CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION (UK)

NOVEMBER 2023

CMA (UK) & GSBF HOST 3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON CRITICAL MINERALS

UK DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS & TRADE PUBLISHES UK BATTERY STRATEGY

CANADA ANNOUNCES $1.5 BILLION CRITICAL MINERALS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
Welcome to our November CMA (UK) monthly newsletter featuring updates on the critical minerals space. Read on for:

- CMA (UK) & GSBF Host 3rd Annual Conference on Critical Minerals
- UK Government Announces Advanced Manufacturing Plan
- Department for Business & Trade Publishes UK Battery Strategy
- Canada Announces $1.5B Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund
- European Union Agrees on Minerals Targets for Law in Early 2024
- CMIA Hosts ESG Roundtable for US Department of Energy
- IMF Urges the Creation of Critical Minerals Trade Corridors
- UK Mining Bodies Sign Open Letter to University Leaders
- UK Business Minister Visits Mongolia for Critical Minerals
- CMA (UK) Welcomes Newest Member, Aaron & Partners
- Fasken Awarded Global Mining Law Firm of the Year
- Malawi Minister of Mining Visits Mkango Resources REE Project
- Major Energy Players like Exxon Plan Lithium Operations
- Ionic Technologies Ramps up Recycling Operations for Eary2024
- Johnson Matthey Methodology for Recycled PGMs given Assurance
- Nissan Unveils Plans for UK Gigafactory in Sunderland
- News Round Up
- Events Calendar

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

The event commenced at the Houses of Parliament with an invite-only Breakfast Reception hosted by Cherilyn Mackrory MP, Chair of the APPG for Critical Minerals.

The day continued at Burlington House, where stakeholders from across the value chain and all over the world came together for a day of presentations, panel discussions, promotional opportunities and networking at the Royal Society of Chemistry and Geological Society of London.

Our conference concluded with a Drinks Reception, where Minister Ghani gave a speech about the UK’s newly published Battery Strategy.

An article about the conference will be published shortly, along with photos and a livestream recording.

FIND THE SPEAKER LIST HERE
On 26 November, the Department for Business and Trade published the UK Battery Strategy, designed to help achieve a globally competitive battery supply chain by 2030 that supports economic prosperity and Net Zero ambitions. The government hopes for the UK to continue to grow its battery innovation ecosystem and become a world leader in sustainable design, manufacture, and use.

The strategy was developed with the UK Battery Strategy Taskforce, drawing on its Call for Evidence and months of engagement with businesses and various stakeholders.

The Strategy is based around a design-build-sustain approach that will design and develop batteries the batteries of the future, strengthen the resilience of UK manufacturing supply chains, and enable the development of a sustainable battery industry.

READ THE STRATEGY HERE
On 1 November, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Canada, the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, announced that the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund (CMIF) will begin accepting applications when it opens its first call for proposals in late fall 2023.

The CMIF aims to support the development of “strategic” infrastructure projects to “enable the acceleration of Canada’s critical minerals production”. With up to $1.5 billion earmarked for the next 7 years, the fund will support clean energy and transportation projects that will enable sustainable critical mineral development.

The maximum funding available per project will be $50 million, with provincial and territorial governments eligible for up to $100 million for public projects. Funding decisions will consider feasibility as well as broader environmental, economic and Indigenous reconciliation objectives.
On 26 November, the Department for Business and Trade published its Advanced Manufacturing Plan, designed to ensure the UK continues to lead in the development and deployment of clean and digital manufacturing technologies.

The Plan aims to deliver targeted and strategic action to ensure the nation’s business environment and international competitiveness remain strong.

Its priorities include extending and building on existing success programmes through to 2030; forging partnerships with businesses to support market-led investment in innovation and R&D; cooperating internationally and increasing UK capability to build supply chain resilience; and reducing costs and barriers to boost competitiveness and ensure the UK retains its attractiveness to foreign investors.

READ ON HERE
On 13 November, negotiators for European Union (EU) governments and lawmakers reached a consensus on domestic targets for critical minerals.

