

Terry Lynch on Power Nickel's 'New Crown Jewel Discovered on its NISK Project'

written by InvestorNews | April 19, 2024

In a recent interview with Tracy Weslosky from InvestorNews, Terry Lynch, CEO of [Power Nickel Inc.](#) (TSXV: PNPB | OTCQB: PNPB), detailed the company's latest achievements and future prospects concerning their drilling activities and discoveries announced earlier this week. Lynch proudly announced the recent [drill results](#) from their project, describing the findings as "exciting" with significant copper, gold, and PGM (platinum group metals) yields, marking a continuation from a discovery almost a year prior. He emphasized the impressive consistency of the results, stating, "we drilled 15 holes and 14 of the 15 (drilling holes) hit – an amazing track record." Remarking that the high-grade and near-surface nature of the findings, which he believes indicates a "major discovery" at the newly named Lion Zone, previously known as Wildcat Zone.

During the discussion, Lynch also highlighted the economic significance of the recent discoveries, explaining the potential for substantial profitability due to the high-value of the extracted materials. He noted, "A million-ounce deposit would be considered a good deposit...So this rock is going to be ranged between \$1000 and \$2000...more valuable." Such figures suggest a profound impact on the company's market value and operational direction. He pointed out the strategic advantage of the location, being near surface and close to infrastructure in a safe jurisdiction, making it ideal for mining operations. Lynch also touched on broader aspects of Power Nickel's strategy, including their approach to making geoscience accessible and

understandable for investors, highlighting the need to contextualize their findings beyond the technical details to showcase their broader significance.

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

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About Power Nickel Inc.

Power Nickel is a Canadian junior exploration company focusing on developing the High-Grade Nisk project into Canada's first Carbon Neutral Nickel mine.

On February 1, 2021, Power Nickel (then called Chilean Metals) completed the acquisition of its option to acquire up to 80% of the Nisk project from Critical Elements Lithium Corp. (CRE: TSXV). Subsequently, Power Nickel has exercised its option to acquire 50% of the Nisk Project and delivered notice to Critical Elements that it intends to exercise its second option to bring its ownership to 80%. The last remaining commitment to exercise the option was the delivery of a NI-43-101 Technical report which has now occurred. Power Nickel expects to complete the acquisition in February.

The NISK property comprises a significant land position (20 kilometers of strike length) with numerous high-grade intercepts. Power Nickel is focused on expanding the historical high-grade nickel-copper PGE mineralization with a series of drill programs designed to test the initial Nisk discovery zone and to explore the land package for adjacent potential Nickel deposits.

In addition to the Nisk project, Power Nickel owns significant land packages in British Columbia and Chile. Power Nickel is

expected to reorganize these assets in a related vehicle through a plan of arrangement.

Power Nickel announced on June 8, 2021, that an agreement had been made to complete the 100% acquisition of its Golden Ivan project in the heart of the Golden Triangle. The Golden Triangle has reported mineral resources (past production and current resources) in 130 million ounces of gold, 800 million ounces of silver, and 40 billion pounds of copper (Resource World). This property hosts two known mineral showings (gold ore and Magee) and a portion of the past-producing Silverado mine, reportedly exploited between 1921 and 1939. These mineral showings are Polymetallic veins containing quantities of silver, lead, zinc, plus/minus gold, and plus/minus copper.

Power Nickel is also 100 percent owner of five properties comprising over 50,000 acres strategically located in the prolific iron-oxide-copper-gold belt of northern Chile. It also owns a 3-per-cent NSR royalty interest on any future production from the Copaquire copper-molybdenum deposit sold to a subsidiary of Teck Resources Inc. Under the terms of the sale agreement, Teck has the right to acquire one-third of the 3-per-cent NSR for \$3 million at any time. The Copaquire property borders Teck's producing Quebrada Blanca copper mine in Chile's first region.

To learn more about Power Nickel Inc., [click here](#)

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Technology Metals Report (04.19.2024): Government Roles Escalate, Rinehart and the Market Go Bull on Copper

written by Tracy Weslosky | April 19, 2024

Welcome to the latest issue of the Technology Metals Report (TMR), brought to you by the [Critical Minerals Institute](https://criticalmineralsinstitute.com) (CMI). In this edition, we compile the most impactful stories shared by our CMI Directors over the past week, focusing on the significant shifts and investments in the critical minerals and technology metals industry. A notable development is the evolving dynamics of [resource nationalism](#), particularly in Chile and Indonesia, where control over vital minerals like lithium and nickel is increasingly dominated by local governments. This shift challenges traditional Western dominance and marks a move towards a multipolar resource governance era. Adding to the market dynamics, Australia's wealthiest, Gina Rinehart, has made aggressive moves into the critical minerals sector with her \$120 million [investment](#) in Ecuador's Linderos copper-gold project and significant stakes in rare earth companies, positioning her as a

pivotal figure in global supply chains.

This week's TMR Report also highlights several significant developments aimed at enhancing the supply chain and infrastructure of critical minerals. The U.S. Department of Energy has released a pioneering [roadmap](#) to integrate clean energy projects more rapidly into the nation's electric grid, targeting a substantial reduction in project backlogs. In financial boosts, critical mineral projects in Queensland and South Australia have been [pledged \\$585 million](#) in government loans, emphasizing the growing commitment to fostering local industries and reducing dependency on international suppliers. Additionally, [the closure](#) of the Cobre Panamá copper mine has sparked a surge in copper prices, underlining the critical role of stable mineral supplies in maintaining economic stability and supporting green energy transitions. Each story is presented in chronological order to provide a comprehensive view of the week's events, rather than by order of importance, ensuring readers receive a well-rounded perspective on the sector's latest developments.

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The Shifting Dynamics of Resource Nationalism as the Demand for Critical Minerals is Set to Soar: (April 18, 2024, [Source](#)) – As global demand for critical minerals like nickel, lithium, and rare earths surges, the dynamics of resource nationalism are evolving. Historically dominated by Western powers, control is shifting towards resource-rich countries asserting sovereignty over their natural assets. China's longstanding monopoly on rare earths exemplifies this trend, leveraging resources for economic and strategic autonomy—a strategy now mirrored by Chile and Indonesia in their respective lithium and nickel sectors. Chile's government, for instance, has moved to nationalize

lithium extraction by partnering with SQM to form a national critical minerals company. Meanwhile, Indonesia mandates local processing for nickel, fostering a sustainable, self-sufficient industrial base. These strategic shifts are restructuring global supply chains, challenging traditional Western dominance and heralding a multipolar resource governance era. This realignment has profound implications for geopolitical dynamics and global power structures in resource management.

Billionaire Gina Rinehart Stakes Another Critical Minerals Claim: (April 18, 2024, [Source](#)) – Gina Rinehart, Australia's richest person and head of [Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd.](#), is diversifying her portfolio by targeting critical minerals, moving away from her traditional focus on iron ore. Her recent ventures include significant investments in South America and the rare earths market. Notably, she invested \$120 million in Ecuador's Linderos copper-gold project through a deal with [Titan Minerals Ltd.](#) (ASX: TTM), aiming for up to an 80% ownership. Additionally, she acquired a 49% stake in an Ecuadorian state-owned mining company. Rinehart also increased her influence in the rare earths sector by purchasing stakes in [Lynas Rare Earths Ltd.](#) (ASX: LYC) and [MP Materials Corp.](#) (NYSE: MP). Furthermore, she supported [Arafura Rare Earths Limited](#) (ASX: ARU) in Australia, which received a substantial [government backing](#) of A\$840 million in grants and loans last month. Rinehart's strategic investments mark her shift to a key player in the global market, enhancing supply chain security for technology and renewable energy resources.

