

Imperial Mining's Quebec scandium play is aluminum's best friend

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To me scandium sounds like it should be a country between Finland and Sweden in the Baltic Sea, but then again a lot of people have considered some of my thoughts pretty strange. However, scandium is becoming a critical metal of growing importance in aluminum alloys for auto, commercial aircraft, military armor and EV development, significantly reducing weight and manufacturing costs. It's used as a hardener and strengthener of common aluminum alloys, which are also heat and corrosion resistant. Its weight reduction applications in the automotive, aerospace, fuel cell and defense sectors in turn help reduce the overall carbon footprint by making aircraft and vehicles lighter and more fuel-efficient with lower emissions. Because of these tremendous applications, demand is expected to grow considerably from the current 35 tonnes per annum of product availability to western markets to as high as 2,000 tonnes by 2040.



Source: Imperial Mining Group [Corporate Presentation](#)

Obviously, I don't need to comment on the importance of supply chains, "on-shoring", etc. in light of what the world has seen over the last year or two. We'll suffice it to say that domestic is better. Which leads us to today's topic of conversation – [Imperial Mining Group Ltd.](#) (TSXV: IPG | OTCQB: IMPNF). Imperial is a Canadian mineral exploration and development company focused on the advancement of its [Crater Lake scandium-Rare](#)

[Earth property](#) led by an experienced team of mineral exploration and development professionals with a strong track record of mineral deposit discovery in numerous metal commodities. The Company also has a pair of gold prospects, [Opawica](#) and [La Ronciere](#) all in Quebec.

However, what makes Crater Lake so special is that it is the only hardrock scandium deposit in the world and happens to be in the mining friendly jurisdiction of Quebec, close to hydroelectric capacity and Quebec's aluminum metal production where 90% of Canada's "Green" aluminum is produced. As well, it is looking like Bécancour in Quebec is becoming Canada's battery cathode manufacturing hub with recent announcements from BASF regarding a [cathode active materials and recycling site](#) to support North American producers in their transition to e-mobility and [General Motors and POSCO Chemical's \\$400 million facility](#) to produce cathode active materials for vehicle batteries. It would appear that Imperial could borrow a line from the real estate business and say their project is all about location, location, location.



Source: Imperial Mining Group [March 15, 2022 Press Release](#)

It also doesn't hurt that Crater Lake already has 43-101 compliant resource estimate. In September Imperial received the inaugural [NI 43-101 Technical Report for the Crater Lake](#) TG Zone Mineral Resource Estimate.



Source: Imperial Mining Group Ltd. [press release Sep 23, 2021](#)

The results of the Resource Estimate for the Northern Lobe of the TG Zone far exceeded the minimum threshold resource Imperial internally set for a 20-25-year notional mining operation, or 10

million tonnes. And the good news is mineralization remains open laterally and at depth, demonstrating the potential to increase the mineral resource with additional drilling.

The Company has plenty of catalysts over the next several months to keep the news flow coming for investors. Work on a 43-101 Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) on the TG Zone scandium-rare earth zone resource is progressing and is expected to be completed in the next few weeks. A diamond drill program on the TG Zone (Northern Lobe and Southern Lobe) will commence in late June with up to 22 diamond drill holes for approximately 2,500 m. In addition, there is excellent potential to expand the mineral resources with further drilling on the Southern Lobe. In late Fall 2022, the new drill hole data from the summer program will be forwarded to a consultant to revise and update the previous 43-101 Resource Estimate of the TG Zone. This revised resource will allow Imperial to move forward with a Pre-Feasibility (PFS) or Feasibility (FS) Study.

During Summer 2021, Imperial collected a 50-tonnes bulk sample for use in a pilot plant study. It is expected that the remaining 32-tonnes will be shipped to Sept-Iles, QC by the end of July 2022 to be used in a pilot plant study to further test and optimize Imperial's patent-pending metallurgical process method. Additionally, Imperial has commissioned a hydrometallurgical flowsheet development program based on its patent pending two-stage hydrometallurgical method for the extraction of scandium and rare earth elements with SGS Canada. The program, which started on January 31, 2022, is partially financed from a [\\$245,355 grant](#) from the Quebec Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources with expected completion at the end of Q3 2022. Results from the work will aid in the engineering design of Imperial's pilot program for the Crater Lake project for later in 2022.

As you can see, there is plenty on the go at Imperial Mining Group and the good news is they started May with C\$2.8 M in working capital and virtually no debt. The Company currently has a market cap of C\$14.7 million representing plenty of opportunities for a potential domestic supplier of an up and coming critical material.