Earlier this year in March, the European Commission proposed the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), a legislative centrepiece of EU strategy that aims to reduce reliance on foreign countries (principally China) for the bloc’s supply of critical minerals.

The EU will aim to extract 10%, recycle 15% and process 40% of its annual needs by 2030 for 16 different "strategic raw materials". The agreement paves the way for the law to enter full force in early 2024.

READ ON HERE
On 16 November, Co-founder and Senior Advisor of the Critical Minerals Association USA (CMA USA) Olimpia Pilch joined a roundtable with U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Julie Cerqueira to discuss environmental, social and governance (ESG).

She was joined by Jeff Townsend from the Critical Minerals International Alliance (CMIA), Eileen Maes from CMA (UK), and a handful of ESG experts.

The discussion centred on the challenges and opportunities to creating responsible critical minerals supply chains, as well as how governments and industry should and can collaborate proactively to minimise administrative burden and maximise positive results.

READ ON HERE
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that fragmented commodities markets, mainly driven by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, threaten food security and risk raising the price of cleaner energy.

Minerals critical for the energy transition, such as copper and lithium, are especially vulnerable to “geopolitical fragmentation”, said the IMF in an official statement.

“Critical minerals may one day be as important to the world economy as oil is today. Fragmentation in critical mineral markets could make the clean energy transition more costly and potentially delay much-needed policies to mitigate climate change.” Analysts are urging for the proliferation of ‘corridors’ for food staples and critical minerals to avert food crises and keep the green transition on track.

**READ ON HERE**
On 16 November, CMA (UK) joined the UK’s largest extractive industry bodies to call on universities to provide high-quality education for their future workforce. CMA (UK) signed the open letter alongside the Institute of Quarrying, Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (IOM3), Mineral Products Association (MPA), Mineral Products Qualification Council (MPQC), and Mining Association of the UK (MAUK).

The letter emphasises the key role of materials, minerals and mining to our modern society. The resources needed for clean energy and infrastructure are growing in demand, but supply of skilled workers for these industries is not matching that demand. Universities must invest in developing the required skills, education and training for students, with access to pathways into the industry.

“If the UK wants to develop expertise, innovation and new businesses for critical minerals supply chains, it needs to build a talent pipeline of people skilled in geosciences, engineering, metallurgy and local planning,” CMA (UK) founder and CEO Kirsty Benham said.
On 30 October, Minister Nusrat Ghani of the Department for Business and Trade visited Mongolia to unlock opportunities for UK mining businesses and bolster UK’s minerals supply chain. The Minister did so on a historic day-- the 60th anniversary of UK being the first Western country to establish diplomatic relations with Mongolia.

During her visit Minister Ghani engaged with senior Mongolian government and business leaders to explore the opportunities available for UK businesses across the critical minerals supply chain, in particular surveying and extraction.

“I’m pleased to be here in Ulaanbaatar to build on our historic relationship with Mongolia and unlock even more opportunities for UK businesses in our world-class industries, from transport to green energy and mining sectors,” said Minister Ghani.

**READ ON HERE**
We are pleased to welcome Aaron and Partners as the newest member of the Critical Minerals Association (UK)!

Aaron and Partners is a law firm with more than 35 recommendations from the 2 main independent legal directories, Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners. They have a strong reputation for providing high quality, results-focused advice across all key legal disciplines.

Aaron and Partners offers business advice to clients on commercial contracts, mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructuring, employment law, dispute resolution, finance, banking, professional practices, warehousing and logistics, transport, commercial property, planning, energy, renewables, minerals & mining, waste management, insolvency, licensing and academies.

READ ON HERE
On 10 November, Fasken received significant accolades at the Who’s Who Legal Awards 2023.

For the fifteenth time, Fasken has been recognised by Who’s Who Legal-- a strategic research partner of the American Bar Association’s Section of International Law-- as the world’s top Global Mining Law Firm of the Year. This is Fasken’s ninth consecutive win, receiving this award more times than any other law firm in the world.