DOE Releases First-Ever Roadmap to Accelerate Connecting More Clean Energy Projects to the Nation's Electric Grid: (April 17, 2024, [Source](#)) – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has unveiled a roadmap aimed at speeding up the integration of clean energy sources like solar, wind, and batteries into the national transmission grid, addressing the existing backlog of nearly

12,000 projects. This comprehensive guide, developed by DOE's Interconnection Innovation e-Xchange (i2X), targets a variety of stakeholders, including transmission providers, state agencies, and equipment manufacturers. It proposes 35 solutions across four main areas: improving data access, enhancing the interconnection process, promoting economic efficiency, and ensuring grid reliability. The roadmap also sets forth ambitious goals for 2030 to facilitate the Biden-Harris Administration's objective of achieving 100% clean electricity by 2035. These efforts are supported by DOE's Grid Deployment Office and various funding opportunities aimed at fostering grid resilience and interconnection efficiency.

Critical minerals projects in central Queensland and South Australia to receive \$585 million in government loans: (April 16, 2024, [Source](#)) – Critical minerals projects in Queensland and South Australia are set to receive \$585 million in federal government loans, marking a significant push by the Albanese government towards a “future made in Australia.” A major portion, \$400 million, will fund Australia's first high-purity alumina processing facility in Gladstone, central Queensland. This investment comes via the \$4 billion Critical Minerals Facility, Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility, and Export Finance Australia. An additional \$185 million is earmarked to accelerate [Renascor Resources Limited](#)'s (ASX: RNU) Siviour Graphite Project in South Australia. These projects aim to bolster the production of minerals essential for lithium-ion batteries and renewable technologies. This initiative aligns with national strategies to enhance renewable technology capabilities and drive economic growth through local job creation and sustainable industrial development.

A \$10 billion Panamanian copper mine has been sitting idle since November – and it's part of why the metal's price is surging: (April 16, 2024, [Source](#)) – The Cobre Panamá mine, a major \$10

billion copper-producing site, has been inactive since November, significantly contributing to the global copper shortage. This closure has led to an 11% increase in copper prices this year, reaching a peak not seen in over a year. Operated by Canada-based [First Quantum Minerals Ltd.](#) (TSX: FM), the mine previously supplied 1.5% of the world's copper, enough to build five million electric vehicles annually. The shutdown resulted from a tax dispute with the Panamanian government, which sought more favorable terms. This has exacerbated a copper supply crisis, with the Bank of America declaring that the lack of new mining projects is now severely impacting refined copper production. This shortage coincides with increased demand for copper in green energy projects, further driving up prices.

SRC Expects to Produce 400 Tonnes of Rare Earth Metals Per Year Beginning in 2025: (April 15, 2024, [Source](#)) – The [Saskatchewan Research Council](#) (SRC) has entered into a five-year agreement with Vietnam's Hung Thinh Group to import up to 3,000 tonnes of rare earth carbonate annually starting in June 2025. This will enable SRC's Rare Earth Processing Facility in Saskatchewan to produce about 400 tonnes of rare earth metals per year. These metals are crucial for manufacturing modern technologies such as cellphones, electric vehicles, and green technologies. The deal, which stems from Saskatchewan's diplomatic efforts in Vietnam, positions SRC as a pioneer in North America with a fully integrated commercial rare earth processing facility. The Saskatchewan Government's \$71 million investment in the facility aims to boost the local and national resource sectors by enhancing mid-stream supply chain capabilities. SRC, a major Canadian research entity, expects this initiative to catalyze industry investment and growth.

U.S. Department of State Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) Aims to Support Biden Policies on Critical Minerals: (April 15, 2024, [Source](#)) – The U.S. Department of State's Minerals Security

Partnership (MSP) was established to advance President Biden's policies on critical minerals and enhance supply chain security. Led by Under Secretary [Jose Fernandez](#), the MSP collaborates with various countries and the European Union to foster sustainable mineral supply chains, prioritizing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards. The partnership focuses on diversifying supply chains, boosting investments, promoting high ESG standards in mining, and increasing recycling. Companies involved must meet stringent ESG criteria, including responsible environmental practices and ethical community engagement. Despite challenges such as varying international ESG standards, the MSP remains dedicated to "greening" economic activities and addressing climate change through global cooperation.

Tesla supplier Piedmont Lithium gets key North Carolina mining permit: (April 15, 2024, [Source](#)) – [Piedmont Lithium](#) (Nasdaq: PLL | ASX: PLL), a supplier to Tesla, has secured a crucial mining permit from North Carolina regulators to develop a significant U.S. lithium source near Charlotte. Despite the permit's conditional approval, requiring a \$1 million reclamation bond, the company faces ongoing financial challenges and local regulatory hurdles. The project, which could be a major U.S. lithium producer, is opposed by local residents due to environmental concerns. Additionally, Piedmont must obtain local zoning approval and substantial funding, estimated over \$1 billion, potentially through U.S. Department of Energy loans. The state has imposed stringent conditions, including regular environmental monitoring and a modified waste storage protocol. The project's progress hinges on overcoming local opposition and securing necessary permits and funding.

Glencore-backed nickel miner fails to secure financing after rising costs: (April 15, 2024, [Source](#)) – Horizonte Minerals PLC (TSX: HZM | AIM: HZM), backed by Glencore PLC (LSE: GLEN), is facing financial difficulties with its Araguaia nickel mine

project in Brazil due to a significant increase in estimated costs, now exceeding \$1 billion, and concerns about market oversupply from Indonesia. As a result, the company is considering options such as selling the mine, liquidation, or securing subsidiary-level financing, though none are expected to benefit shareholders significantly. Following the news, the company's shares plummeted by 84%. This setback reflects broader challenges for nickel projects outside Indonesia, given the country's dominant market position. Horizonte's struggles highlight investor reluctance to finance high-capital, early-stage projects amid unfavorable market conditions dominated by Indonesian supply, affecting not only Horizonte but also other nickel producers worldwide.

United States and United Kingdom Take Action to Reduce Russian Revenue from Metals: (April 12, 2024, [Source](#)) – The United States and the United Kingdom have jointly announced new prohibitions aimed at reducing Russia's income from metal exports, specifically aluminum, copper, and nickel. The U.S. Department of the Treasury, in coordination with the UK, issued measures to prohibit the importation of these metals into the U.S. and restrict their use on global metal exchanges and in derivatives trading. These actions are intended to follow through on commitments made in the G7 Leaders' Statement to cut off revenue streams that support Russia's ongoing military activities in Ukraine. Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen emphasized that the measures are targeted to undermine Russian revenue while minimizing negative impacts on allies. UK Chancellor Jeremy Hunt highlighted the collaborative nature of these efforts, stressing their importance in impeding Russia's war capabilities. As a result, major metal exchanges like the London Metal Exchange and Chicago Mercantile Exchange will no longer accept newly produced Russian metals from April 13, 2024.

