CMA (UK) co-hosts events with UK government at PDAC 2024

APPG on Critical Minerals hosts Minister Ghani in conversation with Ed Conway

UK welcomes Kazakh-Mongolian Critical Minerals trade delegation
Welcome to the CMA (UK) Monthly Newsletter, featuring updates on the critical minerals space. Read on for:

- UK Industry Minister Moves to Foreign Office
- CMA (UK) and UK Government Host Joint Events at PDAC 2024
- APPG on Critical Minerals Hosts Minister Ghani and Ed Conway
- UK Welcomes Kazakh-Mongolian Critical Minerals Trade Delegation
- Minister Ghani Visits South West England Critical Minerals Projects
- CMA (UK) Attends UK-US Critical Minerals R&D Workshop
- Aberdeen Minerals Announces Equity Financing from CAML
- Cornwall Resources Expands Exploration License to Tamar Valley
- Critical Productions (CP) Interviews CMIA on Alternative Financing
- EU Expands Horizon Europe with Norway and Korea
- Register for Innovation and Infrastructure Zero 2024 in London
- UK bids to host Geological Congress 2028
- Camborne School of Mines Offers Geology & Mining Scholarships
- University of Exeter Partners With UN-backed Research Centre
- CMA (UK) Celebrates Women in Mining for International Women's Day
- Dalradian completes first step of planning inquiry process
- Critical Minerals Initiative Turkiye's Summit
- News Round Up
- CMA (UK) Kirsty Benham Joins E-Waste World 2024 Advisory Board
- Register for E-Waste World Conferences & Expos 2024
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Subscribe to our monthly newsletter by joining our mailing list under 'Contact'

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

Would you like to feature in a future edition? Contact our editor Eileen at eileen@criticalmineral.org
On 26 March, a minor cabinet reshuffle resulted in Minister Nusrat Ghani transitioning from the UK’s Department for Business and Trade to assume the role of Minister for Europe at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

As the Department for Business & Trade Minister responsible for critical minerals, Minister Ghani worked tirelessly to promote critical minerals and support the sector in the UK and abroad. On behalf of the Critical Minerals Association (UK), we thank Minister Ghani for her hard work, bringing an important UK presence to international events and continuously engaging with industry on policies. Congratulations on your new appointment in the FCDO.

READ ON HERE
From 3 - 6 March, the global mining community descended on Toronto for the world’s largest mining conference, PDAC 2024. The Critical Minerals Association (UK) co-hosted our 2nd Networking Breakfast with the Department for Business and Trade and the British High Commission Ottawa, as well as a panel discussion with UK-based ESG service providers.

We were pleased to welcome and hear from British Deputy High Commissioner to Canada David Prodger, British Consul General to Toronto Fouzia Younis, and the Rt Hon François-Philippe Champagne, Canada’s Minister for Innovation, Science and Industry.

Click the link below to access our most recent article, which provides photos and details about CMA (UK)’s and UK Government’s events and activities at PDAC 2024.

READ ON HERE
On 13 March, the APPG for Critical Minerals was pleased to host Minister Ghani in conversation with Ed Conway, the Economics Editor of Sky News, at the Houses of Parliament.

Cherilyn Mackrory MP, Chair of the APPG for Critical Minerals, welcomed attending members of UK industry, government, academia and support services. “We are united by an interest in critical minerals,” said Cherilyn, and thanked the Critical Minerals Association (UK) for its work.

Minister Ghani then had an open discussion with Ed Conway, author of ‘Material World’. Together they explored and highlighted issues such as progress since the Critical Minerals Refresh (March 2023), bilateral and multilateral partnerships, the diminishing talent pipeline (which Minister Ghani said the UK needs to do more to address), geopolitical developments, investment, energy costs and subsidies, the role of industrial clusters, and improving the UK’s metals recycling capability and waste legislation.

READ ON HERE
From 11-15 March, the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) hosted a delegation of Kazakh and Mongolian ministers and government officials on a tour of the UK’s various minerals mining, processing and recycling projects.

The delegation was greeted on their first day with an event in central London, featuring presentations, B2B meetings, and a welcome speech from DBT Minister Nusrat Ghani MP.

The next day the delegation commenced a 4-day tour of the UK, visiting companies such as our members Imerys British Lithium, Cornish Lithium, Cornwall Resources, Less Common Metals, Green Lithium, and the Materials Processing Institute. The delegation also visited the Critical Minerals Intelligence Centre, British Geological Survey and Camborne School of Mines.