Fasken Partner, Michael J. Bourassa, was also named Mining Lawyer of the Year. This is Bourassa’s sixth time receiving this award, solidifying his reputation as a globally renowned expert in the field.

Fasken has earned an unparalleled reputation in the mining industry providing clients with full-service legal guidance for 150 years. Manoeuvring its complex dynamics and cycles, Fasken advises on mining projects throughout the globe.

READ ON HERE
On 10 November, The Honourable Monica Chang'anamuno MP, Minister of Mining for Malawi, and her team visited Mkango Resources Ltd.’s Songwe Hill Rare Earths project.

The Songwe project is one of the very few advanced stage rare earth projects globally, a culmination of significant investment and work completed since 2011. Mkango completed a Definitive Feasibility Study in 2022, was approved IFC compliant following an Environmental, Social & Health impact assessment in 2023, and boasts strong stakeholder and Malawi Government support.

Songwe complements Mkango’s Pulawy rare earth separation project in Poland, and the wider development of rare earth recycling and magnet manufacturing in the UK, US, and Germany with HyProMag Ltd, supported by the Minerals Security Partnership.

READ ON HERE
Britain’s leading geothermal power developer is raising £600 million to produce low-carbon lithium. On 14 November, Geothermal Engineering Ltd. announced its plans to produce about 12k tonnes per year of lithium carbonate by 2030--enough to produce 250k EV batteries.

The company plans to use low-carbon power from its geothermal facilities to extract lithium from deep wells. “Very recent tests have shown that the geothermal fluid within the deep geothermal wells already drilled at United Downs (owned and operated by Cornish Lithium) in Cornwall contained around 340 parts per million of lithium, which makes it amongst the highest concentration of lithium found in any commercial geothermal lithium project in Europe,” said the Company in an official statement.

On Monday, American oil major Exxon Mobil also said it plans to start extracting and producing lithium from subsurface wells in Arkansas by 2027.

READ ON HERE
Ionic Technologies’ Demonstration Plant for magnet recycling is ramping up to 24/7 continuous operation from early January 2024, as a result of increased third-party interest in utilising the world-class technology. Several potential supply chain collaborations with rare earth metal, alloy and magnet manufacturers, and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and Industrials have emerged.

Earlier in September, Ionic secured funding from 2 CLIMATES grants from Innovate UK totalling £2 million. In June, their Demonstration Plant produced quantities of high purity (>99.5%) neodymium and dysprosium rare earth oxides.

Ionic’s grant submissions centred on 2 CLIMATES projects: one in partnership with Ford Technologies and Less Common Metals (LCM) to develop a traceable, circular supply chain of rare earths for EV motors in the UK; another with the British Geological Survey to complete a feasibility study and supply chain analysis for a commercial magnet recycling plant in Belfast.

READ ON HERE
Johnson Matthey has successfully designed a mass balance accounting methodology for offering 100% recycled PGMs.

The methodology has been reviewed and accepted by the Carbon Trust as being in line with industry recommendations and standards. This assurance successfully completes the first phase of Johnson Matthey’s mass balance accounting approach and will further enable its customers to meet sustainability goals.

Johnson Matthey is a leading PGM recycler, providing a sustainable supply of critical metals to meet existing and future demand and support customers in decarbonising their products and supply chains.

"We’re proud to have the Carbon Trust's assurance for our mass balance methodology, enabling us to sell 100% recycled PGM to our customers. This will support our customers in decarbonising their products and supply chains."

Tim Murray  
Precious Metals Management Sales Director
Nissan is investing £1.12 billion into its UK operations and wider supply chain for 2 new, fully electric models – the Qashqai and JUKE.

Nissan has also confirmed that their next-generation LEAFs – one of the first commercial-scale electric vehicles (EVs) on the market – will be produced at its planned EV36Zero gigafactory hub in Sunderland.

In total, Nissan’s manufacturing blueprint in the UK will see £3 billion invested in the 3 EV modes at 3 gigafactories.

