

World Renowned Critical Minerals Expert Constantine Karayannopoulos is Bullish on Lithium

written by InvestorNews | March 19, 2024

In an insightful interview with Tracy Weslosky of InvestorNews, Constantine Karayannopoulos, a renowned expert in the field of critical minerals, shared his perspectives on the current state and future prospects of the critical minerals market. Karayannopoulos highlighted the pivotal role of critical minerals such as rare earths, lithium, and nickel in the burgeoning sectors of battery technology and electric vehicles (EVs), underscoring the global buzz around these resources. He noted the current challenges faced by small companies in raising funds and the general market sentiment. Despite these hurdles, he expressed optimism, suggesting that the downturn in valuations and financing is temporary. "We're at close to or at the bottom of the cycle with a lot of these commodities," he stated, advising resilience for these firms in anticipation of a market rebound fueled by sustained demand for technologies reliant on critical minerals.

Karayannopoulos offered insightful commentary on the critical minerals market, particularly focusing on lithium and rare earths. With a bullish stance on lithium, he reminisced about the industry's past pricing projections and observed the current market's resilience despite recent price drops. "Lithium still is the workhorse in the battery space... for the next decade, lithium will be the workhorse of the EV battery," he affirmed, advocating for strategic investments in this area during market

lows. His observations extended to the rare earths market, noting its sensitivity to Chinese economic dynamics and the potential for price stabilization in the near term. Highlighting Brazil's emerging role in diversifying the global supply of heavy rare earths, he emphasized the importance of exploring favorable mineralogy and environmental practices in new geographies. This strategic diversification, he argued, is crucial for addressing the geopolitical and social concerns associated with current heavy rare earths sourcing, primarily from Myanmar.

To access the complete interview, [click here](#)

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Tom Drivas Explores the Initial Rare Earth Mineral Resource Estimate from Appia's PCH Ionic Adsorption Clay Project in Brazil

written by InvestorNews | March 19, 2024

In this interview with Tracy Weslosky during PDAC 2024, Tom Drivas, CEO and Director of [Appia Rare Earths & Uranium Corp.](#) (CSE: API | OTCQX: APAAF) discussed the results from the maiden [Mineral Resource Estimate](#) for Appia's PCH Ionic

Adsorption Clay Project in Brazil. Announcing a significant 52.8 million tonnes of resource, Tom highlighted the presence of extremely high-grades of rare earths within this resource, showcasing some of the highest TREO (total rare earth oxide) grades globally.

Tom emphasized the project's potential, stating, "We have only explored 1% of the total area... We have 40,000 hectares." Tom also highlighted the project's richness in magnet rare earths like neodymium and praseodymium, essential for producing permanent magnets in high demand. The addition of industry experts like Constantine Karayannopoulos, Jack Lifton and Don Hains, P. Geo to Appia's Advisory Board underscores the project's significance and potential.

Besides the project in Brazil, Appia is also advancing uranium exploration properties around the Athabasca Basin in Saskatchewan and has a significant uranium resource in Ontario at Elliot Lake. Notably, the company is also advancing its Alces Lake project in Saskatchewan, renowned for its high-grade critical rare earths in monazite.

To access the full interview, [click here](#)

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About Appia Rare Earths & Uranium Corp.

Appia is a publicly traded Canadian company in the rare earth element and uranium sectors. The Company is currently focusing on delineating high-grade critical rare earth elements and gallium on the Alces Lake property, as well as exploring for high-grade uranium in the prolific Athabasca Basin on its

Otherside, Loranger, North Wollaston, and Eastside properties. The Company holds the surface rights to exploration for 94,982.39 hectares (234,706.59 acres) in Saskatchewan. The Company also has a 100% interest in 13,008 hectares (32,143 acres), with rare earth elements and uranium deposits over five mineralized zones in the Elliot Lake Camp, Ontario. Lastly, the Company holds the right to acquire up to a 70% interest in the PCH Project (See June 9th, 2023 Press Release – Click [HERE](#)) which is 40,963.18 ha. in size and located within the Goiás State of Brazil. (See January 11th, 2024 Press Release – [Click HERE](#))

To learn more about Appia Rare Earths & Uranium Corp., [click here](#)

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Technology Metals Report (02.23.2024): Yellen to Visit Chile for Critical Minerals and Biden's EV Dreams Are a Nightmare for Tesla

written by Tracy Weslosky | March 19, 2024

Welcome to the latest issue of the Technology Metals Report (TMR), brought to you by the [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI). In this edition, we compile the most impactful stories shared by our members over the past week, reflecting the dynamic and evolving nature of the critical minerals and technology metals industry. From the Inflation Reduction Act's challenges for the American EV industry to China's lithium market developments and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's strategic visit to Chile, our report covers a wide array of developments crucial for stakeholders. The unveiling of Tesla Inc.'s (NASDAQ: TSLA) lithium refinery in Texas, alongside CATL's confirmation of its lithium mine's normal operations, paints a picture of the industry's efforts to navigate through pricing volatilities, supply chain complexities, and geopolitical tensions. Moreover, the significant moves by major financial institutions in the uranium market and Gecamines' strategic overhaul in the DRC underline the shifting paradigms in the mining and investment landscapes of technology metals.

This TMR report also highlights the broader implications of these developments on the global stage, including efforts to diminish reliance on China for essential metals, the impact of Tesla's pricing strategies on the used EV market, and the

strategic dialogues around rare earths markets. The visit by US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to Chile is spotlighted as a key initiative to bolster ties around critical minerals, emphasizing the urgency of diversifying supply chains amid growing demands for green transition materials. Additionally, the narrative around the challenges posed by the Inflation Reduction Act for Tesla and the US car industry, coupled with BHP's cautionary stance on the Australian nickel sector, illustrates the complex interplay between policy, market dynamics, and strategic resource management. As we delve into these stories, our aim is to provide a comprehensive overview that informs and stimulates discussion among policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders, navigating the intricate pathways towards a sustainable and competitive future for critical minerals and technology metals.

MP Materials swings to quarterly loss on falling rare earths prices (February 22, 2024, [Source](#)) – MP Materials Corp. (NYSE: MP) reported a fourth-quarter loss, attributed to declining rare earths prices and increased production costs, despite expectations of a larger deficit. Amidst unsuccessful merger discussions with Lynas Rare Earths Ltd. (ASX: LYC) and competition from Chinese firms, CEO Jim Litinsky emphasized the potential for mutual learning and cost reduction among companies. Despite a 2.7% drop in shares on Thursday, a slight recovery was observed in after-hours trading. The company experienced a significant shift from previous year's profit to a \$16.3 million loss. Sales of rare earths concentrate to China decreased by 34% due to lower production at its Mountain Pass mine, exacerbated by facility issues. However, MP is advancing in refining rare earths domestically, with ongoing projects in California and Texas, and has initiated production in a new facility in Vietnam.