Investor.News Critical Minerals Media Coverage:

- April 18, 2024 – The Shifting Dynamics of Resource Nationalism as the Demand for Critical Minerals is Set to Soar <https://bit.ly/3W63V28>
- April 18, 2024 – Billionaire Gina Rinehart Stakes Another Critical Minerals Claim <https://bit.ly/3U2G0xU>
- April 17, 2024 – InvestorNews.com Offers Real Time Access through the Revolutionary IR Mobile App, Now Offered Through Stock Marketing Inc. <https://bit.ly/3TYrwPz>
- April 16, 2024 – Tuan Tran Joins the Critical Minerals Institute (CMI) as the Newest Board Member <https://bit.ly/49DlucM>
- April 15, 2024 – U.S. Department of State Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) Aims to Support Biden Policies on Critical Minerals <https://bit.ly/3Ji332z>

Investor.News Critical Minerals Videos:

- April 19, 2024 – Terry Lynch on Power Nickel's 'New Crown Jewel Discovered on its NISK Project' <https://bit.ly/3JrQT7k>
- April 17, 2024 – Critical Metals' Russell Fryer on the Rising Tide for Copper and Cobalt in Africa <https://bit.ly/4aFoWFa>

Critical Minerals IN8.Pro Member News Releases:

- April 17, 2024 – Gary Stanley, Former Director of the Office of Critical Minerals and Metals at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Joins the First Phosphate Advisory Board <https://bit.ly/3UkxbAL>
 - April 17, 2024 – Successful completion of Institutional Placement to raise A\$15M; Entitlement Offer to be undertaken <https://bit.ly/3W2SKHl>
 - April 16, 2024 – Appia Files NI 43-101 Technical Report on Maiden Indicated and Inferred Mineral Resource Estimate for the PCH Ionic Adsorption Clay Project in Goias, Brazil <https://bit.ly/3xAahwd>
 - April 16, 2024 – NEO Battery Materials Appoints Renowned Battery Industry Pioneer Mr. Ricky Lee as Lead Managerial Advisor <https://bit.ly/3UikF4C>
 - April 16, 2024 – Fathom Intersects Rottenstone-Like Nickel Tenor in Drillhole AL24077 at the Albert Lake Project <https://bit.ly/3JlIfY8>
 - April 16, 2024 – Appia Engages Generation IACP to Provide Market Making Services <https://bit.ly/43XNEhv>
 - April 16, 2024 – F3 Intersects Radioactivity Across Multiple Zones <https://bit.ly/442U0fv>
 - April 15, 2024 – Power Nickel Releases Initial Assay on New Crown Jewel Discovered on its NISK Project <https://bit.ly/4bdvD1h>
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Critical Metals' Russell Fryer on the Rising Tide for Copper and Cobalt in Africa

written by InvestorNews | April 19, 2024

In this InvestorNews interview with host Tracy Weslosky, Russell Fryer, CEO and Executive Director of [Critical Metals PLC](#) (LSE: CRTM), shared insights into the [strategic developments](#) at their past-producing Molulu Copper/Cobalt Project in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Russell outlined plans for essential infrastructure improvements, particularly the rehabilitation of a 28km road crucial for local logistics, which will facilitate the resumption of copper ore sales from Molulu. He also highlighted the positive outlook for the copper market, mentioning, "Copper prices have actually changed a lot... We saw the Bank of America come out and say they expect a 30% rise in the copper price within the next 12 months."

Russell also provided an update on the drill program aimed at enriching the company's mining block model and developing a JORC-compliant report, which are key steps toward escalating the Molulu project towards production. Additionally, Russell discussed the company's strategic move to expand Critical Metals' investor base with an upcoming listing on the US OTCQB market.

The interview also delved into the potential financial backing from the US Government, with Russell discussing the recent receipt of a term sheet for an \$11 million loan, supported by loan guarantees. This financial support highlights the confidence in the viability of Critical Metals' operations in the region to bring critical minerals to the global market.

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

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About Critical Metals PLC

London listed Critical Metals plc is focused on identifying low CAPEX and OPEX brown-field projects with near-term production and cash-flow, concentrating on minerals that have strategic importance to future global economic growth. In line with this, and with an off-take partner already in place, the Company is currently focused on recommencing production at the formerly producing Molulu Copper/Cobalt Project in the Katangan Copperbelt in Democratic Republic of Congo ('DRC').

To learn more about Critical Metals PLC, [click here](#)

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U.S. Department of State Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) Aims to Support Biden Policies on Critical Minerals

written by Melissa (Mel) Sanderson | April 19, 2024

MSP's emphasis on ESG principles reflects a global commitment to transforming and "greening" economic activity and fighting climate change, despite political anti-ESG backlash in the U.S.

To support and advance President Biden's policies on critical minerals and secure supply chains the U.S. Department of State has created the [Minerals Security Partnership](#) (MSP). The program, under the aegis of Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment [Jose Fernandez](#), the MSP "aims to accelerate the development of diverse and sustainable critical energy minerals supply chains through working with host governments and industry to facilitate targeted financial and diplomatic support for strategic projects along the supply chain."

MSP partner States include Australia, Canada, Finland, France,

Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Union (represented by the European Commission) and Estonia (the most recent country to join the MSP, officially welcomed into the fold at the March 2024 PDAC meetings). The member States will coordinate their work through the MSP Forum, established March 3 at PDAC in Toronto. The Forum will promote diverse and resilient supply chains, local value-addition, and beneficiation.

The MSP is focused on addressing four major critical minerals challenges:

1. Diversifying and stabilizing global supply chains;
2. Investment in those supply chains;
3. Promoting high environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards in the mining, processing, and recycling sectors; and
4. Increasing recycling of critical materials

The MSP operates on the basis of several Principles under which member States strive to elevate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards across the global minerals sector. The MSP only will support projects that meet high, internationally recognized ESG standards throughout the life of the project.

Companies interested in participating in the MSP program and funding opportunities must:

- Demonstrate responsible stewardship of the natural environment;
- Engage in consultative and participatory processes regarding land access and acquisition;
- Commit to meaningful, ongoing consultation with

communities;

- Ensure safe, fair, inclusive, and ethical conditions in the community and the workplace;
- Provide economic benefits for workers and local communities; and
- Ensure transparent, ethical business operations

These principles strongly suggest that adherence to programs such as Prior Informed Consent (PIC) (governing consultations between companies, governments, and indigenous populations), the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), and human rights laws prohibiting child labor and protecting the rights of artisanal miners will be required for companies taking part in the MSP. (Note that not every country is fully implementing PIC or EITI and therefore presumably there could be exceptions on a case-by-case basis while maintaining a focus on fulfilling the intention of those programs.)

A large potential complication for the MSP could be the current absence of an internationally agreed standard on ESG implementation and reporting. The EU is considered to have the most rigorous framework, while currently the US does not have an overarching legal standard (the SEC recently postponed announcing its framework, although it is still expected to do so by the end of 2024 after almost 3 years delay). In the absence of a cohesive standard, it is possible that national law will prevail, meaning that companies will have to be fully compliant with whatever ESG laws are in place where their project will be located. Companies applying for MSP funding/participation may find it useful to follow the standards of organizations such as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the IFRS Sustainability Reporting Standards developed by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) or to become members of ESG-related organizations such as the Institute for Responsible

Mining Assurance (IRMA). Likewise, depending on the mineral in question, there are agreed industry standards such as Copper Mark or the International Council on Mining and Metals Principal on ESG. As the MSP grapples with the question of a universal ESG standard they no doubt will be considering the existing principles already developed by institutions and organizations such as those mentioned above.

There currently are 23 projects in the MSP, 16 of which involve mining and mineral extraction, 7 in processing, and 7 in recycling and secondary recovery. These projects involve cobalt, copper, gallium, germanium, graphite, lithium, manganese, nickel and rare earth elements. Six projects are sited in the Americas, 5 in Europe, 13 in Africa and 3 in the Asia-Pacific region.

The State Department and officials in other participating government agencies are actively looking for additional projects meeting the above standards for production of the identified critical minerals. US Embassies overseas can be a useful resource for companies interested in learning if their projects might qualify for the MSP.

The MSP's emphasis on ESG principles is an important reminder that despite some political anti-ESG backlash in the U.S., the world – and the USG – remains committed to transforming and “greening” global economic activity and fighting to slow climate change, and is increasingly working together to mobilize resources and capabilities to achieve these vitally important goals.

