and Mineral Resources.

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Critical Minerals Association UK MINISTERS VISIT GULF TO BOOST TRADE & INVESTMENT

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On 16 September, UK Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds and Trade Policy Minister Douglas Alexander met with their counterparts in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Riyadh to discuss boosting trade and investment with the region.

The GCC is made up of six countries-- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UEA)-- and the UK's trade relationship with the group is currently worth £57 billion. UK Government announced in July that it is seeking a high-quality trade deal with the bloc, along with other nations such as India and South Korea.

Ahead of the International Investment Summit on 14 October, the Trade Secretary and Minister are determined to communicate that Britain is back as a "prime investment destination", highlighting the UK's world-leading expertise across a variety of industries including tech, life sciences, financial services and renewable energy.

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FOREIGN SECRETARY HIGHLIGHTS MINERALS IN POLICY SPEECH

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On 17 September, the Rt Hon. David Lammy MP, delivered his first major foreign policy speech as the UK Foreign Secretary at Kew Gardens in London. His speech emphasised the growing linkages between climate action, security, and prosperity, and the importance of tackling the climate crisis.

"Look around the world. Countries are scrambling to secure critical minerals, just as great powers once raced to control oil – we cannot let this become a source of conflict," said the Foreign Secretary.

"We have seen with the Inflation Reduction Act in the United States, the Green Deal, in the European Union, and the accelerating transition in China, foreign policy, economic and industrial policy becoming increasingly intertwined. That is why the Prime Minister is resetting Britain's approach to climate and nature, putting it at the centre of our cross-Government missions."

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Critical Minerals ADDITIONAL \$3B FUND FOR CRITICAL MINERALS

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On 20 September, the US Department of Energy (DoE) announced over \$3 billion in funding (for 25 projects across 14 states) through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for the extraction, processing and recycling of critical minerals and manufacturing of key battery components.

Combined with the first round of battery material processing and manufacturing grants, funding from the BIL program will have generated \$16 billion in public and private sector investments throughout the entire battery supply chain.

A White House statement reads: "After years of ceding ground to China, we are now winning the competition for the 21st Century, protecting our industrial base and creating good jobs, and strengthening our energy and national security thanks to the Biden-Harris Administration's actions to secure critical mineral supply chains."

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Image Credit: Orham Cam via Adobe Stock

Critical Association Association PRODUCE FIRST REES IN NORTH AMERICA

On 18 September, the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) announced that its Rare Earth Processing Facility located in Saskatoon is ahead of schedule and projected to produce rare earth elements (REEs) at commercial scale as early as summer 2024, making Saskatchewan the first and only jurisdiction to do so in North America.

Using in-house developed, state-of-the-art, automated technology in metal smelting, SRC's facility will produce 10 tonnes of neodymium-praseodymium (NdPr) metals per month, with purities greater than 99.5% and conversions greater than 98%. The SRC is also on track to upscale production to 40 tonnes per month by January 2025.

"This represents a significant opportunity for Saskatchewan to be a world leader in the area of critical mineral development by establishing a secure and sustainable rare earth supply chain," said Premier Scott Moe.

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SRC Rare Earth Processing Facility First to Produce Rare Earth Metals in North America 7

Critical Minerals Association EXCHANGES IN BATTERY MINERALS TRADING

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In an article published by Reuters News on 29 September, Eric Onstad warns that the London Metals Exchange (LME) is "being left behind in the race to dominate trade in metals used for EV batteries such as lithium and cobalt".

Rival exchanges such as the U.S. CME Group and China's Guangzhou Future Exchanges are gaining momentum, capitalising on a shift from annual fixed-price contracts to hedging with futures.

"The LME is the world's oldest and dominant market for industrial metals like copper and aluminium, but its complex futures structure and less aggressive marketing mean its battery metals futures have largely been snubbed", writes Onstad.

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Critical Minerals Association Association CRITICAL MINERALS

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On 30 September, US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on 'high-standard, marketoriented trade of critical minerals'.

"Developing secure, transparent critical mineral supply chains is essential if we're going to achieve our global clean energy goals, but it's also an essential aspect of our national security," said Blinken during the signing ceremony.

"We also work together to accelerate investment in global supply chains alongside our 13 other partners in the Mineral Security Partnership, which, through the leadership of Under Secretary Fernandez, now consists of 32 projects around the world."

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Critical Minerals Association Association COMPLAINT OVER CANADIAN TARIFFS

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On 6 September, China requested talks with Canada at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on tariffs Ottawa has imposed on its electric vehicles (EVs), as well as steel and aluminium goods.

A week after Ottawa joined the United States and European Union on imposing a 100% tariff on Chinese EVs and 25% tariff on imported steel and aluminium, Beijing announced that it plans to start an anti-dumping investigation into canola imports from Canada.