Stalling the American EV Industry: The Unintended Consequences

of the Inflation Reduction Act's Attempt to Bypass China for Critical Minerals (February 22, 2024, [Source](#)) – The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), integral to President Joe Biden's environmental strategy, seeks to transition the American automotive industry towards a US-centric electric vehicle (EV) supply chain, reducing reliance on Chinese materials. This shift, exemplified by initiatives like Tesla Inc.'s (NASDAQ: TSLA) lithium refinery in Texas, aims to enhance the competitiveness of American-made EVs. However, the IRA's stringent requirements for sourcing materials domestically or from approved countries by 2024 pose significant challenges, complicating efforts by major manufacturers to maintain affordability and quality. Jack Lifton, an expert in the field, highlights the complexity of creating a new EV supply infrastructure and the strategic challenges of overtaking China's advanced position in the EV sector. The article emphasizes that realizing the IRA's vision demands innovation, strategic foresight, and time, presenting both obstacles and opportunities for the U.S. automotive industry in its quest for sustainability and energy independence.

Battery factories: Europe's mechanical engineering companies are lagging behind (February 22, 2024, [Source](#)) – The report "Battery Manufacturing 2030: Collaborating at Warp Speed" by Porsche Consulting and the German Engineering Federation (VDMA) highlights the expansion of battery factories, with around 200 set to be constructed worldwide in the next decade, predominantly in Europe. Despite this growth, European mechanical engineering firms are trailing behind their Asian counterparts, particularly in supplying high-tech equipment for these factories, with only 8% of such technology currently coming from Europe. This low market share limits Europe's influence on technical development in the battery sector. The study suggests that to avoid technological dependency and

enhance their market position, European companies must aim for at least a 20% market share, requiring significant growth and collaboration to offer integrated factory solutions competitive with turnkey plants from China. The study emphasizes the potential for growth and the critical need for European firms to innovate and collaborate to secure a substantial stake in the rapidly expanding battery production technology market, estimated at 300 billion euros by 2030.

“This is a very important article, because it illustrates that the EV battery manufacturing industry has become technologically dependent upon Chinese manufacturing technology for efficient and economical production. Is this the beginning of the end for any attempt by the non-Chinese world to catch up? No, we’ve already reached that point, and what other manufacturing industries in the West are circling the drain?” – Jack Lifton, CMI Co-Chair & Co-Founder

China’s CATL says its lithium mine operating normally (February 22, 2024, [Source](#)) – Chinese battery giant Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. (CATL) has confirmed that its lithium mine in Jiangxi province is operating normally, amidst market speculation of a halt due to falling lithium prices. The Jianxiawo mine, rich in hard rock lepidolite and a subsidiary of CATL, faced rumors of reduced or stopped production due to economic challenges. However, CATL asserts production is ongoing as planned, despite market rumors suggesting otherwise. After the Lunar New Year holiday, it was noted that only one of two production lines resumed operation. The mine, which began phase-one production recently, aims for a 200,000 tons capacity of lithium carbonate equivalent (LCE) upon completion of all phases. Despite high production costs compared to current market prices, analysts predict significantly lower output this year than initially expected, with potential delays in future expansion due to these costs. The speculation had earlier

boosted Australian lithium stocks.

China's lithium carbonate futures jump on talk of environmental crackdown (February 21, 2024, [Source](#)) – On Wednesday, China's lithium carbonate futures prices experienced a significant rally, driven by market speculation regarding potential environmental inspections in a key production area. This speculation raised concerns about possible output restrictions, leading to a 6.35% increase in the most-active July contract on the Guangzhou Futures Exchange, reaching 99,600 yuan per metric ton. Speculation centered around Yichun, a major lithium production city in Jiangxi province, facing environmental checks that could limit operations for producers failing to properly manage lithium slag. Despite these rumors, major producers in Jiangxi continued their operations as planned, with some undergoing scheduled maintenance. The price surge, reflecting concerns over supply constraints, followed a rally in Australian lithium stocks prompted by rumors that Chinese battery maker CATL had closed its Jianxiawo mine.

Yellen to Visit Chile in Push to Boost Ties on Critical Minerals (February 21, 2024, [Source](#)) – US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is scheduled to visit Chile next week as part of an effort to strengthen the United States' ties with Chile, focusing on the South American nation's significant role in the green transition through its contribution to renewable energy policies and as a supplier of critical minerals. This visit is a strategic move by the US to diversify its critical minerals supply chain and reduce its dependence on China, which currently leads the market for essential metals necessary for energy transition technologies. Chile, possessing one of the world's largest lithium reserves, is seeking foreign investment to expand its capacity within the global battery supply chain. The visit, which follows Yellen's attendance at a G20 finance ministers' meeting in Sao Paulo, aims to deepen bilateral

economic relations, particularly in the context of Chile's potential to benefit from President Biden's green stimulus program due to a free-trade agreement with the US, thereby supporting North American electric vehicle production.

Tesla's price cuts are driving down car values so much that EV makers are sending checks to leasing firms to compensate them (February 21, 2024, [Source](#)) – Tesla's price reductions have significantly lowered the resale value of used electric vehicles (EVs), prompting automakers to issue compensation to leasing companies like Ayvens to cover these losses. This adjustment comes as the industry is pushed to sell more EVs to avoid fines, with leasing firms seeking protections against further depreciation in the \$1.2 trillion second-hand car market. The demand for used EVs fell due to Tesla's price cuts, affecting companies that play a vital role in the corporate car market. To mitigate risks of depreciation, negotiations for buyback agreements and re-leasing options are underway. Regulatory pressures for lower fleet emissions compound the issue, as unstable used-EV pricing challenges the transition to electric mobility by 2035. Corporate shifts, like SAP SE discontinuing Teslas for employees, underscore the broader impacts of volatile EV pricing on the industry.

Biden's EV Dreams Are a Nightmare for Tesla and the US Car Industry (February 20, 2024, [Source](#)) – The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), initiated by President Joe Biden to foster a US-centric electric vehicle (EV) supply chain and reduce reliance on Chinese components, poses significant challenges for Tesla and other American car manufacturers. Despite Tesla's initial steps towards compliance, including sourcing batteries from within the US and building a lithium refinery in Texas, the company's substantial procurement of Chinese lithium-ion batteries underscores the complexity of shifting away from China's supply network. The IRA mandates stringent sourcing

requirements for battery components and raw materials, aiming to cut China's dominance in the EV sector. However, these measures have compelled carmakers to navigate a difficult transition, risking the affordability and competitiveness of EVs. As Tesla, GM, Ford, and others strive to adapt to these evolving standards and develop alternative supply chains, they face the daunting task of balancing economic, environmental, and strategic objectives in a rapidly changing global market dominated by geopolitical tensions and the strategic distribution of critical minerals.

