CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2023

UK CRITICAL MINERALS REFRESH

FCDO INDIGENOUS CANADA MINING FORUM

MINES AND MONEY CONNECT LONDON 2023

CMIC RELEASES UNPRECEDENTED GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Welcome to our April CMA monthly newsletter featuring updates on the critical minerals space. Read on for:

- UK Critical Minerals Refresh
- CMIC Releases Unprecedented Geological Survey of the UK
- CMA & FCDO: ESG+Indigenous Canada Mining Forum
- CMA & Government of Saskatchewan Webinar
- UK APPG for Critical Minerals Hosts Lithium Roundtable
- Mines and Money Connect London 2023 with CMA USA
- RSC & CMA Webinar on EU Battery Regulation Impacts
- APC UK Hosts Parliamentary Reception for New Batteries Report
- First Quantum Metals Partners with Rio Tinto
- Tirupati Graphite Acquires Suni Resources
- Critical Cartography: the Geopolitics of Critical Minerals
- E-Tech Resources Yields Promising Developments
- CBC The House Episode: Canada & Critical Minerals
- GeoLogica Workshop on Critical Mineral Exploration
- News Round Up
- Events Calendar

From Kirsty, Jeff, Olimpia, Eileen & Sam

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This month's newsletter has been put together by Eileen Maes.

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

The CMA is pleased to note that many of the recommendations in our 2022 papers – ‘A Talent Pipeline’, ‘Mineral Rights’, ‘Planning & Permitting’, and ‘A Blueprint for Responsible Sourcing’ – have been recognised in the Refresh on enabling domestic production of critical minerals.

Read on for the CMA's in-depth evaluation of the Refresh, including its highlights, omissions, and strength compared to the approaches of the US and EU.

**READ ON HERE**
On behalf of the government-funded UK Critical Minerals Intelligence Centre, geologists at the British Geological Survey (BGS) have identified eight prospective areas as part of a national-scale assessment of the geological potential of critical minerals in the UK.

Regions from Scotland’s Highlands to south-west England have been identified as possessing the right geology to yield 18 metals and minerals labelled by ministers as critical to economic security.

The study is one of the UK’s first steps towards realising its Critical Minerals Strategy, which aims to make the UK more resilient to disruption in critical mineral supply chains by accelerating the growth of domestic capability.

CMA is delighted to see that such comprehensive geological mapping has taken place, and looks forward to seeing the data help domestic exploration and mining projects.

READ ON HERE
On 29-30 March, the British High Commission in Vancouver organised a mission for Canadian Indigenous leaders to visit London and meet with government, mining companies and investors. CMA supported the event by inviting its industry members and mining companies looking to invest in mineral exploration in Canada to participate in the roundtable discussions at the Geological Society in London.

The Indigenous leaders at the event demonstrated the sophistication and curiosity with which their communities approach mining on their land, and shared a new approach to Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) centred around Indigenous agency in business.

CMA looks forward to continuing to engage with Indigenous communities and the British High Commission in Canada on this important topic. For an in-depth account of the day and its discussions, read the article on our website below.

READ ON HERE
In partnership with CMA UK, the Government of Saskatchewan is hosting an online webinar on May 10, with a spotlight on the province’s critical minerals sector.

The event will feature talks with representatives of the provincial government (and a Q&A session) including:
- Kirk Brecht, Executive Director of Mineral Policy at the Ministry of Energy & Resources;
- Robin Speer, Director of Investment Relations at the Ministry of Trade and Export Development;
- Dr. Muhammed Imran, Vice President of the Rare Earth Element Division at the Saskatchewan Research Council;
- Jackie Demerse -Abbasi, Director of Indigenous Economic Development, Ministry of Trade & Export Development;
- Sheldon Wuttunee, President & CEO of the Saskatchewan First Nations Natural Resource Centre of Excellence.

**REGISTER HERE**

**ONLINE WEBINAR**

CMA & Government of Saskatchewan

**CRITICAL MINERALS STRATEGY**

Including opportunities for investors/partners; applied R&D, demonstration, & technology commercialisation; and Indigenous engagement

**MAY 10, 3:00 - 4:30PM (BST)**

CMA invited its members Weardale Lithium, British Lithium, Green Lithium, and Mayer Brown to join the roundtable, as well as other UK companies such as Tees Valley Lithium. The Vice Chair of the APPG, the Rt. Hon Baroness Northover, moderated the roundtable, asking for insights from industry about what UK Government can do to ensure security of lithium supply for net zero.

Lithium and other critical minerals have the potential to not only ensure the energy transition but bring thousands of the jobs to the island and boost the economy. Thank you everyone who attended the event, including members of industry, finance, and media in the audience who contributed to discourse.
Mines and Money Connect London returned to County Hall this April due to overwhelming demand since its knockout success in May 2022.