A statement from China's Ministry of Commerce reads: "Canada has disregarded WTO rules and violated its commitments within the WTO by proposing to impose additional tariffs of 100% and 25%. China urges Canada to abide by WTO rules and immediately correct wrongdoings."

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GREEN LITHIUM & RIO TINTO PARTNER ON UK LITHIUM SUPPLY

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On 1 October, Green Lithium announced that it has signed a memorandum of understanding to develop a lithium supply chain commercial partnership with Rio Tinto.

Sean Sargent, CEO at Green Lithium, said: "By building our refineries, we will accelerate the adoption of EVs and sustainable energy storage through the increased supply of low-carbon, battery-grade lithium chemicals. Fulfilling this vision requires the right partners, and in Rio Tinto we have found an exceptional potential commercial partner."

The news has been met with positive reception by both industry and government. Sarah Jones MP, Minister for Business & Energy, commented: "This... will not only support high-skilled jobs in the North East but boost our critical minerals supply chains as we continue to build a cleaner, greener future for our automotive industry and drive forward our mission to net zero."

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Critical



RioTinto + (GREEN

APC ANNOUNCES ASSOCIATION FUNDING FOR UK EV SUPPLY CHAIN

On 17 September, the Advanced Propulsion Centre UK (APC) announced seven new Feasibility Studies focused on strengthening the UK's EV supply chain capabilities.

Delivered through the APC on behalf of the Department for Business & Trade, projects will be funded by £2.3m of government grants from the Automotive Transformation Fund (ATF), matched with industry funding.

One of seven projects selected was Imerys British Lithium Limited (IBL), which is focused on developing commercial opportunities for large-scale lithium production in the UK by using its own sustainable and novel method of extracting high-purity lithium from micaceous granite.

The ATF was created to electrify Britain's automotive sector and protect its competitiveness in the global market. It enables the creation of feasibility studies into the viability of projects for scale-up, as well as providing grants to help de-risk and unlock private investment.

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£4.6 million investment in the UK electric vehicle supply chain



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Critical Minerals Association FUNDED REE RECYLING PROJECT

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On 2 October, Less Common Metals Ltd, a leading UKbased producer of rare earth metals & alloys, announced its leadership in the innovative 'Industrial Scrap-to-Magnet' initiative.

In collaboration with Ionic Technologies and Vacuumschmelze, the initiative aims to produce highquality NdFeB magnets using 100% recycled heavy and light rare earth elements (REEs) with full traceability. It has received funding from Innovate UK's circular critical materials supply chain (CLIMATES) programme.

The demand for REEs is projected to surge significantly by 2040, driven by the rapid adoption of clean energy technologies, electric vehicles and advanced electronic devices.

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Critical Minerals Association SHOWCASE MARKS END OF NICER PROGRAMME

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On 25 September, the University of Exeter hosted the NICER (National Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Research) 2024 Showcase in London to mark the end of the programme and highlight its many achievements.

Since its inception in 2020, NICER has collaborated with numerous stakeholders to develop new circular business models and products, as well as influence policy and consumer behaviour. Its work was funded through a £30 million investment from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) as well as UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

Around 250 delegates from government, industry and academia gathered at Church House in Westminster for the event, which featured keynotes from two UN officials who praised the programme for putting the UK at the forefront of the campaign to make the circular economy a reality.

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CSAP RELEASES CRITICAL MINERALS WORKSHOP REPORT

On 15 May, the Centre of Science and Policy (CSaP) at the University of Cambridge hosted a Policy Workshop on 'The Future of Critical Mineral Supply Chains', in partnership with the University's Energy Interdisciplinary Research Centre and the UK Department for Business and Trade (DBT).

The event brought together stakeholders from academia, policy, and industry for a roundtable discussion under the Chatham House rule. The workshop aimed to explore potential solutions and leverage points, and to pinpoint the UK's capabilities to inform the government's rapidly evolving Critical Minerals Strategy.

Thank you to the CSaP for inviting the CMA (UK) to participate in the workshop. We are pleased to see the resulting report has highlighted the key issues discussed on the day, including the importance of community relations, global collaboration, and circularity for the mining industry.

READ THE REPORT <u>HERE</u>



Critical

Policy Workshop: The future of critical minerals supply chains

Event

centre for

CSaP



CRITICAL PRODUCTIONS

02

ESG: The New N orma

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.

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*

- 15 minute sponsored documentary -01 released through CP channels featuring sponsor logos.
 - 2 x 30 sec trailer Wide and Vertical - short but concise trailers focussing on varied demographics. Released through CP and sponsor channels.
- 3 x individual interviews standalone 03 interviews with main sponsor, two other interviews as requested. Branded and sponsored. Released through CP and Sponsor Channels.

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.