Goldman, hedge funds step up activity in physical uranium as prices spike (February 20, 2024, [Source](#)) – Investment banks Goldman Sachs and Macquarie, along with some hedge funds, are increasingly engaging in the uranium market, driven by a spike in uranium prices to 16-year highs. While many banks remain cautious, these institutions are actively trading physical uranium and, in Goldman's case, its options. This shift is fueled by utilities' need for new supplies amid shortages. The interest in uranium is also growing among hedge funds and financial institutions, a notable change after the sector's stagnation post-Fukushima disaster. Uranium prices have doubled over the past year, reaching \$102 a pound, prompted by production cuts from top producers and a renewed interest in nuclear energy as a means to reduce carbon emissions. Goldman Sachs has also introduced options on physical uranium for hedge funds, marking a significant development in the market. This increased activity reflects a broader appeal of uranium to financial investors, with notable investments in physical uranium as well as equities related to the sector.

Gecamines plans overhaul of mining JVs in world's top cobalt supplier (February 20, 2024, [Source](#)) – Gecamines, the state miner of the Democratic Republic of Congo, is seeking to renegotiate terms of its copper and cobalt joint ventures to

increase its stakes and gain more control. Aiming to leverage global demand for minerals essential for the green energy transition, Gecamines plans to secure better off-take contracts and ensure local representation on venture boards for improved asset management. The strategy addresses past oversights, focusing on rectifying prolonged indebtedness and insufficient investment by some partners. Recent deals, like the one with China's CMOC Group, exemplify Gecamines' efforts towards securing equitable terms, demonstrating a push for enhanced returns, community benefits, and transparency in the world's top cobalt supplier and a leading copper producer.

Industry Leaders Lifton and Karayannopoulos China's Influence on Rare Earth Prices and Markets Today (February 19, 2024, [Source](#))

– In an insightful interview, Jack Lifton and Constantine Karayannopoulos delve into the complexities of the rare earths market. Karayannopoulos, wary of current market trends, notes a decline in prices for key elements like neodymium and praseodymium and maintains a cautious outlook due to the industry's cyclical nature. Lifton points out the impact of China's economic struggles on low rare earth prices, advocating for strategic investments in mining and processing at this juncture. Both experts discuss the discrepancy between market expectations and reality, particularly in the context of China's economic growth and the slower-than-anticipated expansion of its magnet industry, vital for electric vehicle production. They emphasize the significance of investing in raw materials and processing to navigate and leverage China's market dominance effectively, offering a comprehensive view on economic trends, geopolitical strategies, and investment opportunities in the rare earths sector.

BHP says Australian support for nickel miners 'may not be enough' to save industry (February 19, 2024, [Source](#)) – BHP Group (ASX: BHP | NYSE: BHP) warned that Australian government

efforts to support the nickel industry might not suffice amid challenges, as a write-off in its nickel operations led to a nearly 90% drop in first-half net profit. The crisis in Australia's nickel industry is due to a price collapse from a supply glut in Indonesia. Despite government measures like production tax credits and royalty relief, BHP's CEO, Mike Henry, suggested these might be inadequate due to structural market changes. BHP, facing a \$3.5 billion pre-tax impairment charge on its Nickel West operation, is contemplating suspending its activities there, despite healthy nickel demand from the electric vehicle sector. However, Henry highlighted copper, potash, and iron ore as stronger growth areas for BHP. The company announced a higher-than-expected interim dividend, reflecting robust copper and iron ore performance, and anticipates stability in commodity demand from China and India.

US Bid to Loosen China's Grip on Key Metals for EVs Is Stalling (February 19, 2024, [Source](#)) – The U.S. is striving to diminish its reliance on China for crucial metals like gallium and germanium, vital for electric vehicles and military technology. Efforts have been hampered by the diminished efficacy of the U.S. National Defense Stockpile and budget cuts, revealing vulnerabilities to supply shocks. Despite the Biden administration's initiatives to diversify metal sources through international deals and domestic projects, China's control over the global metal supply remains strong. Recent legislative reforms aim to enhance strategic stockpiling and procurement flexibility, but challenges in establishing a coherent strategy and securing stable mineral supplies continue. The situation underscores the complex dynamics of global supply chains and the critical nature of these metals for technological and defense applications.

JPMorgan, State Street quit climate group, BlackRock steps back (February 15, 2024, [Source](#)) – JPMorgan Chase and State Street's

investment arms exited the Climate Action 100+ coalition, a global investor group advocating for reduced emissions, withdrawing nearly \$14 trillion in assets from climate change initiatives. BlackRock scaled back its participation by shifting its membership to its international arm. These moves follow the coalition's request for members to intensify actions against companies lagging in emission reductions. Despite political pressure from Republican politicians accusing financial firms of antitrust and fiduciary duty breaches, none cited politics as a reason for their departure. State Street cited conflicts with the coalition's new priorities, which include engaging policymakers and public emission reduction commitments, as misaligned with its independent approach. BlackRock aims to maintain independence while prioritizing climate goals for its clients.

Investor.News Critical Minerals Media Coverage:

- February 22, 2024 – Stalling the American EV Industry: The Unintended Consequences of the Inflation Reduction Act's Attempt to Bypass China for Critical Minerals <https://bit.ly/3T8IpYE>
- February 22, 2024 – Revolutionizing Energy Storage with NEO Battery Materials' Strategic Advances in Silicon Anode Technology <https://bit.ly/3T5r080>

Investor.News Critical Minerals Videos:

- Industry Leaders Lifton and Karayannopoulos China's

Influence on Rare Earth Prices and Markets Today
<https://bit.ly/3SNSuZk>

Critical Minerals IN8.Pro Member News Releases:

- February 22, 2024 – American Rare Earths Announces A\$13.5m Placement to advance Halleck Creek Project
<https://bit.ly/3wuU1fB>
- February 22, 2024 – First Phosphate Project Receives Letter of Support from Mario Simard, Canadian Parliamentary Deputy for the Riding of Jonquière, Québec
<https://bit.ly/3S0AP3i>
- February 21, 2024 – Nano One Adds 4 More Lithium Battery Manufacturing Patents in Asia – Boosts Total to 40
<https://bit.ly/3I6EmFL>
- February 21, 2024 – Power Nickel Expands on High Grade Cu-Pd-Pt-Au-Ag Zone 5km northeast of its Main Nisk Deposit
<https://bit.ly/433eJj3>
- February 20, 2024 – American Clean Resources Group Acquires SWIS Community, LLC, an Environmental Water Technology Company <https://bit.ly/3T6iSis>
- February 20, 2024 – First Phosphate Provides Update on Plans for a Purified Phosphoric Acid Plant at Port Saguenay, Quebec <https://bit.ly/4bINVs4>
- February 20, 2024 – Western Uranium & Vanadium Receives over \$4.6M from Warrant Exercises <https://bit.ly/3UI3DxH>
- February 20, 2024 – Appia Unveils Significant REE, Cobalt and Scandium Assay Results From 47 RC Drill Holes at the Buriti Target Within Its PCH IAC REE Project, Brazil
<https://bit.ly/3ST4GIG>
- February 20, 2024 – Fathom Nickel Announces the Closing of

Its Second and Final Tranche of Private Placement
<https://bit.ly/3wjSSr7>

- February 20, 2024 – Canadian GoldCamps to Earn 50% of Murphy Lake for \$10M Exploration Spend
<https://bit.ly/4bBbtz0>

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Industry Leaders Lifton and Karayannopoulos China's Influence on Rare Earth Prices and Markets Today

written by InvestorNews | March 19, 2024

In a thought-provoking InvestorNews interview hosted by the [Critical Minerals Institute](#) founder [Tracy Weslosky](#), [Jack Lifton](#) and [Constantine Karayannopoulos](#), two renowned figures in the rare earths market, share their insights on the sector's current trends and future prospects. Constantine Karayannopoulos, reflecting on the state of the market, observes, "There is never a dull moment in the rare earths industry," highlighting the ongoing slide in prices for critical rare earth elements like neodymium and praseodymium. He expresses a cautious outlook, noting, "I'm a little pessimistic about the near term... it's a cyclical industry."

[Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI) Co-Chair Jack Lifton adds: "The low prices may be here for a while because the principal

producer in the world is China, and China's having a very bad time economically right now." He emphasizes the opportunities presented by the current market conditions for strategic investments, advising, "This is the ideal time for real mining and real processing companies to get into the game."

Karayannopoulos also touches on the disconnection between market interest and actual market trends, suggesting, "There's always a disconnect between reality versus expectation." He elaborates on the nuanced dynamics within China, mentioning, "The Chinese consumer has not stopped buying, China grew at 5% last year.. However, the main consumer of rare earths today, the magnet industry that feeds the electric vehicle production in China, it's not growing as fast as people thought it was going to grow."

Lifton further discusses the broader implications of supply and demand, cautioning, "As long as the supply is in excess, the prices are not going to go up." He also highlights the strategic importance of investments in raw material sources and processing capabilities, particularly in light of China's dominance in the market.

Through their conversation, Lifton and Karayannopoulos provide a nuanced analysis of the rare earths market, blending perspectives on economic trends, geopolitical strategies, and investment opportunities. To access the complete interview, [click here](#)

Tom Drivas on the 3 world-renowned rare earths experts on Appia's Critical Minerals Advisory Committee

written by InvestorNews | March 19, 2024

In a recent interview with host Tracy Weslosky, Tom Drivas, CEO and Director of [Appia Rare Earths & Uranium Corp.](#) (CSE: API | OTCQX: APAAF), [announced](#) the significant addition of Constantine Karayannopoulos to Appia's Critical Minerals Advisory Committee. Tom discussed how this move is a major endorsement of Appia's projects, given Constantine's reputation in the rare earths sector. Constantine, who is well known for his leadership in the critical mineral sector lead the Neo Materials deal by Molycorp in 2012 for C\$1.3 billion. He was also the co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Neo Lithium Corp. when it was sold to Zijin Mining Group Co., Ltd. for \$960 million in 2022.

Constantine Karayannopoulos joins Appia's Advisory team, alongside world renowned critical minerals expert and the co-founder and Co-Chair of the [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI) Jack Lifton. Jack who was the co-editor of the recently published textbook, [Rare Earth Metals and Minerals Industries: Status and Prospects 1st ed. 2024 Edition](#), is joined with Don Hains, P. Geo who is a Consulting Geologist and well-known expert in ionic clay projects. In this interview, Tom emphasizes how having three of the world-renowned rare earths experts on Appia's Critical Minerals Advisory Committee supports the commitment to leverage top-tier expertise to advance Appia's Projects in Canada and Brazil.

Appia's recent [announcement](#) of exceptional diamond drill results

from the PCH ionic adsorption clay project in Brazil was also discussed in the interview. These results have revealed significant concentrations of Total Rare Earth Oxide (TREO) within the top 20 meters from the surface. Tom added, “Just for comparison, there is a deposit that went into production in the same area, and their average grade is 1,200 parts per million (PPM). We’re getting up to 93,000 PPM.”

Moreover, Tom outlined Appia’s broader strategy, which encompasses both rare earths and uranium projects. Tom outlined Appia’s involvement in the uranium sector, noting several uranium projects in the Athabasca Basin in Saskatchewan and Ontario. With plans to [begin drilling](#) at the Loranger Uranium-Bearing Property in Saskatchewan, Tom explains how Appia is positioning itself to capitalize on the rising uranium market. To access the full interview, [click here](#)

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**Technology Metals Report
(02.11.2024) : Constantine
Karayannopoulos Resurfaces,**

Landmark \$18.8 Billion Cathode Supply Deal in Tennessee, and Canada Invests in Ucore

written by Tracy Weslosky | March 19, 2024

Welcome to the latest Technology Metals Report (TMR) where we highlight the top news stories that members of the [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI) have forwarded to us in the last week. Key highlights in this Technology Metals Report include significant developments such as Appia Rare Earths & Uranium Corp. enriching its advisory committee with the appointment of industry veteran Constantine Karayannopoulos, a move poised to strengthen its strategic capabilities in the critical minerals sector. Additionally, stories highlighted last week include Ford Motor Company's substantial \$4.7 billion loss in its electric vehicle (EV) segment for 2023, a figure that underscores the economic challenges facing companies transitioning to electric mobility.

Moreover, this edition of the TMR delves into Bora Mining Services' strategic acquisition in the Steenkampskraal Monazite Mine and the landmark \$18.8 billion cathode supply deal between General Motors and LG Chem, both of which underscore the strategic efforts to secure critical materials for the burgeoning EV market. The report also examines Hitachi Construction Machinery's innovations with its all-electric dump truck prototype, signaling a push towards sustainability in mining operations. Commentary on the EV market by industry expert Jack Lifton highlights the sector's challenges and misalignments with consumer preferences. Furthermore, Canada's advancement over China in the BloombergNEF Global Lithium-Ion Battery Supply Chain Ranking and the discontinuation of merger

talks between Lynas Rare Earths and MP Materials are highlighted, reflecting the dynamic nature and strategic maneuvers within the global critical minerals and electric vehicle sectors.