Technology Metals Report (04.12.2024): Gina Rinehart Steps into the Critical Minerals Ring, while Copper Prepares for a Bull Ride

written by Tracy Weslosky | April 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 CMI Directors over the past week, reflecting the dynamic and evolving nature of the critical minerals and technology metals industry. Among the key stories featured in this report are the surging [success](#) of [Vulcan Energy Resources Ltd.](#) (ASX: VUL), backed by Gina Rinehart, in lithium production, signaling a significant advancement in battery technology. Additionally, we explore the implications of [copper's](#) climb to a 2024 high, heralded by Citi analysts as the start of the metal's second bull market this century, amidst concerns about sustainability and market dynamics. We also delve into the [ramifications](#) of Chinese car manufacturing in Italy on Stellantis and the [challenges](#) faced by Volkswagen amidst a resurgence in petrol car demand in Europe, among other crucial developments shaping the industry landscape.

This week's TMR Report also highlights the strategic moves of influential figures like Gina Rinehart, whose [investments](#) in the U.S. rare earths sector and Brazil hint at potential industry mergers and reshaping of the global rare earths supply chain. Furthermore, we discuss the imperative for the United States to

strengthen its commercial ties with African nations to secure key minerals, aiming to reduce dependency on China. Amidst fluctuating rare earths prices in China and U.S. efforts to bolster domestic mining projects, we explore the intersection of environmental concerns with mining practices, exemplified by Australian billionaire Andrew Forrest's call for [greener nickel](#) production. Lastly, we examine Canada's risk of losing its position as a major mining capital due to government opacity surrounding Chinese investments in the critical minerals sector, highlighting the broader implications of uncertain investment policies on the industry's strategic positioning.

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Gina Rinehart-Backed Lithium Hopeful Surges After Demo Batch: (April 11, 2024, [Source](#)) – [Vulcan Energy Resources Ltd.](#) (ASX: VUL), an Australia-listed lithium developer, experienced a surge of nearly 40% in its stock value after announcing the successful production of a demo batch of lithium chloride using direct-extraction technology (DLE) at its demonstration plant in Landau, Germany. This marks a significant advancement in lithium production for batteries, showcasing the potential of DLE to streamline the production process. Vulcan, backed by Australia's wealthiest individual Gina Rinehart, has established supply agreements with major European car manufacturers like Stellantis, Renault SA, and Volkswagen AG. The company's achievement was hailed as a validation of Vulcan's efforts and the viability of DLE in the lithium supply chain. Vulcan aims to commence commercial production in 2026, targeting an annual output sufficient to support half a million electric vehicles, while still seeking necessary funding. The project promises reduced carbon emissions by utilizing geothermal energy.

Copper prices climb to 2024 high as Citi calls the start of the

metal's second bull market this century: (April 10, 2024, [Source](#)) – Copper prices have surged to their highest levels since June 2022, with May delivery trading at \$4.323 per pound in New York and three-month prices on the London Metal Exchange rising to \$9,477 per metric ton. This increase reflects growing demand for copper, seen as an indicator of economic health and a vital component of the energy transition, including electric vehicles, power grids, and wind turbines. Citi analysts herald the start of copper's second secular bull market of the century, predicting prices could average \$10,000 per metric ton by year's end and potentially rise to \$15,000 in a bullish scenario. However, concerns exist about the sustainability of these price levels, with some analysts warning that high prices could dampen demand through substitution or demand destruction, emphasizing the self-regulating nature of commodity markets.

Chinese car manufacturing in Italy could force tough decisions, says Stellantis CEO: (April 10, 2024, [Source](#)) – Stellantis N.V. (NYSE: STLA) CEO Carlos Tavares warned of tough decisions, including potential plant closures, as Chinese car manufacturing in Italy could introduce new competition, notably from automakers like Chery Auto. The Italian government's negotiations with Tesla Inc. (NASDAQ: TSLA) and Chinese companies aim to boost Italy's automotive production. Tavares emphasized the pressure on Stellantis, Italy's only major automaker, could lead to efforts to increase productivity to stay competitive, potentially affecting market share and necessitating a reduction in the number of plants. Despite rumors, Tavares confirmed Stellantis's commitment to Italy, highlighting investments such as the extension of Fiat Panda's production until 2030 and the inauguration of a facility for electrified transmissions at Mirafiori. He dismissed speculation about divesting from Italy as "fake news."

Volkswagen electric car sales plunge as Europe returns to

petrol: (April 10, 2024, [Source](#)) – Volkswagen’s electric vehicle (EV) sales in Europe plummeted by nearly a quarter in the first quarter of the year, amid a resurgence in petrol car demand, driven by high inflation and rising energy costs. This decline contrasts with a modest 3% global dip in all-electric sales and a 4% rise in combustion engine vehicle sales. The shift comes as governments reevaluate EV subsidies and emissions targets, with the UK delaying its ban on new petrol and diesel sales from 2030 to 2035, and the EU considering allowances for synthetic fuels. This backdrop of diminishing government support and increased competition from more affordably priced Chinese EVs, such as those from BYD, has pressured Volkswagen’s sales. Despite these challenges, Volkswagen experienced a significant 91% surge in EV sales in China, underscoring the regional disparities in EV adoption trends. Other manufacturers like BMW and Tesla also report varying EV sales performance, highlighting the evolving and competitive landscape of the global electric vehicle market.

China’s Tianqi Lithium’s \$4bn bet on Chile at risk of backfiring: (April 9, 2024, [Source](#)) – In 2018, Tianqi Lithium, a major Chinese lithium producer, invested \$4 billion to acquire a significant stake in Chile’s SQM, a move aimed at securing a strong position in the global lithium market, essential for electric vehicles. This investment in the heart of the “lithium triangle” (Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile) now faces challenges due to Chile’s government seeking greater control over lithium resources, particularly in the Atacama Desert where SQM operates. SQM’s agreement with Codelco, a state-owned enterprise, to form a joint venture aligns with Chilean policies for public-private partnerships in strategic sectors, potentially diminishing Tianqi’s influence and future prospects in SQM’s lithium venture. This development is part of a broader trend where countries are reclaiming control over critical

minerals for the green transition, affecting companies like Tianqi, whose profitability and market position are under pressure from changing regulations, market dynamics, and operational challenges, both in Chile and globally.

Rinehart's MP Buy Could Trigger Rare Earths Mining Mega Merger: (April 9, 2024, [Source](#)) – Gina Rinehart, Australia's wealthiest person and iron ore magnate, has made a significant move into the U.S. rare earths sector by acquiring a 5.3% stake in MP Materials Corp. (NYSE: MP), which owns the Mountain Pass mine in California. This purchase has led to a 20% increase in MP's share price within five days. Rinehart's investment extends beyond MP to a 10% stake in [Arafura Rare Earths Limited](#) (ASX: ARU), an Australian rare earth producer, and 5.8% in a Brazilian company. Amidst growing competition with China and threats to "weaponize" its dominance in rare earths essential for modern technologies, Rinehart's actions hint at potential for a major merger, particularly between MP and Australia's Lynas Rare Earths Ltd. (ASX: LYC), aiming to create a significant non-Chinese rare earth supply. This development could signal strategic shifts in global rare earths production, with potential large-scale industry consolidation on the horizon.

China's EV export boom fuels surge in demand for new car-carrying ships: (April 9, 2024, [Source](#)) – Amidst a burgeoning demand for electric vehicles (EVs), Chinese automakers and shippers are investing heavily in a fleet expansion, ordering a record number of car-carrying ships. This surge places China on a trajectory to possess the world's fourth-largest car-carrying fleet by 2028, ascending from its current eighth position. Major corporations like SAIC Motor, Chery Automobile, and EV titan BYD, along with shippers such as COSCO and China Merchants, are spearheading this initiative, accounting for a quarter of global orders. This influx primarily benefits Chinese shipyards, capturing 82% of the global orders. The expansion into foreign

markets, buoyed by a cost-efficient supply chain, has been crucial for Chinese automakers facing domestic challenges like price competition and a slow economy. Notably, China has surpassed Japan as the premier auto exporter, with significant contributions from companies like BYD. However, this export growth has raised concerns in the U.S. and EU about market oversaturation with low-priced goods, though China rebuts, highlighting innovation and downplaying state support's role.