Showcasing the best of the mining industry and changing the public perception of mining and it's importance in the race for a greener future.



* ESG compliant firms 'more profitable' savs Bain & EcoVadis



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
 - DRC: Glencore [27.09.24]
 - Glencore copper mine hit with €800 million royalty row with local tax authorities.
 - Read the article here.
 - DRC [14.09.24]
 - Cobalt prices in world's largest cobalt producing nation hit lowest levels since 2016 due to record oversupply in market.
 - Read the article here.
- North America
 - Canada: Electra Battery Metals [10.09.24]
 - Electra receives \$20 million funding proposal from unnamed for Ontario cobalt refinery, matching US government funding.
 - Read the article here.
 - US: Nth Cycle [30.09.24]
 - US metal refining and recycling company begins operations in Ohio to produce premium nickelcobalt mixed hydroxide precipitate.
 - Read the article here.
- South America
 - Chile: Glencore & Chilean Cobalt [12.09.24]
 - US Strategic Metals enters into agreement with subsidiary of Glencore and Chilean Cobalt to explore domestic US downstream processing of cobalt and copper.
 - Read the article here.

Copper

- Africa
 - DRC: CMOC Group Ltd [10.09.24]
 - State miner's Tenke Fungurume mine sells copper to trio of mining giants- Glencore Plc, Mercuria Energy Group and Trafigura Group.
 - Read the article here.
- Europe
 - UK: BT Group [30.09.24]
 - BT Groups reels in £105m from first ever recycling deal for leftover copper cables.
 - Read the article here.
- North America
 - USA: Rio Tinto [26.09.24]
 - Rio Tinto aims to produce copper from long-delayed Resolution mine in Arizona by end of decade.
 - Read the article here.
- South America
 - Argentina: First Quantum Minerals [06.09.24]
 - First Quantum meets with Argentinian government to invest and start construction on \$3.5 billion Taca Taca copper project, located 230km west of the city of Salta.
 - Read the article here.
 - Peru [26.09.24]
 - Energy & Mines Minister Romulo Mucho reports 31 copper projects in Mining Investment Project Portfolio, representing global investment of US\$39 billion.
 - Read the article here.

Graphite

- Africa
 - Malawi: Rio Tinto [16.09.24]
 - Rio Tinto boosts stake in graphite miner Sovereign Metals to 19.9%, the maximum allowed before it must offer a takeover deal, as China curbs exports.
 - <u>Read the article here.</u>
 - Tanzania: CRDB Bank [13.09.24]
 - CRDB Bank secures 790bn investment for Mahenge Graphite Mining Project, with the Tanzanian government holding a 16% stake.
 - Read the article here.
- Europe
 - Finland: Carbonscape [16.09.24]
 - CarbonScape picks site for biographite production demonstration plant in Sunila, Finland.
 - Read the article here.
- North America
 - Canada: Nouveau Monde Graphite [24.09.24]
 - NMG awards ABB with contract to build 120kV power substation for its Phase-2 Matawinie graphite operation in Quebec.
 - <u>Read the article here.</u>
 - USA: Urbix [24.09.24]
 - Urbix to recieve \$125m from US Department of Energy to fund construction of graphite processing facility in Alabama.
 - Read the article here.

Lithium

- Africa
 - Mali: Kodal Metals [26.09.24]
 - Kodal Minerals flags possible delay in first production at Bougouni lithium project.
 - Read the article here.
- North America
 - USA: Albemarle [25.09.24]
 - Potential redevelopment of Kings Mountain lithium mine as Albemarle submits state and federal permit applications to advance the project.
 - Read the article here.
- Oceania
 - Australia: Arcadium Lithium [05.09.24]
 - One of world's largest lithium producers idles its Mt. Cattlin spodumene mine in effort to cut costs.
 - Read the article here.
- South America
 - Chile [26.09.23]
 - Chile's Government selects six priority areas for new lithium extraction projects to be led by private companies, setting deadlines for December 2024.
 - <u>Read the article here.</u>
 - Chile: Tianqi [04.09.24]
 - Chile's Supreme Court rejects Chinese firm Tianqi's appeal to halt lithium deal between SQM and staterun Codelco.
 - Read the article here.