With over 500 attendees, including mining companies, investors, and service providers, this event was a hub for networking, high-class content, and business meetings.

The programme covered key topics such as Financing the Energy Transition, Industry Preparation for Critical Mineral Demand, and Supply Chain Risks & Opportunities. CMA co-founder Jeff Townsend chaired a keynote panel addressing the question of what the term ‘critical mineral’ means in the year 2023.

CMA UK was also delighted to be accompanied at the conference by Wilfredo Rayes, founder and CEO of our sister association CMA USA, which was launched in February at Mines and Money Miami.
In partnership with the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Critical Minerals Association hosted an online webinar on 3 April exploring the impacts of new EU battery regulations on the UK battery materials sector.

The panel discussion was chaired by Dr Lucy Smith (Materials Processing Institute) and featured a panel of battery experts: Dr Laura Lander (King's College London), Dr Jordan Lindsay (Minviro), Chris O'Brien (AMTE Power), and Tom Fairlie (Cobalt Institute).

Our experts discussed how EU regulations might be applied to the UK, such as in the case of battery design and occupational exposure limits, and the type of collaboration required from stakeholders in the value chain to overcome obstacles to the advent of the circular economy.

WATCH THE WEBINAR HERE
On the 26th April, the Advanced Propulsion Centre (APC UK) hosted a reception at the Houses of Parliament to celebrate the launch of their new report, 'Business Critical: Building a net-zero supply chain'.

The event featured speeches from Ian Constance, the CEO of APC UK; Matt Western MP, a vocal supporter of bolstering the UK's EV sector; and Helen Waters from Metals Recycling Reimagined.

CMA co-founder Kirsty Benham also delivered a speech about the importance of securing critical minerals for achieving the UK's net-zero ambitions, especially in light of recent competitive legislation published by the US and EU.

READ THE REPORT HERE
Rio Tinto has reached an agreement with First Quantum Minerals to form a joint venture to unlock the development of the La Granja copper project in Peru, one of the largest undeveloped copper deposits in the world.

Rio Tinto acquired the La Granja project from the Peruvian government in 2006 and has since established partnerships with host communities, local and national governments. They have also carried out an extensive drilling program that expanded the declared resource and understanding of the orebody.

“La Granja is an exciting but complex project that has the potential to be a significant new source of the copper that is needed for the energy transition,” said Bold Baatar, chief executive of Rio Tinto Copper.

READ ON HERE
Tirupati Graphite plc is pleased to announce that they've successfully acquired Suni Resources, the Mozambique subsidiary of Battery Minerals Limited.

The Acquisition includes all assets, infrastructure, permits, licenses, and intellectual property associated with the Montepuez Project and Balama Central Project in Mozambique. The projects are world-class additions to Tirupati Graphite’s existing portfolio of graphite assets in Madagascar.

The acquisition of Suni Resources will be instrumental in providing Tirupati Graphite with the required resources to achieve its ambition of providing 8% of the estimated global flake graphite demand. As the energy transition gathers pace and the global need for critical minerals increases, the flake graphite market is forecast to reach 5 million tonnes per annum of new demand by 2030.

MORE ON TIRUPATI GRAPHITE HERE
The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3) published an article this month by Olimpia Pilch (Business & International Partnerships Manager, CMA UK) called 'Critical Cartography: the Geopolitics of Critical Minerals'.

Olimpia's article navigates today's geopolitics precisely and eloquently, discussing supply chain monopolisation, nationalisation on the rise, the Great Western Alliance, and her outlook for the future.

"Critical minerals, not so long ago an exotic species of metals and minerals, is now a buzzword across academia, governments and industry. Increasingly, it's an unchartered territory for some diplomats who must navigate the opaque waters of supply chains. Since the Western world has slowly arisen from its myopic slumber, geopolitics have been playing out in real time..."

READ ON HERE
E-Tech Resources Inc. has announced promising results from its ongoing prospective surveys in Namibia.

Their most recent prospecting and sampling programme demonstrates that the Eureka Dome has the potential to be well-endowed with rare earth elements (REEs). They have also reported promising soil sample results from a drill target not far north of its Eureka project, called the 'Adder target'.

E-Tech Resources is a REE exploration and development company focused on developing its Eureka Project in Namibia. Namibia is recognised as one of Africa’s most politically stable jurisdictions, with a well-established national infrastructure and clear, transparent mining laws.
On the 25th of April, CMA co-founder Kirsty Benham & Satarla ESG consultant Rose Clarke presented on the UK's Critical Minerals Strategy.

The event opened up a lively discussion on mineral rights, planning & permitting, and the importance of developing a talent pipeline, with stakeholders including surveyors and lawyers in the minerals sector.