Thank you to Assel Zhanbulatova and her team for organising this trip; the CMA (UK) was delighted to join the delegation in London and Oxford. We look forward to strengthening UK-Central Asian collaboration on critical minerals following the signing of a strategic cooperation agreement by Kazakh Vice Minister of Industry and Construction Iran Sharkhan and Minister Ghani.

READ ON HERE
On 22 March, Nusrat Ghani MP, then Minister for Industry and Economic Security, travelled to South West England to visit and tour Cornish Metals Inc.’s South Crofty mine and Imerys British Lithium’s pilot plant.

Along with her ministerial team, she was joined by Cherilyn Mackrory MP, Chair of the APPG on Critical Minerals; Steve Double MP, Vice Chair of the APPG; Matt Hatfield, Head of Critical Minerals and Mining at the Department for Business and Trade; and staff from the Camborne School of Mines.

“I am absolutely delighted to see for myself how we are building on this wealth of expertise and promoting the Southwest as a world-class mining and mineral hub, boosting jobs, growth and levelling-up both here and across the UK,” said Minister Ghani.
On 1 March, the CMA (UK) attended the UK-US Critical Minerals R&D Workshop at the Field Museum in Chicago.

Organised by the UK Science and Innovation Network in the USA (SIN USA) and the US Department of Energy's Critical Materials Innovation Hub (CMI), the workshop convened R&D stakeholders from academia, industry, and government to discuss the latest advances in developing resilient and sustainable critical minerals supply chains.

Critical minerals are essential for technologies across a range of UK-US collaborations, such as next-generation batteries and quantum devices. The workshop fostered connections and rich discussions about potential partnerships, which CMA (UK) and SIN USA looks forward to supporting.

The workshop concluded with a drinks reception at the British Residence, hosted by the UK Consulate Chicago.
If we are to reach Net Zero, we will need to extract critical minerals in volumes never before seen. And we simply cannot deliver on these goals without the proper financing. Some analysts predict the world will need between $2 to $6 trillion to meet climate goals. Significant funding is being poured across many sectors, but the complexity of decarbonisation means that not enough finance is being poured into key but neglected parts of the supply chain.

In an interview with Critical Productions (CP), Jeff Townsend and Olimpia Pilch from the Critical Minerals International Alliance (CMIA) discuss alternative financing options, speak to experts who have utilised these methods, for instance Cornish Lithium, and promote the findings of the Critical Minerals Association (UK)'s 2023 paper on Financing the Future.

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE
On 21 March, the EU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Norway on developing sustainable land-based raw materials and battery value chains. This strategic partnership builds on the EU-Norway Green Alliance, announced by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre in April 2023.

The MoU offers a comprehensive framework for ‘future-oriented and long-term cooperation between the EU and Norway, centred around closer integration of their supply chains due to their geographical proximity.

In addition to Norway, from 2025 onwards Korea is set to join the growing group of nations associated to Horizon Europe, the EU’s research and innovation programme and the largest of its kind in the world, with €95.5bn in funding.

READ ON HERE
Innovation Zero is the UK’s largest Net Zero congress, taking place on 30 April - 1 May 2024 at Olympia, London.

Supported by the UK Government, this free-to-attend event connects more than 12,000 innovators, investors, funders, policymakers, and businesses across multiple sectors and 14 specialised forums—on energy, finance, transport, infrastructure, technology and more—to accelerate the transition towards a low carbon economy.

Founder of the Critical Minerals International Alliance (CMIA) Jeff Townsend will be moderating a panel on ‘Delivering Critical Minerals Resilience’ alongside the Rt Hon Baroness Northover, Rt Hon Alexander Stafford MP and Simon Pople.

REGISTER HERE
Contact events@criticalmineral.org for information about CMA (UK)’s side event on the 30 April at 8am.
The British Geological Survey, the Geological Society of London, and the Scottish Geology Trust have announced a joint bid to host the 38th International Geological Congress (ICG) in Glasgow.

The ICG, founded in 1878, convenes every four years as an international forum. It serves as a platform for fostering dialogue and sharing progress across geoscience disciplines by engaging with participants from industry, governments, policymakers, and academia worldwide.

The ICG Glasgow 2028 bid website states: “Scotland is at the frontier of geoscience innovation in the context of the transition to a decarbonised world...forward-looking activity is built on a foundation that dates back to the origin of our science, that has grown ever since, and been carried out by a diverse workforce drawn from all over the world. It is therefore appropriate that Scotland acts as a focal point, on behalf of the UK and Europe, to bring together the world’s geoscientists.”

If the UK’s bid proves successful, this event will mark the first time it has been hosted in the UK since 1948.