Appia Appoints Constantine Karayannopoulos as New Member to Its Critical Minerals Advisory Committee (February 9, 2024, [Source](#)) – [Appia Rare Earths & Uranium Corp.](#) (CSE: API | OTCQX: APAAF) announced the appointment of Constantine Karayannopoulos to its Advisory Committee, alongside rare earths experts Jack Lifton and Don Hains. Karayannopoulos, with a 30-year career in the rare earth and critical minerals sectors, including as President and CEO of [Neo Performance Materials Inc.](#) (TSX: NEO), brings significant expertise to Appia. His background includes pivotal roles in the industry, such as leading the first foreign company in China's Rare Earth industry and co-founding Neo Lithium Corp. His appointment, starting February 1, 2024, is set to enhance Appia's strategic capabilities in the critical minerals sector, supported by his consulting company, Kloni Inc. Appia has granted 300,000 options to Kloni Inc. as part of this agreement.

Rare Earths Discovery Near Wheatland So Big It Could Be World Leader (February 7, 2024, [Source](#)) – American Rare Earths Limited (ASX: ARR | OTCQB: ARRNF) has made a groundbreaking discovery near Wheatland, Wyoming, revealing 2.34 billion metric tons of rare earth minerals, significantly surpassing initial estimates and other local discoveries. This positions Wyoming as a key player in reducing reliance on China's rare earth market, vital for green energy technologies. With only 25% of their land explored, the potential for further discoveries is immense. The company, part of an Australian enterprise, plans scalable mining operations to meet the high global demand. This development, along with other explorations in Wyoming, could transform the U.S. into a major source of rare earth minerals, essential for a range of advanced technologies. Further economic and development

projections are anticipated, underlining Wyoming's emerging significance in the global rare earth industry.

Ford Lost \$4.7B On EVs Last Year, Or About \$64,731 For Every EV It Sold (February 7, 2024, [Source](#)) – Ford Motor Company's venture into electric vehicles (EVs) in 2023 resulted in a significant financial loss, overshadowing its overall profits for the year. The company experienced an operating loss of \$4.7 billion from its EV business, termed as "Model e," despite achieving a net income of \$4.3 billion on \$176 billion revenue. This loss equates to approximately \$64,731 for each of the 72,608 EVs sold last year, demonstrating the financial challenge of transitioning to electric mobility. The loss was attributed to competitive pricing, strategic investments in new EV development, and exceeded Ford's initial projections. The automotive giant's commitment to EVs, which includes a \$50 billion investment plan, has been questioned in light of these results. Additionally, Ford's EV production adjustments and the broader automotive industry's challenges with EV demand and profitability highlight the difficulties in achieving widespread EV adoption. This situation reflects broader market trends and concerns over the viability and appeal of EVs, particularly in markets dominated by conventional vehicles and specific demographic niches.

Bora Mining Acquires Share in Steenkampskraal Monazite Mine (February 7, 2024, [Source](#)) – Bora Mining Services (BMS) has acquired a share in Steenkampskraal Monazite Mine (SMM), a high-grade rare earths and thorium mine, to commence operations in early 2024. With a significant investment, including a R1 billion infrastructure, BMS aims to refurbish and develop the mine, leveraging its expertise in mining operations. The mine boasts an impressive 14.5% average grade of total rare earth oxides, with potential for resource expansion. The partnership focuses on producing monazite concentrate initially, with plans

to extend production to mixed rare earth carbonate and thorium. The project has received positive feedback from regulatory bodies and has a dynamic growth strategy across three phases, eventually aiming to produce individual rare earth oxides. The initiative is expected to cater to global rare earth demands, with thorium also highlighted for its safety and potential in cancer therapy.

South Korea's LG Chem signs \$19 bln cathode supply deal with General Motors (February 7, 2024, [Source](#)) – General Motors (GM) and South Korea's LG Chem have signed a \$18.8 billion deal for cathode material supply, enhancing GM's electric vehicle (EV) production chain from 2026 to 2035. This partnership aims to support the production of 5 million high-performance EVs, with LG Chem's Tennessee plant serving as a cornerstone for a localized supply chain. The agreement, building on a prior commitment for over 950,000 tons of Cathode Active Material, signifies a major step towards sustainable EV production. The Tennessee facility, set to be America's largest cathode plant, will primarily supply Ultium Cells LLC, a GM and LG Energy Solutions joint venture, potentially extending to other GM EV projects. This move aligns with U.S. Inflation Reduction Act criteria, emphasizing local supply chain benefits.

Hitachi launches final tests of its electric dump truck (February 6, 2024, [Source](#)) – Hitachi Construction Machinery has introduced a prototype of its all-electric dump truck, which is now undergoing final testing at a copper-gold mine in Zambia. Based on the EH4000AC-3 model with a 221-tonne payload, this electric version includes ABB's battery technology and converters. Unlike its diesel counterpart, it operates on internal batteries on level ground and external trolley power uphill, while regenerative braking recharges the battery downhill. Performance details are pending, but the combustion engine model's specs offer insight. This initiative, started in

2021 by Hitachi and ABB, aims to meet electric dump truck demand in mining and reduce emissions, highlighting a shift towards electrification in heavy machinery and contributing to environmental sustainability.

Riding the EV Revolution Rollercoaster Amid the West's Electric Car Climbdowndown (February 5, 2024, [Source](#)) – Jack Lifton's critique on the electric vehicle (EV) industry highlights the clash between government strategies and market dynamics, alongside the competitive pressure from Chinese manufacturers. He points out major manufacturers like Renault and Volvo retreating from ambitious EV projects due to mismatches in market demand and production costs. Jack also observes a consumer shift back to petrol models, suggesting a misalignment between EV production and consumer preferences. Advocating for hybrids, he emphasizes the need for adaptability, innovation, and market responsiveness. His insights stress the importance of aligning visionary goals with practical market demands and competitive challenges, underlining the complexity of navigating the evolving EV landscape with agility and foresight.