US must boost Africa ties to secure key minerals, report says: (April 9, 2024, [Source](#)) – To secure vital minerals critical for sectors ranging from electric vehicle production to defense, the United States must strengthen its commercial relationships with African nations, a report from the United States Institute of Peace emphasizes. This is to reduce dependency on China, which currently dominates the supply of these critical minerals. The U.S.'s near-total reliance on foreign sources, especially China, for these materials poses significant economic and national security risks. The report highlights the lag of Western mining companies behind Chinese counterparts in tapping into Africa's rich mineral resources. It suggests enhanced U.S. commercial diplomacy, particularly with leading mineral suppliers like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. Additionally, it points out the competition from Middle East firms and proposes measures like increasing project financing and reopening the U.S. consulate in Lubumbashi to facilitate U.S. investment. Despite challenges, the report argues for a more vigorous approach to match China's influence in Africa's mining sector.

Rare earths prices in China hit 7-week high on post-holiday restocking: (April 9, 2024, [Source](#)) – Rare earths prices in China, the world's leading producer, reached a seven-week peak on April 8 due to increased post-holiday restocking, before slightly declining the following day. With China dominating 70% of mining and 90% of the refined rare earths market, notable

increases were observed in praseodymium oxide and terbium oxide prices, highlighting the country's significant influence on the market. The demand surge, particularly after the QingMing Festival, led to a depletion of in-plant stocks among magnetic materials producers, who then turned to the spot market for replenishment. Additionally, the use of ore cargoes as collateral by some to alleviate financial pressures contributed to the price hike. The start of the rainy season in Myanmar, a major supplier, is expected to reduce ore availability, potentially increasing market volatility as companies rely more on spot market purchases, impacting long-term contract stability. Consequently, shares in China Northern Rare Earth (Group) High-Tech saw a 4.3% increase.

Perpetua Resources gets nod to seek \$1.8 bln US loan for antimony mine: (April 8, 2024, [Source](#)) – [Perpetua Resources Corp.](#) (NASDAQ: PPTA | TSX: PPTA) has received preliminary approval from the U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM) for a \$1.8 billion loan to develop an antimony and gold mine in northern Idaho, aligning with efforts to reduce China's dominance in critical minerals. This potential loan marks one of the largest U.S. investments in the mining sector, reflecting the Biden administration's strategy of using federal funds to support projects that compete with Chinese firms. In addition to this loan, Perpetua will seek extra equity funding. The Stibnite mine aims to become the only U.S. source of antimony, vital for military hardware and electric vehicle batteries, while also harboring substantial gold reserves. This venture is part of a broader U.S. initiative to secure domestic supplies of essential minerals and counter China's market influence.

Mining billionaire Forrest urges China to demand greener nickel: (April 7, 2024, [Source](#)) – Australian mining billionaire Andrew Forrest has publicly called for China to implement and enforce higher environmental standards within its global supply chains,

especially focusing on nickel processing in Indonesia, citing severe environmental damage. In a Financial Times interview, Forrest, who is the chair and largest shareholder of Fortescue Ltd. (ASX: FMG), criticized the extraction of Indonesian nickel for its extensive environmental degradation and urged electric vehicle manufacturers to be cautious when sourcing nickel from Indonesia. Forrest highlighted that China's increasing control over Indonesia's nickel production, vital for electric car batteries and steelmaking, comes with significant environmental concerns, including deforestation, mining waste pollution, and high carbon emissions from coal power. Despite shutting down his nickel mines in Western Australia due to price drops influenced by Indonesian nickel, Forrest remains vocal about the need for a "green premium" for sustainably produced nickel and criticizes the lack of differentiation in the market. The call comes amid rising environmental scrutiny and the potential for market-driven adjustments to reflect the environmental cost of production.

Canada risks losing mining capital because of government opacity around Chinese investment in critical minerals sector: (April 5, 2024, [Source](#)) – The opacity of the Canadian government regarding Chinese investment in the critical minerals sector is leading to investor uncertainty and risking Canada's position as a major capital source for mining. Despite Ottawa's late 2022 announcement allowing Chinese investments only under "exceptional circumstances" without defining them, transactions continue, confusing the market. For instance, Shenghe Resources acquired a 10% stake in Vital Metals Ltd. (ASX: VML), owner of Canada's only operating rare earths mine, even purchasing a significant stockpile of rare earths mined in Canada. Critics, including those from the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, find it problematic, especially given China's dominance in the rare earths market. The unclear stance and handling of investments,

such as the blocked financing deal for SRG Mining Inc. (TSXV: SRG)., reflect a broader uncertainty and potential discouragement of future critical minerals companies from basing in Canada, fearing the government's unpredictable investment policies. This situation may drive new companies to other countries, impacting Canada's mining capital and strategic positioning in critical minerals.

Investor.News Critical Minerals Videos:

- April 12, 2024 – Defense Metals Dr. Moreno on the Wicheeda Project Poised to Become North America's Next Rare Earth Mine <https://bit.ly/3TXs7kh>

Critical Minerals IN8.Pro Member News Releases:

- April 10, 2024 – American Rare Earths' Assay Results Expand Rare Earth Enrichment Within the Cowboy State Mine Area at Halleck Creek, Wyoming <https://bit.ly/3JecW0T>
- April 10, 2024 – Critical Metals PLC: Issue of Convertible Loan Notes and Corporate Update <https://bit.ly/4aLZ75P>
- April 10, 2024 – Mount Squires Project Option Agreement to unlock potential further rare earth supply <https://bit.ly/440rco4>
- April 09, 2024 – Pekuakamiulnuatsh First Nation and First Phosphate Announce Collaboration Agreement <https://bit.ly/4d2nH4C>

Technology Metals Report (03.22.2024): US pledges \$1.28B for ASX rare earths stocks and Biden takes a major step in tackling climate change

written by Tracy Weslosky | April 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 CMI Director's over the past week, reflecting the dynamic and evolving nature of the critical minerals and technology metals industry. Among the key stories featured in this report are the US's pledge of \$1.28 billion to ASX-listed rare earths firms to lessen China's dominance in the sector, the looming uncertainty over the future of Flow-Through Financings in Canada as the METC deadline approaches, and Albemarle Corporation's groundbreaking lithium auction aimed at enhancing pricing transparency. Additionally, the Biden administration's ambitious rule to expand electric vehicles (EVs) and the examination of factors behind cooling EV sales growth emphasize the ongoing transformations and challenges within the critical minerals sector.

This week's TMR Report also highlights several significant developments that further shape our understanding and approach

to the critical minerals industry. The urging by the US Energy Secretary for Congress to ban uranium imports from Russia supports domestic nuclear fuel development, while China's rebound in graphite exports for batteries signals geopolitical tensions and strategic resource control. The US's efforts to incorporate Central Asia into its critical minerals supply chains, Indonesia's investment in a new HPAL plant by Vale to boost nickel production for EV batteries, and CATL's enduring ambitions despite a slight dip in quarterly earnings showcase the global landscape's complexity and interconnectedness. Furthermore, Graphjet Technology's innovative approach to producing greener graphite and the push to recognize phosphate and potash as critical minerals in the US underscore the ongoing efforts to secure and diversify supply chains. Lastly, Kazakhstan's emerging potential to rival China in the production of rare-earth metals points to the shifting dynamics of global supply and the continuous search for strategic alternatives to current market dominators.