READ ON HERE
On 25 March, Aberdeen Minerals announced an equity financing of up £5.5 million to invest in its mineral exploration programmes for deposits of nickel, copper and cobalt in North East Scotland.

Responsibly sourced and secure supplies of these strategic raw materials used in batteries and electrification are critical to a just transition in Scotland and the UK.

The financing comprises of a conditional cornerstone investment from Central Asian Metals plc (CAML) of £3 million at 8.5 pence per share (p/ps) to acquire a 28.7% share, with warrants to be granted to CAML to invest an additional £2 million at 11p/ps which, if exercised, will bring CAML ownership to 37.8%.

READ ON HERE
On 20 March, Cornwall Resources Limited (CLR) announced that it has finalised and signed an Exclusivity and Prospecting Agreement with the Duchy of Cornwall.

The agreement is the first of its kind signed between a minerals exploration company and The Duchy in modern times, aimed at advancing commercialisation of The Duchy’s mineral rights. It is also a testament to CRL’s reputation, strong results record, and effective stakeholder engagement.

The exploration licence extends CLR’s exploration footprint to areas adjacent to their Redmoor Project in North and East Cornwall, within the Tamar Valley Mining District. The area is highly prospective areas and historically produced copper, tin, tungsten, and other base metals.
The Camborne School of Mines (CSM) is offering six £5,000 scholarships for exceptional students enrolling in 2024 on a mining or geology related course.

The scholarships will be supported by the CSM Trust, and are eligible for students with an offer to study on any of the following programmes:
- MSc Mining Engineering
- MSc Mining Environmental Management
- MSc Minerals Processing
- MSc Mining Geology
- MSc Exploration Geology
- MSc Geotechnical Engineering

The deadline for applications is 26 April 2024.
8 March was International Women’s Day, and the CMA (UK) celebrated it by highlighting the brilliant and inspiring women we know and work with in the mining sector.

A 2022 report from Ernst & Young Global Ltd. estimated that only 12% of the global mining and metals workforce is composed of women. And despite this, women have been at the forefront of every one of our initiatives. Out of the speakers for our 3rd Annual Conference, held on the 28 November 2023 in London, were 53% women.

The diversity of an industry reflects its capacity for resilience and innovation. As the energy transition gathers pace, the mining and metals sectors will prove to be among the most important sectors of our modern and green economy. Women have a big role to play in that transformation, and this role is sure to expand and contribute to the overcoming of many challenges.

READ ON HERE
On 1 March, the University of Exeter announced its partnership with a new United Nations-backed centre that will propel the transition to a future circular economy.

The International Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management in the Circular Economy--announced by Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Robbie Moore MP--will develop new approaches to the circular economy and resource efficiency in areas such as metals, construction and critical minerals.

It is the first centre of its type in the world, established in the UK in recognition of the world-leading expertise in circular economy at UK institutions, such as the University of Exeter. The new centre will formally open on April 2024, in collaboration with University College London (UCL), Brunel University, Swansea University and the British Geological Survey, who together contributed £1.85 million to fund the centre’s technical activities.

READ ON HERE
On 20th March Dalradian completed the first step in the public inquiry process on its planning application for a modern, underground, polymetallic mine in Tyrone.

Approximately 50 members of the public attended the pre-inquiry meeting at the Strule Arts Centre in Omagh to discuss arrangements, scheduling and procedures for the inquiry.

During the meeting, the next two steps in the process were moved two weeks later: 31st of May for submission of Statements of Case and 3rd of July for Rebuttals.

The next public step and the final step in the process, remains the same: commencement of the hearing is scheduled for 10th September 2024.

PUBLIC INQUIRY SCHEDULE

31st May – Deadline for Statements of Case

3rd July – Deadline for Rebuttals

10th September – Inquiry Hearing Begins
Critical Minerals International Alliance (CMIA) Founder and COO, Olimpia Pilch, will be delivering a keynote at the Critical Minerals Initiative Turkiye's Summit focusing on the global critical minerals outlook.

At the summit, delve into Turkey's untapped potential, revealing strategic positioning, resource wealth, and global opportunities.

The Summit is taking place from 24-25 April in Izmir, Turkiye.

**REGISTER 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: Sicomines [14.03.24]
    ▪ Chinese investors agree to invest up to $7 billion in infrastructure in Congo according to updated joint venture agreement.
      ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ DRC: Buenassa [05.03.24]
    ▪ Congolese company secures $3.5 million of initial funding for hydrometallurgical plant.
      ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ USA [15.03.24]
    ▪ Department of Defense has announced $7 million investment for a cobalt-nickel processing plant to improve domestic supply.
      ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ○ Australia: True North Copper Ltd [18.03.24]
    ▪ Promising results show anomalous copper cobalt zones at Mt. Oxide prospect project.
      ▪ Read the article here.
Copper

- **Asia**
  - Philippines: Celsius Resources Ltd [18.03.24]
    - Celsius acquires a 25-year long mining license for its Maalinao-Caigutan-Biyog Mining Project.
    - Read the article here.