Manganese

- Africa
 - Botswana: Giyani Metals [20.09.24]
 - Developer of K.Hill battery-grade manganese project announces construction of Demonstration Plant is progressing, on track for delivery in Q4 2024.
 - Read the article here.
 - Ghana: Ghana Manganese Company [01.10.24]
 - GMC to commence construction of \$450m manganese refinery next month, focusing on upgrading current low-grade carbonate manganese.
 - Read the article here.
 - Kenya: Marula Mining Plc [17.09.24]
 - Marula ships first batch of manganese product from Larisoro mine.
 - <u>Read the article here.</u>
- Asia
 - China: Firebird Metals [24.09.24]
 - Firebird granted fully permitting to operate manganese plant in China.
 - <u>Read the article here.</u>
- North America
 - USA: Element 25 [30.09.24]
 - US\$166 million grant from Department for Energy will support construction of a high-purity manganese sulphate monohydrate facility in Louisiana.
 - <u>Read the article here.</u>

Nickel

- Africa
 - Madagascar: Ambatovy SA [28.09.24]
 - Companies overseeing Ambatovy nickel project file debt restructuring plan with court in London, says project major shareholder Sumitomo Corp.
 - <u>Read the article here.</u>
- Asia
 - Indonesia: Aneka Tambang [17.09.24]
 - Aneka Tambang forms joint venture for nickel mining in South Sulawesi.
 - Read the article here.
- North America
 - USA: Revex Technologies [19.09.24]
 - Marquette County nickel project awarded up to \$145M from federal government.
 - Read the article here.
- Oceania
 - Australia: Western Mines Group [26.09.24]
 - Western Mines uncovers more nickel sulphides at Mulga Tank.
 - Read the article here.
- South America
 - Brazil: Anglo American [09.09.24]
 - Anglo American hires financial advisers to sell two nickel mines in Brazil, located in the cities of Barro Alto and Niquelandia.
 - Read the article here.

Rare Earth Elements

- Africa
 - Mozambique: Altona Rare Earths [25.09.24]
 - Exploration & development company reports initial flotation rougher test results received for its Monte Muambe rare earths and fluorspar project.
 - Read the article here.
- North America
 - Canada: Cyclic Metals [25.09.24]
 - Cyclic Materials Secures USD \$53M Series B Funding to Accelerate Global Expansion of Rare Earth Recycling Infrastructure
 - Read the article here.
 - USA: American Rare Earths [01.09.24]
 - Initial surveys confirm igh-grade rare earth oxides mineralisation at Cowboy State Mine in Wyoming, with more drilling planned
 - Read the article here.
- Oceania
 - Australia: Critica Limited [17.09.24]
 - Critica makes magnetic rare earths discovery near Jupiter.
 - Read the article here.
- South America
 - Brazil: Aclara Resources [13.09.24]
 - Rare earths producer applies for crucial environmental permit for flagship project, targeting production for early 2027.
 - Read the article here.

Tin

- Africa
 - Namibia: Andrada Mining [26.09.24]
 - Andrada reports year-on-year higher ore production, with processing in mid-year update.
 - Read the article here.
- Europe
 - United Kingdom [18.09.24]
 - Construction crew on roadwork project stumbles upon entrance to ancient 'unmapped' tin mine in St Austell, Cornwall, England
 - Read the article here.

Tungsten

- Asia
 - South Korea: Almonty Industries Inc. [11.09.24]
 - Almonty completes final technical review prior to processing plant equipment installation at Sangdong Mine.
 - Read the article here.
- North America
 - USA: USITC [02.09.24]
 - The United States International Trade Commission (USITC) launches investigation into tungsten shots imported from China.
 - Read the article here.

Vanadium

- Africa
 - South Africa: Vanadium Resources [16.09.24]
 - Vanadium Resources and China Energy International Group Co. to sign MoU to develop Steelpoortdrift Project.
 - Read the article here.
- North America
 - USA: Dimien Inc. [01.10.24]
 - Pure Lithium, a disruptive Boston-based vertically integrated lithium metal battery technology company, acquires all assets of private U.S. vanadium cathode materials company.
 - <u>Read the article here.</u>
 - USA: VRB Energy [23.09.24]
 - Ivanhoe Electric's clean-tech subsidiary VRB Energy enters into joint venture with Chinese investment firm and secures \$55 million for scale-up.
 - Read the article here.
- Oceania
 - Australia: AVL [23.09.24]
 - Australian Vanadium Limited (AVL) secures nonbinding letter of interest from Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) for potential debt funding of up to \$31m.
 - <u>Read the article here.</u>

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EVENTS CALENDAR



OCTOBER

- Battery Metals Association of Canada (BMAC) | Charged! Battery Conference | Calgary, Canada | 29 - 30 October
 <u>Register here</u>
- Beacon Events | International Mining and Resources Conference (IMARC) Conference & Expo | The ICC, Sydney| 29 - 31 October
 - <u>Register here.</u>

NOVEMBER

- Weardale Lithium | North East Future Resources Conference | Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK | 7 November
 <u>Register here</u>
- Association for British Mining Engineering & Consultancy (ABEMC) | ABMEC Conference & Exhibition 2024 | Oxford, UK | 27 November
 - <u>Register here</u>

Interested in upcoming events?

Contact eileen@criticalmineral.org





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OUR MEMBERS





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