Nissan President, Makoto Uchida, said: “The EV36Zero project puts our Sunderland plant, Britain’s biggest ever car factory, at the heart of our future vision. It means our UK team will be designing, engineering and manufacturing the vehicles of the future, driving us towards an all-electric future for Nissan in Europe.”

READ ON HERE
The following news articles from Argus Media, Mining Weekly, Mining Magazine, Financial Times, and others, provide an overview of critical mineral mining for:

- Cobalt
- Copper
- Graphite
- Lithium
- Nickel
- Manganese
- Rare Earth Elements
- Tin
- Tungsten
- Vanadium

*The Critical Minerals Association (UK) takes no credit for any articles and makes no endorsement of any of the content.*
Cobalt

- Africa
  - DRC [08.11.23]
    - Copper and cobalt are stranded in Kolwezi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), due to a truckers strike that started in late October.
    - Read the article here.
  - Morocco: Managem [15.11.23]
    - Morocco's Managem says water at cobalt mine safe, denies report on arsenic contamination.
    - Read the article here.

- Europe
  - UK: London Metals Exchange [29.11.23]
    - LME wins legal battle against U.S. financial firms demanding $472 million in compensation after sudden halt in nickel trades last year.
    - Read the article here.

- Oceania
  - Australia: AGL [04.12.23]
    - Australian energy giant AGL to install nickel-hydrogen battery at Torrens Island power station.
    - Read the article here.
  - Australia: BHP [30.11.23]
    - Arca Climate Technologies and BHP collaborating on new carbon capture and storage project at BHP’s Mt Keith Nickel West mine, set to run for 18 months.
    - Read the article here.
Copper

• Asia
  ○ China: Codelco [17.11.23]
    ▪ Codelco, the world’s biggest copper producer, is shipping less of the metal to China after a burst of new domestic capacity in the Asian nation.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Africa
  ○ Zambia: Mopani Copper Mines [01.12.23]
    ▪ Zambia selects United Arab Emirates’ International Resources Holdings (IRH) as new strategic equity partner in Mopani Copper Mines
    ▪ Read the article here.

• South America
  ○ Panama: First Quantum Minerals [30.11.23]
    ▪ Panama announces closure of a controversial copper mine in Cobre Panama following mass protests and Supreme Court ruling.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ USA: Taseko Mines Limited [06.11.23]
    ▪ Taurus Mining Royalty Fund and Societe General invest US$100 million into Taseko’s Florence Copper Project in Arizona.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Graphite

- **Africa**
  - Tanzania: Marula Mining [01.12.23]
    - Geofields commences phase 1 of exploration work at Nyorinyori graphite project and NyoriGreen graphite project.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
  - Tanzania: Volt Resources Ltd [28.11.23]
    - Following export restrictions, Volt makes strong progress with financing negotiations for wholly-owned Bunyu Graphite Project.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **Oceania**
  - Australia: Lithium Energy Ltd [28.11.23]
    - Chairman shares “exceptional” spheronisation and purification test-work results from Burke Graphite Project in northwest Queensland.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- **North America**
  - USA: South Star Battery Metals [29.11.23]
    - Company receives US$3.2M DoD grant to boost graphite output in US by advancing Feasibility Study for flagship BamaStar Graphite Project in Alabama.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
Lithium

- **Africa**
  - Zimbabwe [01.11.23]
    - Zimbabwe earned $209 million from lithium exports in the first nine months of 2023, nearly treble last year's earnings as Chinese-driven mining and processing projects take off.
    - Read the article here.

- **Europe**
  - UK: Anglo American [17.11.23]
    - Miner Anglo American is identifying opportunities to secure off-take lithium materials amid increasing demand for battery metals, a company executive said.
    - Read the article here.
  - Portugal [10.11.23]
    - Portuguese municipality to file lawsuit to stop lithium mine amid corruption scandal.
    - Read the article here.