- **Africa**
  - DRC: Barrick Gold Corp [22.03.24]
    - Barrick announces its intentions to explore and invest in more gold and copper deposits in the DRC following the success of its Kibali gold mine.
    - Read the article here.

- **Oceania**
  - Papau New Guinea: Freeport Resources Inc [19.03.24]
    - Canadian mineral exploration is seeking strategic partners for feasibility inspection of its Yandera copper project.
    - Read the article here.

- **South America**
  - Panama: First Quantum Minerals Ltd [06.03.24]
    - First quantum to allow public visits to Cobre Panamá mine to reduce mining misinformation.
    - Read the article here.

- **Europe**
  - Sweden: Boliden [19.03.24]
    - Rönnskär copper smelter to receive $463.5 million investment from Boliden to improve copper cathode production.
    - Read the article here.
Graphite

• Africa
  ○ Tanzania: Black Rock Mining Ltd [15.03.24]
    ▪ Black Rock Mining to receive loan worth $53.4m to finance Mahenge Graphite Project.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Madagascar: Tirupati Graphite PLC [11.03.24]
    ▪ Tirupati announces the completion of two graphite flake exploration projects in Madagascar.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ USA: Graphite One Inc [22.03.24]
    ▪ Ohio selected as location for Graphite One’s new graphite anode manufacturing plant.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ○ Australia: International Graphite [11.03.24]
    ▪ International Graphite acquires $1.3 million in funding through the Australian Research and Development (R&D) Tax Incentive Scheme.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Lithium

• Africa
  ○ Ghana: Atlantic Lithium Ltd [19.03.24]
    ▪ Atlantic lithium to conduct mineral resource estimate (MRE) upgrade following promising drilling results from its Ewoyaa lithium project.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]

• Europe
  ○ Austria: Critical Metals Corp [01.03.24]
    ▪ European Lithium merger with Sizzle Acquisition Corp creates new company; Critical Metals Corp.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]

• Oceania
  • Australia: Torque Metals Ltd [22.03.24]
    • Torque metals gears up for drilling programmes in Western Australia following successful $2.77m fundraising efforts.
    • [Read the article here.]

• South America
  ○ Argentina: Rio Tinto Group [19.03.24]
    ▪ Rio Tinto announces $350 million investment for Rincon lithium plant in Argentina.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]

  ○ Chile: CleanTech Lithium PLC [21.03.24]
    ▪ CleanTech Lithium achieves significant milestone at pilot plant with novel direct lithium extraction process.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]
Manganese

• Africa
  - Kenya: Marula Mining PLC [01.03.24]
    - Marula Mining acquires stake in Larisoro Manganese Mine, an open pit manganese mine in northern Kenya.
    - Read the article here.

• Asia
  - China: Firebird Metals Ltd [12.03.24]
    - Firebird Metals signs strategic cooperation agreement with China National Chemistry Southern Construction and Investment Co Ltd.
    - Read the article here.

• Oceania
  - Australia: Accelerate Resources Ltd [11.03.24]
    - Accelerate Resources prepares to drill in high grade manganese zone after signing Native Title and Heritage Exploration Agreement.
    - Read the article here.

  - Australia: South32 [17.03.24]
    - Major manganese ore producer suspends operations indefinitely after being hit by tropical cyclone.
    - Read the article here.
Nickel

• Africa
  ◦ Tanzania: Lifezone Metals Ltd [22.03.24]
    ▪ Lifezone has obtained a license for a processing facility Kabanga, allowing the company to process minerals from an undeveloped nickel sulphide deposits within Tanzania.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]

• Europe
  ◦ Greenland: Amaroq Minerals Ltd [01.03.24]
    ▪ Amaroq Minerals announces discovery of nickel-copper deposit in Southern Greenland at its Stendalen project.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]
  ◦ France [21.03.24]
    ▪ France sets March 31st deadline for New Caledonian’s nickel industry bailout as nickel prices continue to decline.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]

• Oceania
  ◦ Australia: Lunnon Metals Ltd [21.03.24]
    ▪ Lunnon Metals to conduct preliminary feasibility study in the Kambalda nickel belt.
    ▪ [Read the article here.]