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US pledges \$1.28b for ASX rare earths stocks (March 21, 2024, [Source](#)) – The US aims to allocate \$1.28 billion to ASX-listed rare earths firms, Meteoric Resources NL (ASX: MEI) and [Australian Strategic Materials Limited](#) (ASX: ASM) (ASM), to diminish China's dominance in critical minerals necessary for decarbonization and defense. The US Export Import Bank's (US EXIM) potential loans aim to support projects in Brazil and New South Wales, contingent upon US companies obtaining project contracts. This funding is part of wider US and Australian efforts to establish non-Chinese critical mineral supply chains, with additional support from the US Department of Defence and other agencies for various projects. This initiative underscores the strategic importance of diversifying global supply chains

and bolsters the credibility and development prospects of companies like Meteoric and ASM in the critical minerals sector.

Anxiety Rises on the Future of Flow-Through Financings as METC Deadline Looms, Canadian Government Keeps Quiet (March 20, 2024, [Source](#)) – Facing the potential expiration of the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit (METC) at the end of March, the Canadian mining industry is gripped by uncertainty. This credit, crucial for supporting exploration companies through Flow-Through Share pricing, might not be renewed, threatening to raise capital costs by 15-20%. The federal government's silence on the issue heightens anxiety, affecting planning and investments, especially for junior miners. Provincial credits in Ontario and Saskatchewan face similar fates, though Manitoba and British Columbia have permanent solutions. The industry is anxiously awaiting the federal budget announcement on April 16, hoping for a resolution. The potential loss of METC, combined with recent tax changes, could significantly impact exploration investment in Canada, underscoring the importance of government policy in the sector's financial health.

Albemarle Lithium Auction offers a bold move forward in pricing transparency in the critical minerals market (March 20, 2024, [Source](#)) – [Albemarle Corporation](#) (NYSE: ALB), the largest lithium producer, is initiating a landmark auction on March 26 to enhance transparency and address price discovery issues in the lithium market. This move, highlighted by Jack Lifton of the [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI), aims to mitigate the opacity and volatility that have long plagued the sector, exacerbated by the electric vehicle (EV) boom. Traditionally, lithium prices have been privately negotiated, lacking a clear global benchmark. Albemarle's auction represents an innovative step towards establishing more transparent pricing, inviting competitive bidding for a significant lithium quantity. Although this initiative marks progress towards addressing market

challenges, Lifton cautions it may not fully resolve the industry's volatility and unpredictability, signaling a critical evolution in lithium pricing strategies amidst growing global demand.

Biden Administration Announces Rule Aimed at Expanding Electric Vehicles (March 20, 2024, [Source](#)) – The Biden administration unveiled a pivotal climate regulation, aiming to revolutionize the U.S. auto industry by ensuring a majority of new passenger vehicles sold by 2032 are electric or hybrid. This marks a major step in tackling climate change, given transportation's status as the top carbon emitter in the country. Despite electric vehicles (EVs) constituting only 7.6% of car sales last year, this rule mandates a significant increase to meet a 56% EV sales target, with hybrids contributing an additional 16%. President Biden highlighted the initiative's potential for economic growth, job creation, and significant environmental benefits, including a projected reduction of over seven billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions over three decades. However, the transition faces challenges, including manufacturing and infrastructure overhaul, political opposition, and consumer acceptance. The regulation, which introduces stringent emissions caps, has garnered both support for its environmental impact and criticism for its feasibility and potential economic implications. Critics argue it may impose undue pressure on the auto industry and consumers, while supporters see it as a crucial step toward a more sustainable future.

The cars, the chargers or the customers? A look at what's behind cooling EV sales growth (March 20, 2024, [Source](#)) – Facing cooling growth in electric vehicle (EV) sales, automakers are adjusting their production strategies amidst increasing model availability. The sector balances optimism with skepticism regarding the shift away from fossil fuels, underlined by challenges like inadequate charging infrastructure impacting

consumer choices. Events like CERAWeek by S&P Global highlight EVs' potential to reduce oil demand, emphasizing the transition's significance. Despite slower sales growth, companies like Ford report significant increases, pointing to the essential role of EVs in future automotive competitiveness. Addressing consumer concerns, particularly around charging reliability and infrastructure, alongside educating an evolving customer base, is pivotal for sustaining the industry's growth momentum.

US energy secretary encourages Congress to ban uranium supplies from Russia (March 20, 2024, [Source](#)) – U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm has urged Congress to ban uranium imports from Russia to support domestic nuclear fuel development. This call comes in light of legislation passed by the U.S. House last December, aimed at halting these imports as part of the response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. However, the Senate has faced delays due to a hold by Senator Ted Cruz on unrelated issues. Granholm emphasized that passing this ban would release funds for expanding domestic uranium enrichment and producing high assay low enriched uranium (HALEU) for advanced nuclear reactors. She expressed optimism during a House hearing on her department's budget, highlighting the urgency of this action to advance domestic nuclear energy capabilities.

China's exports of graphite for batteries rise from December low (March 20, 2024, [Source](#)) – China's natural graphite exports, essential for electric vehicle batteries, rebounded after Beijing's December controls aimed at tightening its grip on vital minerals for advanced manufacturing. From a December low of 3,973 tonnes, exports rose to 6,275 tonnes in January and 10,722 tonnes in February, despite previously averaging about 17,000 tonnes monthly. The restrictions, viewed as a response to Western trade barriers, notably impact trade flows. Rising tensions are evident as the U.S. considers blacklisting Chinese

semiconductor firms linked to Huawei Technologies, signaling an escalation in the technological rivalry. These developments underscore the strategic importance of graphite in the global tech industry and the geopolitical tensions surrounding access to critical manufacturing resources.

US Looks to Draw Central Asia Into Critical Minerals Supply Chains (March 18, 2024, [Source](#)) – The United States is actively seeking to integrate Central Asia into its critical minerals supply chains, a move underscored by the February 2024 inauguration of the Critical Minerals Dialogue (CMD) in the C5+1 format. This initiative, bolstered by the collective will of the U.S. and Central Asian nations—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—aims to bolster Central Asia's role in global supply chains, thereby enhancing economic cooperation, facilitating clean energy transitions, and protecting regional ecosystems. Central Asia, rich in critical minerals like nickel, cobalt, palladium, rare earth elements (REEs), and others vital for high-tech, defense, and green technologies, represents a strategic alternative to China's dominance in these supply chains. The U.S. is particularly keen to mitigate risks associated with China's control over a significant portion of the world's critical minerals processing and production. Through the CMD and other partnerships, the U.S. seeks to foster investment in Central Asia's vast mineral resources, promising a potential shift in global economic and technological power dynamics while confronting strategic vulnerabilities and enhancing national security.

Indonesia says nickel miner Vale to build another \$2 bln HPAL plant (March 18, 2024, [Source](#)) – Nickel miner PT Vale Indonesia is considering a \$1.91 billion investment in a new high-pressure acid leaching (HPAL) plant on Sulawesi island, announced Indonesia's Investment Ministry. This plant, named "SOA HPAL," aims to produce mixed hydroxide precipitate (MHP), essential for

electric vehicle batteries, with an expected annual output of 60,000 metric tons of nickel in MHP. Vale Indonesia, which is in the final stage of exploration, plans to collaborate with automakers for this venture. The company already has two HPAL projects underway in Sulawesi, partnering with Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt, and has Ford's involvement in the \$4.5 billion Pomalaa project. Additionally, Indonesia's state mining company MIND ID recently acquired a 14% stake in Vale Indonesia, bolstering its position as a top shareholder.

CATL earnings slip masks charged-up ambitions (March 18, 2024, [Source](#)) – Contemporary Amperex Technology (CATL), the world's largest electric car battery manufacturer, experienced a slight 1.2% decline in quarterly earnings, marking its first downturn since early 2022. Despite reduced factory utilization and the broader industry's cooling sales growth, CATL is ambitiously expanding, planning new facilities to increase its production potential significantly. The company dominates the global market, boasting a 36.8% share and leading innovation with a large R&D team focused on advanced battery chemistries. Although facing challenges in the United States, CATL is making strategic moves abroad, including constructing a factory in the European Union. Investors remain optimistic, reflected in a stock price increase, as CATL's scale, innovation, and strategic expansion position it to potentially outpace competition and maintain market leadership, despite potential overcapacity risks.