South African platinum industry could shed up to 7,000 jobs to cut costs (February 5, 2024, [Source](#)) – The South African platinum industry, responsible for about 70% of the world's mined platinum, may cut 4,000 to 7,000 jobs due to restructuring amid high costs and declining prices. The Minerals Council highlighted this at the Investing in African Mining Indaba conference in Cape Town, noting the impact of the shift towards electric vehicles and the falling demand for platinum group metals (PGMs) used in traditional combustion engines. High electricity and labor costs, along with a 40% and 15% drop in palladium and platinum prices respectively, have pressured miners. Major companies like Anglo American Platinum and Sibanye Stillwater are considering operation restructuring and job cuts to reduce expenses, facing challenges from lower ore grades and

rising input costs.

China Drops to Second in BloombergNEF's Global Lithium-Ion Battery Supply Chain Ranking as Canada Comes Out on Top (February 5, 2024, [Source](#)) – Canada has taken the top spot in BloombergNEF's Global Lithium-Ion Battery Supply Chain Ranking, outpacing China due to its ample raw materials, policy support, and strong ties with the US auto industry. This represents a significant shift, emphasizing the increasing importance of sustainability and ESG practices in the sector. North America shines in the rankings, with policy initiatives like the US Inflation Reduction Act bolstering the region's standing. Mexico notably rose nine spots, benefiting from its industrial base and potential US policy impacts. Global investment in clean energy supply chains hit \$135 billion, highlighting the sector's growth and the evolving dynamics of trade relations. The ranking assesses countries on raw materials, manufacturing, demand, ESG, and innovation, reflecting the global push towards sustainable energy solutions.

Australia's Lynas Rare Earths quits tie-up talks with MP Materials (February 5, 2024, [Source](#)) – Australia's Lynas Rare Earths and U.S.-based MP Materials terminated merger discussions amid valuation disagreements and strategic considerations. The potential union aimed to bolster supply chain diversification for critical minerals outside China, which commands the rare earth market. The talks' cessation reflects the complexities of consolidating operations within the global rare earths industry, crucial for technology and defense sectors. Despite the strategic intent to reduce reliance on Chinese rare earths, both companies faced hurdles, including technological challenges and anti-trust regulations. Lynas, with significant projects across Australia, Malaysia, and the U.S., and MP Materials, which relies on Chinese refining, concluded that the merger lacked sufficient synergies to proceed, underscoring the intricate

dynamics of international rare earths commerce.

Canada Announces Over \$4 million to Support Critical Minerals Value Chains and Create Good Jobs in Ontario (February 5, 2024, [Source](#)) – Canada is investing \$4.2 million in Ucore Rare Metals Inc. through the Critical Minerals Research, Development, and Demonstration (CMRDD) program to enhance the country's capabilities in producing critical minerals essential for the green and digital economy. This investment, announced by Mark Gerretsen, aims to scale up Ucore's rare earth element separation technology, pivotal for electric vehicle motors and renewable energy technologies. It promotes domestic processing, reducing reliance on foreign separation and bolstering Canada's electric vehicle value chain. This initiative will create employment, including for Indigenous communities, and support Canadian technological advancements in sustainable practices. It aligns with Canada's commitment to a cleaner, low-carbon economy by fostering competitive value chains and economic growth.

Germany's dream of 15 million electric vehicles is fading away (February 3, 2024, [Source](#)) – At a Berlin auto industry event, BMW CEO Oliver Zipse and Transport Minister Volker Wissing highlighted the slowdown in electric vehicle (EV) adoption in Germany. Despite previous optimism, challenges such as a saturated high-end market, lack of affordable options, dwindling government incentives, and inadequate charging infrastructure have emerged. With EV sales projected to drop and the ambitious goal of 15 million EVs by 2030 now looking unrealistic, the industry faces a pivotal moment. The need for diversified vehicle power solutions, including combustion, hybrid, and hydrogen vehicles, becomes apparent. Analysts are skeptical about meeting emissions targets without further subsidies, pointing to a broader slowdown that could impact investment and long-term environmental goals.

Special thanks to the [Critical Minerals Institute – Leading the Critical Minerals Sector](#), for more information or to send us a highlighted industry story you think we need to include in our weekly Technology Metals Report, please send to Raj Shah – my co-editor, at raj@investornews.com. Thank you.

Investor.News Critical Minerals Media Coverage:

- February 6, 2024 – Global Winds: Opening the Door for a New Middle Eastern Hegemon <https://bit.ly/492BPbH>
- February 5, 2024 – Riding the EV Revolution Rollercoaster Amid the West's Electric Car Climbdown <https://bit.ly/42oLYNn>
- February 4, 2024 – Empowering Canadian Resource Exploration: The Strategic Role of Flow-Through Shares, and the Power of PDAC <https://bit.ly/3uv4pm0>

Investor.News Critical Minerals Videos:

- February 8, 2024 – Jack Lifton and Panther Metals Darren Hazelwood on the “greenstone belt for VMS deposits” in Canada <https://bit.ly/42zDzqv>
- February 8, 2024 – Fathom's Ian Fraser on Rising Market Interest in Albert Lake and Nickel as a Critical Mineral <https://bit.ly/49uxFcu>
- February 5, 2024 – Tawana Bain and ACRG's Drive for a Sustainable American Supply Chain through Net-Zero Mineral Production <https://bit.ly/4bnBcLg>
- February 5, 2024 – Terry Lynch on Power Nickel's Ambitious 2024 Drilling Program at the Nisk Project in Nemaska <https://bit.ly/49i70Ei>
- February 5, 2024 – Voyageur Pharmaceutical's Brent Willis on Revolutionizing the Medical Imaging Industry, plus SmoothX <https://bit.ly/3SsrLLt>

Critical Minerals IN8.Pro Member News Releases:

- February 9, 2024 – Ucore Announces Closing of Final Tranche of Upsized Debenture Offering <https://bit.ly/49o07Na>
- February 9, 2024 – Appia Appoints Constantine Karayannopoulos as New Member to Its Critical Minerals Advisory Committee <https://bit.ly/30CnNVL>
- February 9, 2024 – American Rare Earths Limited: Appointment of Chairman – Richard Hudson <https://bit.ly/3HU47Ji>
- February 8, 2024 – Auxico Announces Sampling Results From a Geological Report on the Minastyc Property <https://bit.ly/3UAtsj3>
- February 8, 2024 – Fathom Announces Start of Drilling at Albert Lake Project <https://bit.ly/499VW7K>
- February 8, 2024 – Appia Announces Outstanding Re-Assayed Diamond Drill Results Including 100 Metres Averaging 3,577 PPM TREO at Its PCH Ionic Clay Project, Brazil <https://bit.ly/48dXQTs>
- February 7, 2024 – American Rare Earths Resource Estimate Increased by 64% <https://bit.ly/3SuhAfU>
- February 7, 2024 – Imperial Mining Announces Shareholder Approval of Name Change to Scandium Canada Ltd. and Results of its 2024 Annual and Special Meeting <https://bit.ly/49nE1tY>
- February 5, 2024 – Ucore Welcomes Canadian Government Officials to its Kingston Ontario CDF for an NRCan Funding Announcement <https://bit.ly/495cTA3>
- February 5, 2024 – Nano One Provides Shareholder Update with Key Objectives for 2024 <https://bit.ly/49mNgut>