Rare Earth Elements

• Asia
  ○ Malaysia [18.03.24]
    ▪ Malaysia seeks partnership with China to finance rare earth refinery.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Europe
  ○ UK: Ionic Rare Earths Ltd [24.03.24]
    ▪ Ionic Rare Earths to scale up production of rare earth oxides at its Belfast facility.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ○ USA: Department of Defense [11.03.24]
    ▪ USA’s department of defense announces plan to establish REE “Mine-to-Magnet” supply chain.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ○ Canada: Saskatchewan Research Council [14.03.24]
    ▪ Canada to invest $6 million for rare arth processing plant in Saskatchewan.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ○ Australia: Aruma Resources Ltd [05.03.24]
    ▪ Aruma Resources discover multiple high grade zones of rare earth elements at its Salmon Gums Project.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Tin

- Africa
  - Namibia: Uis Tin Mining Co [19.03.24]
    - Uis Tin Mining Company signs loan for N$175m from Bank Windhoek to improve facility operations.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- South America
  - Peru: Minsur [22.03.24]
    - Peru’s only tin producer announces plan to invest $400 million in its San Rafael mine.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

Tungsten

- Asia
  - China: Ministry of Natural Resources [19.03.24]
    - China reduces tungsten mining quota for the beginning of 2024 - 1.6% reduction from 2023 quota.
    - [Read the article here.](#)

- Europe
  - Austria: TOMRA Mining [22.03.24]
    - TOMRA reveal AI powered ore sorting technology at Mining Indaba exhibition following successful 18 month operation at Wolfram Bergbau & Hütten’s tungsten mine in Austria.
    - [Read the article here.](#)
Vanadium

• Asia
  ◦ South Korea: Standard Energy [05.03.24]
    ▪ Korean start-up company showcase new vanadium ion batteries with 1% degradation at Smart Energy Week exhibition.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• North America
  ◦ Canada: VanadiumCorp Resource Inc [19.03.24]
    ▪ VanadiumCorp electrolyte production plant in Quebec nears completion.
    ▪ Read the article here.

• Oceania
  ◦ Australia: Surefire Resources NL [05.03.24]
    ▪ Surefire Resources signs Memorandum of Understanding with Saudi Arabian company, Rasi Investment Company.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ◦ Australia: Toro Energy Ltd [18.03.24]
    ▪ Toro Energy prepares for drilling at Wiluna uranium-vanadium deposit in Western Australia.
    ▪ Read the article here.
  ◦ Australia: Australian Vanadium Ltd [25.03.24]
    ▪ Australian Vanadium sucessfully produces 99.9% ultra-high purity vanadium.
    ▪ Read the article here.
Founder and CEO of the Critical Mineral Association (UK), Kirsty Benham, has joined the Advisory Board for the E-Waste World Conference and Expo as their newest member.

Kirsty's background in critical minerals supply chains provides a wealth of expertise to the Board on sustainable practices. By providing a platform to connect Industry with UK Government, the CMA (UK) has been a driving force in reshaping how we approach critical raw material recovery, metal recycling and e-waste challenges.

Scheduled to speak at the E-Waste Conference on 26 June on ‘Regulation, Legislation and Compliance’, don't miss out on this opportunity to join Kirsty and thousands of other stakeholders in Messe Frankfurt.
E-Waste World, Europe's leading conference and exposition dedicated to electronics recycling, is returning to Messe Frankfurt in Germany from 26 - 27 June 2024.

Co-located and composed of three separate events (E-Waste World Conference & Expo, Battery Recycling Conference & Expo, and Metal Recycling Conference & Expo), this series allows for valuable multidisciplinary and cross-sector discussion on supply chain security, the e-waste challenge, and advancing towards sustainability and circularity.

The event will provide access to 200+ Exhibitors from around the world at the free-to-attend Expo, 3,000+ attendees, and a 4-stream Conference hosted by 100+ industry experts.

READ ON HERE
EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL

- IOM3 | PVC 2024 | Edinburgh International Conference Centre, UK | 15 - 18 April
  - Register here
- Clean Tech Events Ltd | Innovation Zero 2024 | Olympia London, UK | 30 April - 1 May
  - Register here

JUNE

- Durham University | Earth Sciences Department 11th Annual Conference | Durham, UK | 5 June
- Cornish Lithium, ABMEC Events | UK Mining Conference in Cornwall | Princess Pavilion, Falmouth, UK | 12 - 13 June
  - Register here

JULY

- Solar Media | Green Hydrogen Summit UK & Ireland | London, UK | 2 -3 July
  - Register here

Interested in upcoming events?
Contact eileen@criticalmineral.org