Startup Offers EV Firms Greener Graphite in Alternative to China (March 18, 2024, [Source](#)) – Graphjet Technology, an alternative energy startup in Malaysia, is offering electric-vehicle (EV) manufacturers a sustainable source of graphite by converting agricultural waste into this critical battery component. Utilizing palm kernels, the company can produce graphite with an 83% lower carbon footprint and at 80% less cost than traditional methods. Starting in the second quarter, Graphjet aims for an

annual production capacity of 3,000 tons from its facility in Malaysia, a leading palm oil producer. This move provides a significant alternative to China's dominance in the synthetic graphite market, responsible for 90% of the global supply. The U.S. is keen on diversifying its EV battery supply chain away from Chinese control, especially in light of China's recent export restrictions on graphite. Graphjet's initiative is timely, as it plans expansions in Nevada, Korea, Japan, and Europe, aiming to address the growing global demand and the U.S.'s need for a reliable graphite source outside China.

TFI: Phosphate and Potash are Critical Minerals, Senate Bill to Solidify (March 14, 2024, [Source](#)) – The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) has commended the U.S. Senate's bipartisan effort to classify phosphate and potash as critical minerals, highlighting the move as crucial for securing the nation's agricultural future and food supply. The legislation, backed by Senators from both parties, aims to ensure a resilient and sustainable domestic fertilizer supply for American agriculture by addressing the vulnerabilities in the global supply chain and geopolitical instability. With the majority of the world's phosphate and potash concentrated in a few countries, and the U.S. heavily reliant on imports for its potash needs, this initiative seeks to mitigate supply chain risks. Recognizing these minerals as critical could streamline the permitting process for expanding and opening new mines in the U.S., a necessary step given the extensive time and financial investment required.

Kazakhstan's Potential to Overtake China in Production of Rare-Earth Metals (March 14, 2024, [Source](#)) – Kazakhstan is on the verge of becoming a significant contender in the global rare-earth elements (REEs) market, challenging China's dominance. With China controlling 70% of the market and facing strained relations with the West, North American and European investors

are turning to Kazakhstan's rich reserves as a strategic alternative. This shift is driven by the need to diversify supply chains away from China, given REEs' critical role in technology and manufacturing. The US and EU are prepared to invest in Kazakhstan, aiming to secure a stable, sustainable supply of these vital materials. However, Kazakhstan must modernize its mining practices and carefully select investors to fully leverage its potential as a global REE supplier.

Investor.News Critical Minerals Media Coverage:

- March 20, 2024 – Anxiety Rises on the Future of Flow-Through Financings as METC Deadline Looms, Canadian Government Keeps Quiet <https://bit.ly/3IKHmI7>
- March 20, 2024 – Albemarle Lithium Auction offers a bold move forward in pricing transparency in the critical minerals market <https://bit.ly/3vkpBwf>
- March 20, 2024 – The Top 5 Reasons Why YouTube Will Transform Marketing for Public Companies <https://bit.ly/3PvPnEC>

Investor.News Critical Minerals Videos:

- March 20, 2024 – CBLT'S Peter Clausi on de-risking exploration projects with M&A <https://bit.ly/3vfU6Uf>
- March 20, 2024 – Chris Buncic on the “shocking” Chrysalis Copper timeline for production <https://bit.ly/49ZGRGm>
- March 19, 2024 – World Renowned Critical Minerals Expert Constantine Karayannopoulos is Bullish on Lithium

<https://bit.ly/43m0vbk>

- March 19, 2024 – Peartree’s Ron Bernbaum on how Charitable Flow-Through Financings Connects Donors, Investors, and Mining Companies for Canada’s Exploration Capital <https://bit.ly/4cj303V>
- March 19, 2024 – Xcite Resources’ Jean-Francois Meilleur on the Athabasca Basin’s untapped potential for significant uranium discoveries <https://bit.ly/49YQ9SK>
- March 19, 2024 – Scandium Canada’s Guy Bourassa on One of the Largest Primary Scandium Projects in the World <https://bit.ly/3TlHeUp>
- March 18, 2024 – Rowena Smith Highlights ASM’s Operational Success at Korean Metals Plant in Rare Earth Metals Production <https://bit.ly/3TH1jWS>
- March 18, 2024 – Jack Lifton Sits Down with ‘Bobby’ Stewart, the Driving Force Behind Geophysx Jamaica’s Charge into the Global Arena with Critical Minerals <https://bit.ly/3vhDtaG>
- March 18, 2024 – WEALTH’s Peter Nicholson on the Added Benefits of Critical Mineral Flow Through Investment Deals in Quebec, Saskatchewan and Manitoba <https://bit.ly/4a37xGk>
- March 17, 2024 – John Passalacqua on First Phosphate’s groundbreaking achievements in the phosphate mining industry <https://bit.ly/3VgRlwt>
- March 17, 2024 – America Rare Earths’ Donald Swartz on the recent increase in in-situ resources at Halleck Creek by 64% to 2.34 billion tonnes <https://bit.ly/3IGgvNv>
- March 17, 2024 – Rowena Smith sits down with Jack Lifton on ASM’s ‘Mines to Metal’ Advantage in Supplying Rare Earths <https://bit.ly/4cmIlMc>

Critical Minerals IN8.Pro Member News Releases:

- March 21, 2024 – Hearty Bay Drilling Suggests Till Sampling May Lead to Source of Radioactive Boulders <https://bit.ly/3ILHjvL>
 - March 21, 2024 – ASM receives US\$600M (A\$923 million) Letter of Interest from US EXIM for Dubbo Project, as US partnerships begin to play a significant role <https://bit.ly/4ahxWQR>
 - March 20, 2024 – NEO Battery Materials Announces Change of Auditor to MNP LLP <https://bit.ly/3VrGyQf>
 - March 20, 2024 – Power Nickel Continues to Expand its Near Surface High-Grade Cu-Pt-Pd-Au-Ag Zone 5km Northeast of its Main Nisk Deposit <https://bit.ly/3IM5Cd5>
 - March 19, 2024 – First Phosphate Drills 9.44% P2O5 Over 89.10 m at Its Begin-Lamarche Project in Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean, Quebec, Canada <https://bit.ly/43wi4qT>
 - March 19, 2024 – Defense Metals Appoints HCF International Advisers for Strategic Funding Review of Wicheeda REE Project <https://bit.ly/3IGNMio>
 - March 18, 2024 – American Rare Earths' Scoping Study confirms low-cost, scalable world-class REE project <https://bit.ly/3IJD2l>
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CBLT'S Peter Clausi on de-risking exploration projects with M&A

written by InvestorNews | April 19, 2024

In a comprehensive interview with InvestorNews host Tracy Weslosky, Peter Clausi, President, CEO & Director of [CBLT Inc.](#) (TSXV: CBLT), delved into the company's strategic focus on mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and asset development across the mineral exploration sector. Clausi articulated CBLT's preemptive strategy to bolster its financial position by liquidating assets ahead of anticipated market downturns, ensuring the company remains financially robust with "cash in the bank." This prudent financial management, according to Clausi, positions CBLT advantageously during both prosperous and challenging times, enabling continued exploration and project development activities.

Clausi emphasized CBLT's unique approach to growth, stating, "In our belief, you can make more money with the pen than with the drill bit at less risk," highlighting the company's success in maximizing value through strategic M&A activities rather than solely relying on direct exploration. This philosophy has allowed CBLT to maintain a lean share structure over 15 years, with only 75 million shares issued, a testament to their efficient capital management and strategic project acquisitions.