Kirsty emphasised the importance of open dialogue and collaboration on topics such as mineral rights and looks forward to continuing conversations with RICS and conference attendees. Rose highlighted the importance of considering global ESG standards in local planning processes.

Emily Noble, Future Careers Manager at Minerals Matter also shared her important work in increasing engagement around the minerals sector with young people.

DETAILS HERE
CBC News’ recent episode of the House-- 'Mission Critical: Is Canada lagging behind in the critical minerals race’-- dives into Canada’s efforts to become a global leader in critical minerals. From its importance to the economy, to the environment and First Nations, The House dives into why everyone’s talking about critical minerals.

The episode includes interviews with Hugues Jacquemin and Kirsty Liddicoat, executives of Northern Graphite. With the only operating graphite flake mine in North America, Northern Graphite is at the heart of Canada’s push for critical minerals.

The episode also interviews Mark Podlasly, the Director of Economic Policy at the First Nations Major Projects Coalition, who talks about his efforts to help Indigenous Canadians secure their interests; and Canada’s Natural Resources Minister Jonathan Wilkinson, who illuminates how the Canadian Government is and should be responding to the new ‘gold rush’.

LISTEN TO THE EPISODE HERE
Demand for critical minerals is surging as society transitions to clean energy. But despite hundreds of mineral projects being undertaken, only a few have yielded viable deposits. The good news is that there's a more efficient way to approach critical minerals exploration.

Join Graham Banks, Steve Fehr, Rob Hearst, Amit Sharma, and Colm Murphy in their upcoming training course from May 9-12, in which you will:

- Understand the techniques & tasks of an industry exploration geoscientist;
- Put a mineral exploration project into province, mineral system, and play context;
- Adapt best practice exploration techniques from other commodities;
- Estimate migration pathways and deposition locations;
- Design a mineral system framework;
- Integrate ESG factors into the exploration workflow.

**REGISTER FOR THE WORKSHOP HERE**
Responsible Raw Materials will be hosting their fourth annual conference, *Material Value Chains: The Criticality of Trust*, from 9-12 May. The conference will focus on building bridges to enable real change within material value chains.

To build responsible value chains we need to agree on common objectives, improve quality of dialogue, foster trust, and facilitate innovation. These are the themes to be explored over the course of the week by speakers such as Nusrat Ghani MP, Minister of State at the Department for Business & Trade; co-founder of the Critical Minerals Association (CMA UK), Jeff Townsend; and Namali Mackay, Managing Director of our sister association, CMA Australia.

Find our more about Responsible Raw Materials, the conference agenda, and how to register down below.

**CLICK HERE**
The following March news articles from Argus Media, Mining Weekly, Mining Magazine, 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

• Africa
  ○ DRC: CMOC Group Ltd. [19.04.23]
    ▪ Chinese company resolves long-running spat over mining royalties in DRC, potentially releasing massive stockpiles of battery metals into the global market.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ○ Australia: Cobalt Blue Holding Ltd. [21.03.23]
    ▪ Cobalt Blue on track to release Broken Hill Cobalt Project DFS in Q3 amid improving cobalt market.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Europe
  ○ Finland: Latitude 66 [21.03.23]
    ▪ Latitude 66 confirms another cobalt-gold discovery in Finland.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ USA: Electra Battery Materials [10.03.23]
    ▪ Electra Battery upgrades Iron Creek cobalt-copper resource, paving the way for PEA.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Copper

• Asia
  ○ Indonesia: Freeport Indonesia [01.03.23]
    ▪ Following heavy flooding that damaged the plant, FXC announces the Grasberg mine is back in production.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ USA: Rio Tinto [22.03.23]
    ▪ Rio Tinto & US Government close in on a land swap deal for the Resolution Copper project, which would supply 1/4 of US copper demand for the energy transition.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ○ Canada: Hudbay [13.04.23]
    ▪ Hudbay buys Copper Mountain Mining for $439m, adding 44ktpa to its copper portfolio to become 3rd largest producer in Canada.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• South America
  ○ Chile: Codelco [04.04.23]
    ▪ Codelco on track to lose its crown as king of copper as Chilean copper production falls another 3.4% (YoY).
    ▪ Read the article here.
Graphite

• North America
  ○ USA: General Motors [11.04.23]
    ▪ GM have another go at Direct Lithium Extraction (DLE), this time by investing in tech startup EnergyX.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Africa
  ○ Madagascar: NextSource Materials [23.03.23]
    ▪ NextSource’s Molo graphite mine in Madagascar enters commissioning phase.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ○ Tanzania: Evolution Energy Minerals [20.03.23]
    ▪ Chilalo confirmed as low-capex, high-margin graphite project.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Europe
  ○ Serbia: Belkalhan [09.03.23]
    ▪ Serbian graphite & calcite Belkalhan mining company to supply EU battery market and pharma/chemical.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Lithium