Neo Performance Materials Acquisition Positions it to Benefit from European Rare Earth Magnet Demand

written by InvestorNews | March 19, 2024

If you believe some of the strategic minds at [Tesla](#) (NASDAQ: TSLA), then rare earths may no longer be required in future EV motors. At last month's investor day, Franz Von Holzhausen, Lead Design Executive at Tesla Motors, announced that its next generation of electric motors would not use rare earth materials. The motivation is understandable as Tesla looks to avoid processes with potential environmental and health risks, as well as keep costs down by reducing or eliminating commodities that can be at risk of wild price swings. But let's face it, the whole reason for moving towards EVs is to end the carbon-emitting, fossil fuel consuming internal combustion engine's (ICE) impact on the environment. And despite what anyone says, we are still a long way from achieving that goal. Additionally, as Jack Lifton pointed out in [this article](#), Tesla is not the driver of the global demand for rare earths.

Neo Performance Materials

Suffice it to say, I don't think we need to worry that the trajectory for rare earths demand is going to change anytime soon. It might someday in the future, but I suspect you could potentially be missing out on many opportunities as an investor if you take Tesla's prognostication to heart and abandon all

exposure to rare earth investments right now. And one of those opportunities can be found in the form of [Neo Performance Materials Inc.](#) (TSX: NEO).

Neo plays a key role in the supply chain for rare earths magnet powders and various high-tech metals including the only operating commercial rare earth separation facility in Europe (Estonia). The Company manufactures the building blocks of many modern technologies that enhance efficiency and sustainability including magnetic powders and magnets, specialty chemicals, metals, and alloys.

Neo to Acquire Leading European Magnet Manufacturer

Coming off another [record year for annual revenue](#) since Neo's re-emergence as a public company in 2017, the Company recently [announced an acquisition](#) that will allow Neo to move further along the value chain and expand its specialty manufacturing footprint in Europe. Neo is acquiring a controlling interest in [SG Technologies Group Limited](#) (SGTec), one of Europe's leading advanced, specialty manufacturers of rare earths based and other high-performance magnets for industrial and commercial markets. Neo acquired a 90% interest in SGTec by paying £10.8 million (US\$13.4 million) plus future considerations of up to £5.4 million (US\$6.7 million) based on Adjusted EBITDA performance over SGTec's fiscal years 2024 through 2026. The remaining 10% of SGTec will continue to be owned by members of SGTec's senior management team.

This tuck-in acquisition is very complimentary to Neo's stated plans to invest in a new venture to manufacture and distribute sintered rare earth magnets in Europe. In a [recent interview](#) with InvestorIntel at PDAC 2023, CEO and Director of Neo Performance Materials, Constantine Karayannopoulos, discusses

the Company's strong relationships with big-name clients in the electronics and automotive industries, including Tier 1 suppliers and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) who have asked Neo to turn the existing rare earths production into magnets for motors for drive trains. Neo expects to launch Phase 1 production of 2,000 tonnes/year of neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB) magnet block in Estonia starting in 2025.

There are primarily two types of rare earths magnets, sintered and bonded, based on the differences in the production processes. Bonded magnets are formed by injection molding, while sintered magnets magnet are formed by high-temperature heating.

Given that SGTec is a recognized leader in the production of fully dense bonded NdFeB magnets, soft magnetic composites (used in high-speed solenoids and electric motor applications), and other high-performance magnets it's not a surprise that Neo made this acquisition to help expand its magnet manufacturing and product development in Europe. SGTec is also known in the industry for its decades-long track record of R&D commercialization and reputation for its exceptional product quality, technical skill, creativity, and product innovation. This acquisition should help Neo increase its exposure to new markets and high-growth applications.

All this speaks to an interesting future for Neo Performance Materials but the question is when does all this promise flow through to the bottom line? Despite [record revenues in 2022](#), income and profit margins were down slightly year over year, primarily due to higher cost of sales and a decline in sales volumes in the Company's key Magnequench segment.

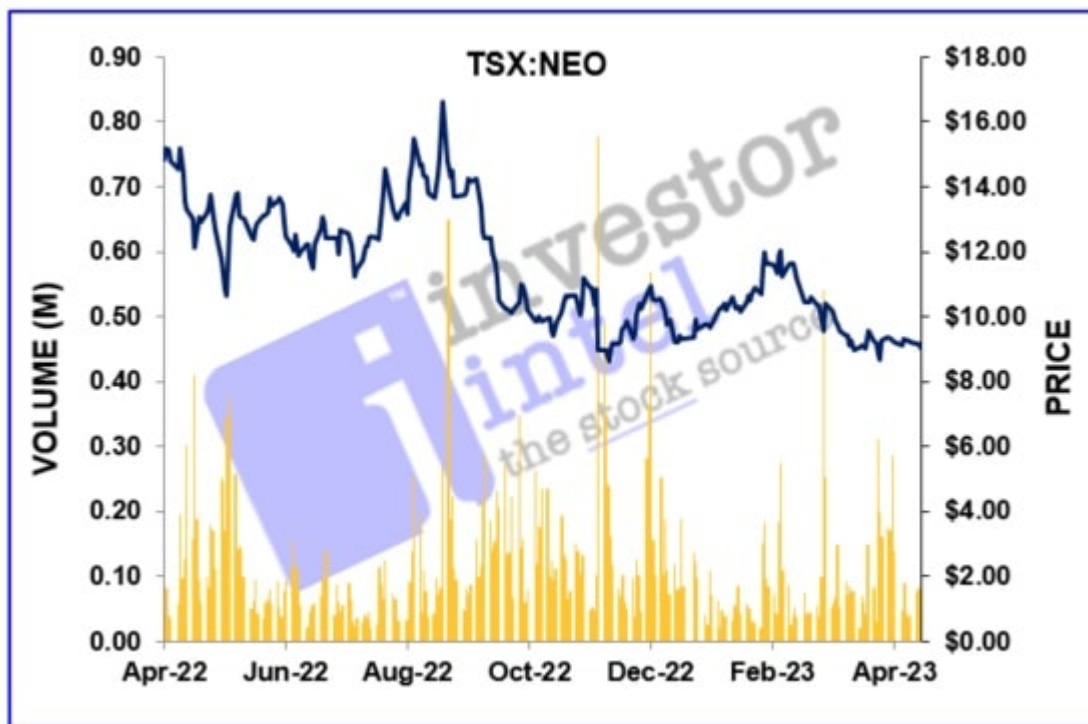
Final thoughts

Is there going to be a recession in the U.S. and other developed

countries? Is China turning the corner post-COVID lockdowns?