The interview further shed light on CBLT's diverse portfolio, ranging from gold and cobalt to lithium and copper properties across Canada, each selected for its potential to address future market demands. Notably, Clausi spotlighted the acquisition and planned development of the historic Falcon Gold Mine in Sudbury, illustrating CBLT's knack for identifying and revitalizing

underexplored or forgotten assets. This property, alongside others such as Michaela in British Columbia and a lithium property adjacent to the Tanco Mine in Manitoba, underscores CBLT's strategic foresight in project selection and development.

Adding to the company's strategic capabilities, CBLT announced the addition of James R. Atkinson, a geologist with over 40 years of experience, to its board of directors, promising to further bolster its expertise in mineral exploration and project evaluation.

Moreover, Clausi provided insights into the company's recent sale of the non-core Ryliejack asset in northern British Columbia, demonstrating CBLT's strategic asset management and focus on optimizing its portfolio for financial and operational efficiency. Throughout the interview, Clausi's narrative was one of strategic foresight, prudent financial management, and a deep understanding of the mineral exploration sector. His perspective on the critical role of copper as a technology metal, over other more transient battery metals, reflected a long-term strategic outlook on commodity investment, emphasizing the importance of adaptability and foresight in the rapidly evolving resource sector. Clausi's articulate discussion highlighted CBLT's commitment to strategic growth, value creation, and operational excellence in the exploration industry.

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

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About CBLT Inc.

CBLT Inc. (TSXV: CBLT) has an impressive portfolio of eight (8) active exploration projects, and one (1) passive investment

across Canada. In Manitoba, they fully own the Shatford Lake Project, focusing on Lithium, which was acquired in 2021. In Sudbury, Ontario, they possess both Copper Prince and the former gold producing Falcon Gold Project, acquired in 2016 and 2023 respectively. These two projects are significant as they jointly cover 100% of the Garson Fault, with resources including Cobalt, Copper, and Gold. Ontario is also home to their Big Duck Lake Project, acquired in 2019, which is rich in Copper, Gold, and Zinc. Similarly, in Newfoundland, the Burnt Pond Project, also acquired in 2019, targets Copper and Zinc resources. Their Geneva Lake Project in Sudbury, focusing on Lead and Zinc, has been under their ownership since 2012. Lastly, the Mikayla Project in British Columbia, acquired in 2012, explores Copper, Gold, and Silver, though no exploration activities were reported for it in fiscal 2023. With regards to passive investments, CBLT acquired title to the Chilton Cobalt property in Quebec in 2017, which was later optioned to PowerStone Metals Corp.

To learn more about CBLT Inc., [click here](#)

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Chris Buncic on the “shocking” Chrysalis Copper timeline for production

written by InvestorNews | April 19, 2024

In an engaging interview at PDAC 2024, [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI) Director Peter Clausi sat down with Chris Buncic, Director of Chrysalis Copper Corporation, to discuss the company’s ambitious plans in Chile. Buncic, bringing a wealth of experience from his tenure at Ascendant Resources and Alto Verde Copper / Interra Copper, shared insights into Chrysalis Copper’s strategy to revitalize two historical copper mines, leveraging their significant untapped resources for rapid production startup and growth. The company’s approach is to initiate production under small miners permits, a strategy that promises to expedite the timeline to production to less than 12 months for both the Linderos and Santa Monica projects.

Chrysalis Copper’s Linderos project, with a 15,000+ hectare land package, showcases a past-producing Tambor Mine with a fast track to re-initiation of production under a small miners permit, targeting an initial output of 250 tonnes per day (tpd). This project holds over 146 million pounds of copper in historical resources, setting the stage for a quick transition to NI 43-101 compliance and further exploration upside. Buncic highlighted, “It’s shocking that we’re going to be in production within 12 months. We have a great price for these operations and significant exploration upside on four drill-ready properties.”

The Santa Monica project echoes this rapid development approach,

aiming for near-term production with substantial exploration potential indicated by historical resources and the proximity to other major mines. Both projects are poised for an accelerated path to production, minimal upfront investment, and significant ROI potential, underscoring Chrysalis Copper's strategy to become a mid-sized copper producer in Chile with a steady-state annualized production target of 57 million pounds of Copper Equivalent (CuEq) across both projects.

Buncic's previous success in turning around operations and driving them to profitability was a focal point, and the broad technical and management experience of the Company's team in Chile will lead Chrysalis Copper towards a promising future. With plans to bring resources into compliance and explore the significant upside potential, there will be no shortage of catalysts to be watching for as these mines get closer to production. "The resources we've seen are great; they just don't have core. So, we'll go back, twin those, and within the next 12 to 18 months, we'll have 43-101 compliant resources on each of these mines," Buncic stated, emphasizing the company's commitment to validating and expanding its resource base.

Chrysalis Copper Corporation, is set to rapidly advance its copper projects from near-term production to significant exploration and expansion, leveraging historical resources, strategic permitting, and an experienced team in Chile. This strategy not only underscores the company's potential for growth but also highlights its contribution to the copper sector's development in Chile, one of the world's premier copper-producing countries.

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

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Jack Lifton Sits Down with 'Bobby' Stewart, the Driving Force Behind Geophysx Jamaica's Charge into the Global Arena with Critical Minerals

written by InvestorNews | April 19, 2024

During a revealing interview at PDAC 2024 with Jack Lifton of InvestorNews, Robert "Bobby" Stewart, the driving force behind [Geophysx Jamaica Ltd.](https://www.geophysx.com), shared insights into the company's

pioneering exploration efforts and strategic partnerships in Jamaica. Over the past five to six years, Geophysx Jamaica has conducted a comprehensive exploration campaign across the island, identifying significant copper and gold targets and recently announcing a [joint venture](#) with C3 Metals to further develop these findings. This collaboration aims to leverage both entities' resources and expertise, particularly spotlighting the integration of the past-producing Pennants Gold Mine with the Main Ridge Project to establish the Super Block Project. Stewart highlighted the venture's potential to unlock untapped mineral wealth, emphasizing the strategic importance of copper and gold in technological advancements and space exploration.

Stewart's revelation of a substantial rare earths discovery in Jamaica underscores a significant leap forward in the nation's mineral exploration landscape. Covering about 100 square kilometers, this area exhibits unusually high concentrations of rare earth elements, diverging from the typical geological signatures found in Jamaica's bauxite-rich regions. This finding positions Jamaica as a potential key player in the global critical minerals supply chain, with Stewart remarking on the indispensable role of copper in electricity transmission and the protective qualities of gold in space exploration technologies. The interview delves into the technical and logistical facets of Geophysx Jamaica's exploration strategy, including extensive geochemical and geophysical surveys. Stewart also discusses the company's future plans, hinting at the possibility of public offering and the exploration of downstream processing opportunities in Jamaica to enhance the value of its mineral projects. This conversation with Lifton not only sheds light on Geophysx Jamaica's ambitious exploration endeavors but also highlights the broader implications for Jamaica's role in the global mining industry.

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

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Chris Berlet on the benefit of MineralPrices' real-time pricing information

written by InvestorNews | April 19, 2024

In this interview with Tracy Weslosky during PDAC 2024, Christopher Berlet, President and CIO of [MineralPrices.com](https://www.MineralPrices.com) discussed the current trends and future directions of the metals market. Christopher deep dives into the intricacies of mineral pricing and the scarcity of reliable sources for such data, underpinning MineralPrices.com mission to fill this gap.

As an industry expert, particularly in managed funds and precious metals like gold, Christopher expressed an optimistic outlook for precious metals, including both gold and silver.

The conversation further expanded into the critical minerals domain, where Christopher discussed the evolving landscape shaped by global policies and the varied critical mineral lists curated by different nations. Christopher expressed a keen interest in scandium and niobium due to their applications in lightweighting. Additionally, he discussed the market trends towards transparency and the beneficial role of electronic platforms in providing comprehensive, real-time pricing information and facilitating responsible sourcing.

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