- **North America**
  - USA: Albemarle [02.11.23]
    - Albemarle trimmed its annual forecast and reported a lower-than-expected quarterly profit amid slumping prices for the ultralight metal.
    - Read the article here.
Manganese

• Africa
  ○ South Africa: Jupiter [16.11.23]
    ▪ Jupiter Mines has released a strategy outlining the company's ESG priorities for 2024, including commitments to explore the potential to install solar power at the Tshipi manganese mine in the Northern Cape.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Botswana: Giyani Metals [30.11.23]
    ▪ Giyani Metals secures $16 million financing from Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa (IDC) to fund development of K.Hill battery-grade manganese project.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Asia
  ○ China: Firebird Metals Ltd [29.11.23]
    ▪ Advanced manganese developer continues to progress key activities in China as it becomes near-term producer of battery-grade manganese sulphate.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Europe
  ○ Czech Republic: Euro Manganese [28.11.23]
    ▪ Orion Resources Partners supports Euro Manganese with US$100M funding for development of Chvaletice Manganese Project.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Nickel

• Asia
  ○ Indonesia [13.11.23]
    ▪ The United States and Indonesia on Monday will discuss how to advance a potential minerals partnership aimed at stimulating trade of nickel.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Indonesia: Eramet [13.11.23]
    ▪ Eramet will go ahead with plans to add more capacity in Argentina and aims to double nickel mine output in Indonesia.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ South Korea: Trafigura [17.11.23]
    ▪ Trafigura and Korea Zinc agree to build nickel refinery in South Korea.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• South America
  ○ Brazil: Horizonte Minerals [14.11.23]
    ▪ Horizonte announces reduction of construction activities at their Araguaia Nickel Project, and work to be done on a financing solution with senior lenders and shareholders.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Rare Earth Elements

• Asia
  ◦ China [03.11.23]
    ▪ China doubles down on strategic rare earths, regulating exports via a quota system following restrictions on graphite.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ◦ USA: University of Alaska Fairbanks
    ▪ University leads project to extract REEs from Southeast Alaskan seaweed, 1 of 3 ‘algal mining’ projects funded by US Department for Energy.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ◦ USA: Brook Coal Mine [01.12.23]
    ▪ Wall Street banker pays $2 million for Brook coal mine in Wyoming only to discovers $37 billion worth of REEs.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ◦ Australia: Ionic Rare Earths [09.11.23]
    ▪ Western miners target China’s rare earth metals grip with premium prices
    ▪ Read the article here.
Tin

• Africa
  ○ Namibia [16.11.23]
    ▪ Namibia-focused metals and mining company Andrada Mining has received $25-million in funding from Orion Resource Partners.
    ▪ Read the article here.

Tungsten

• Europe
  ○ Spain: Tomra Mining [30.11.23]
    ▪ Installation of X-Ray transmission ore sorter at Saloro Tungsten mine in Barruecopardo boosts grade and reduces costs.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ Canada: Happy Creek Minerals [10.11.23]
    ▪ Happy Creek receives amended exploration permit for Fox Tungsten project in British Columbia, allowing for extensive drilling, trenching and trail construction through late 2027.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Vanadium

- Africa
  - South Africa: Vanadium Resources [16.11.23]
    - Mineral exploration company Vanadium Resources (VR8) increases its stake in Vanadium Resources (VanRes) to 86.49% from 81.90%.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- North America
  - USA: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory [30.11.23]
    - Vanadium redox flow battery with 24-hour discharge duration to be built and tested in joint project between PNNL and technology provider Invinity Energy Systems.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- Oceania
  - Australia: Tivan Ltd [31.10.23]
    - Resource and mineral processing technology company works with Larrakia Energy on potential PPA to secure renewable energy for its vanadium electrolyte facility in the Northern Territory.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY

  - Register here

FEBRUARY

- HYVE | Invest in Mining Indaba 2024 | CTICC, Cape Town, South Africa | 5 - 8 February
  - Register here

MARCH

- Prospector and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) | PDAC 2024: The World’s Premier Mineral Exploration & Mining Convention | Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Canada | 3 - 6 March 2024
  - Register here

Interested in upcoming events?
Contact eileen@criticalmineral.org