The Company is well financed at present with US\$147 million in cash and cash equivalents as of December 31, 2022 (less the US\$13.4 million to acquire SGTec). Technically, the stock is trading close to its 52-week low (currently C\$9.04 versus C\$8.31 low) and appears to be putting in a solid base between C\$8.75 and C\$9.00. Some of the fundamental headwinds (higher cost feedstock inventory) seem to be dissipating. And the reality is, if Europe gets as aggressive as the U.S. when it comes to the source of materials for its EV market, Neo is pretty much the only game in town. Plus, you are getting a 4.4% dividend yield while you wait for Neo to unlock and monetize some of these opportunities. Sure it's not as safe as a GIC/CD, but there could be a whole lot more upside.

NEO Performance – 1-Year Stock Chart



Source: S&P Capital IQ

Constantine Karayannopoulos from Neo Performance Materials Discusses the Rare Earths Industry

written by InvestorNews | March 19, 2024

In this InvestorIntel interview during PDAC 2023, Tracy Weslosky talks with Constantine Karayannopoulos, CEO and Director of [Neo Performance Materials Inc.](#) (TSX: NEO) about the news that, in the near future, Tesla might not need rare earths in its electric vehicles (EVs), but Constantine thinks it's "highly aspirational" and believes "there isn't a realistic alternative that exists or is even showing the potential" to replace rare earth magnets in EV motors.

He says that Neo has strong relationships with big-name clients in the electronics and automotive industries, including Tier 1 suppliers and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). The company is receiving a lot of interest due to the transition to EV vehicles and he believes there is some urgency from them as the supply chains and mineral resource production are not ready to accommodate what the world will need in the short term.

He mentions that it is building a new rare earth magnet plant in Estonia to accommodate it. The company is also considering M&A opportunities due to its leading position in the market and has recently bought an asset in Greenland and is working on a "tuck in" acquisition in the magnet space.

To access the full InvestorIntel interview, [click here](#).

Subscribe to the InvestorIntel YouTube channel by [clicking here](#).

About Neo Performance Materials Inc.

Neo manufactures the building blocks of many modern technologies that enhance efficiency and sustainability. Neo's advanced industrial materials – magnetic powders and magnets, specialty chemicals, metals, and alloys – are critical to the performance of many everyday products and emerging technologies. Neo's products help to deliver the technologies of tomorrow to consumers today. Neo's business is organized into three segments: Magnequench, Chemicals & Oxides, and Rare Metals. Neo is headquartered in Toronto, Ontario, Canada; with corporate offices in Greenwood Village, Colorado, US; Singapore; and Beijing, China. Neo operates globally with sales, research and development, and production facilities and offices across 10 countries: Japan, China, Thailand, Estonia, Singapore, Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, and South Korea. For more information, please visit www.neomaterials.com.

To learn more about Neo Performance Materials Inc., [click here](#).

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If you have any questions surrounding the content of this interview, please contact us at +1 416 792 8228 and/or email us direct at info@investorintel.com.

**Neo Performance Materials'
Constantine Karayannopoulos**

and Energy Fuels' Mark Chalmers on the 2023 Critical Minerals Market

written by InvestorNews | March 19, 2024

Starting with the issues being compounded by extraordinary deadlines being made by the 2030 electric vehicles ("EV") mandates, they touch on some of the subjects they will kick off the Critical Minerals Institute Summit II on June 14-15th in Toronto. Addressing the EV Demand Drivers in the Race to Achieve a Critical Minerals Supply Chain, the speakers also address the investment, resource, infrastructure, and skills gaps that governments and industries need to bridge in order to meet Net Zero deadlines.

Constantine Karayannopoulos on the State of the Critical Minerals Market

written by InvestorNews | March 19, 2024

At the [Critical Minerals Institute](#)'s recent Critical Minerals Summit "**The Race to Achieve a Critical Minerals Supply Chain ROW**", Tracy Weslosky talked to keynote speaker Constantine Karayannopoulos on the state of the critical minerals market.

Held at the National Club on November 9th in Toronto, Constantine, who is CEO, and Director of Neo Performance

Materials Inc. (TSX: NEO), offers compelling commentary on market evolution and why the demand for critical minerals will continue to escalate. Sharing breaking news about receiving a multi-million dollar grant from the Government of Estonia for the construction of Neo Performance Materials' Sintered Rare Earth Magnet Manufacturing Plant in Estonia, Constantine explains how this will offer "a very meaningful addition to the Western world's magnet capacity."

From supply chain challenges to addressing what the market really needs today, Constantine offers relevant examples of where we are in this process today. From billionaire investment dollars to controversial headlines in the sector, the conversation does not shy away from the impact of geopolitical issues facing the market.

Providing an update on Neo Performance Materials' rapidly advancing "Magnets-to-Mine" vertical integration strategy, Constantine discusses how Neo is progressing towards being a fully integrated magnet producer outside of China. With trillions of dollars in investment required for the world to achieve the decarbonization targets, Constantine says that we "need an extraordinary level of capacity expansion for all the critical minerals."

To access the full InvestorIntel interview, [click here](#)

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About Neo Performance Materials

Neo manufactures the building blocks of many modern technologies that enhance efficiency and sustainability. Neo's advanced industrial materials – magnetic powders and magnets, specialty chemicals, metals, and alloys – are critical to the performance

of many everyday products and emerging technologies. Neo's products help to deliver the technologies of tomorrow to consumers today. The business of Neo is organized along three segments: Magnequench, Chemicals & Oxides and Rare Metals. Neo is headquartered in Toronto, Ontario, Canada; with corporate offices in Greenwood Village, Colorado, US; Singapore; and Beijing, China. Neo operates globally with sales, research and development, and production across 10 countries, being Japan, China, Thailand, Estonia, Singapore, Germany, United Kingdom, Canada, United States, and South Korea.

To learn more about Neo Performance Materials Inc., [click here](#)

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objectives and are not intended, and should not be taken, as assurances that the projected results will be obtained by the Company. The assumptions used may not prove to be accurate and a potential decline in the Company's financial condition or results of operations may negatively impact the value of its securities. Prospective investors are urged to review the Company's profile on [Sedar.com](https://www.sedar.com) and to carry out independent investigations in order to determine their interest in investing in the Company.

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