• Africa
  ▪ Zimbabwe, Namibia: Huayou Cobalt [22.03.23]
    ▪ Huayou starts trial production at Zimbabwe lithium mine, invests in Namibian project.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ▪ Zimbabwe: Galileo [23.03.23]
    ▪ Galileo identifies four lithium, tin, rare earth anomalies on Kamativi licence.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ▪ Mali: Leo Lithium [23.02.23]
    ▪ Africa’s first lithium mine on track as Leo Lithium eyes Mali DSO sales in 2023.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ▪ Australia: Albemarle Corp. [27.03.23]
    ▪ World’s largest lithium producer makes a third unsuccessful bid (A$5.5bn) for Liontown Resources.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ▪ Australia: Pilbara [13.03.23]
    ▪ Pilbara approves capacity increase at its Pilgan plant, aiming to boost spodumene concentrate production by 47%.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Manganese

• Africa
  ○ Morocco: Elcora [15.03.23]
    ▪ Elcora to acquire past-producing Moroccan manganese mine.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• South America
  ○ Peru: Tartisan Nickel Corp. [24.03.23]
    ▪ Tartisan Has Completed First Pass Exploration Review of the Manganese ('Mn') Potential on the 100% Owned Don Pancho Property.
    ▪ Read the article here.

  ○ Brazil: Buritirama Mineracao [22.03.23]
    ▪ Brazilian manganese miner Buritirama unveils nearly US$200mn plan.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Nickel

• Asia
  ○ Indonesia: Merdeka Battery Materials [18.03.23]
    ▪ Second nickel firm in Indonesia to go public this year, with plans to raise up to $580m in initial public offering in April.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Finland: Eurobattery Minerals [21.03.23]
    ▪ Eurobattery Minerals ups stake in Hautalampi nickel-cobalt-copper project in Finland.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ Canada: Canada Nickel [15.03.23]
    ▪ Canada Nickel reports high nickel recoveries at Reid project.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Canada: EV Nickel [01.03.23]
    ▪ EV Nickel's stock soars after announcing ‘enormous’ mineral resource in Ontario.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Asia
  ○ Indonesia: TPB [15.03.23]
    ▪ Indonesia nickel miner plans up to $647 million IPO.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Rare Earth Elements

• Asia
  ○ China: Ministry of Industry & Information Technology [24.03.23]
    ▪ China will mine 19% more REEs in 2023, quota set at 120 kilotonnes.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Canada: Golden Goliath Resources [03.03.23]
    ▪ Golden Goliath to acquire Canadian rare earth element prospect.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ○ Australia [28.02.23]
    ▪ Australia blocks Chinese investor from raising stake in rare earths miner.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Australia: Eastern Metals Ltd. [20.03.23]
    ▪ Eastern Metals sets sights on high-grade rare earths at former base and precious metals mine on Tara licence.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Tin

- Asia
  - Myanmar & China [17.04.23]
    - Tin prices surge 11% in China as rumours circulate of a mining ban on major ore producer Myanmar.
    - Read the article here.

- South America
  - Peru: Minsur [28.02.23]
    - Losses from major tin mine in Peru exceed $100 mln as unrest continues.
    - Read the article here.

- Africa
  - DRC: Rome Resources Ltd. [22.03.23]
    - Rome Resources Identifies Significant Near Surface Tin, Copper and Zinc Mineralisation in the Ongoing Maiden Drilling Programme at Bisie North Tin Project.
    - Read the article here.

Tungsten

- Europe
  - UK: Tungsten West [13.03.23]
    - Tungsten West appoints new CEO to secure ‘pivotal’ Devon mine funds.
    - Read the article here.
Vanadium

• South America
  ◦ Brazil: Largo [10.03.23]
    ▪ Vanadium producer Largo reports net loss of $2.2M in ‘challenging’ 2022.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ◦ Australia: Australia Vanadium [16.03.23]
    ▪ Australian Vanadium secures site for flow battery electrolyte plant in Western Australia.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ◦ Australia: Vecco Group [08.03.23]
    ▪ Vecco starts work on vanadium battery facility.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ◦ New Zealand: Manuka Resources [01.03.23]
    ▪ Manuka Resources reports 1.6Mt maiden Taranaki vanadium resource.
    ▪ Read the article here.
MAY

- CMA & Government of Saskatchewan Webinar: *Saskatchewan's Critical Minerals Sector* | Online | 10 May
  - Register here

- New Private Market: **Impact Investor Global Summit** | London, UK | 16 - 17 May
  - Register here

AUGUST

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

NOVEMBER

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

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

Interested in speaking and / or attending?

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