Alphamin Benefits from Rising Tin Prices as it Executes on its Growth Strategy

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Earlier this month, [Alphamin Resources Corp.](#) (TSXV: AFM | OTC: AFMJF | FSE: 21L | JSE: APH) reported that it achieved [record fourth-quarter production](#) and EBITDA from its 84% owned, high-grade Bisie Tin mine in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Tin production was 2,898 tons, up 13% from the previous quarter and the Company recorded EBITDA of US\$16.7 million, up 4%, at a tin price of US\$18,497 per ton.

Revenue for 2020 was US\$187.4 million with EBITDA of US\$58.3 million, up 590%.

In the current quarter, Alphamin should record EBITDA improvement again as it benefits from the rising tin price, currently around US\$28,000 per tonne.

Tin is one of the best-performing metals, up 36% year-to-date

and 95% higher year-over-year.



Source: S&P Capital IQ

Alphamin's Bisie Tin Project

The Bisie Tin Project lies 180 kilometers northwest of Goma, the capital of North Kivu province, in north-eastern DRC.

The project consists of five exploration licenses and one current mining license (Bisie Mine), covering 1,270 square kilometres.

The Bisie Mpama North deposit consists of a NI 43-101 Proven & Probable Mineral Reserve of 3.33 million tonnes at 4.01% tin.

According to the Company, the Bisie mine is one of the world's highest grade tin mines at an average grade of approximately 4.5% tin, which is the equivalent in value to 14.6 g/t gold or 12% copper.

Growth Initiatives for 2021

Alphamin is executing four main initiatives to grow the current resource and increase production.

1. Fine Tin Recovery Plant

- Alphamin plans to increase production by building a Fine Tin Recovery Plant.
- Currently, the plant is 80% complete and is on schedule for commissioning in June 2021.
- The Fine Tin Recovery Plant should increase annual production by 1,000 tons to 12,000-13,000 tons.

2. Drilling at the Mpama South Deposit

- The Mpama South deposit is located 0.75 km south of the current processing facility.

- Phase 1 is planned as a 6,000 metre drill program that is scheduled to run from December 2020 until March 2021, and 4,152 metres (20 holes) were completed by February 28.
- Phase 2 is planned as a 2,500 metre drill program to be completed during the third quarter of 2021.
- The objective of the drill programs is to produce a maiden NI43-101 Mineral Resource during 2021.
- Additionally, the Company wants to test the extent of the mineralization to depths of up to 500 metres below the surface and along strike.
- The end goal is to understand the potential for establishing another long-life, high-grade mine at Mpama South.

3. Mpama North Mine Life Extension

- Alphamin also plans to drill down-dip and along strike beyond the existing resource boundaries to determine the extent of the mineralization to extend the life of mine at Mpama North.
- A 6,000 metre drilling campaign is planned during the second quarter from an underground location on Level 6.
- The goal is to extend the Mpama North Mine beyond 2030.

4. Regional Exploration

- The 14-kilometre Bisie Ridge hosts both the Mpama North and Mpama South deposits.
- The Company has identified two drill targets for further exploration in 2021 with the goal to discover at least one additional ore body.

The Tin Market

Tin has seen a surge in industrial demand from high-end computer chips that use the metal for soldering and a supply shock with

the recent coup in Myanmar.

Tin has a variety of uses including solder, batteries, chemicals, copper alloys, and tinplate, and should benefit from the electrification of the world economy.

Tin is already a critical metal in China and the United States as those countries see the importance of ensuring a local supply and sufficient quantities to meet domestic consumption.

Final Thoughts

According to the International Tin Association, with Alphamin holding 8% of the Global Tin Reserves (2019) and 4% of the Global Tin Resources (2019), the Company stands to benefit from tin entering a new demand phase from “green” technologies such as electric vehicles, energy storage, and renewables.

With the increased cash flow due to surging tin prices, Alphamin is poised to execute on its growth initiatives for 2021 and perhaps even return some dividends to shareholders.

The stock closed yesterday at C\$0.56 with a market cap of C\$663 million.



[Source:](#)

CBLT's Clausi on Canadian

cobalt and the rising battery demand for this critical metal

written by InvestorNews | June 3, 2022

June 4, 2018 – “Cobalt is a critical metal as you heard yesterday, as you have seen in the news. You know it is important when Elon Musk makes fun of it. He is downplaying the need for cobalt. Even the batteries made for Tesla by Panasonic need 4½ kilograms of cobalt per battery.” states Peter Clausi, President, CEO and Director of [CBLT Inc.](#) (TSXV: CBLT), in a recent presentation at the 7th Annual InvestorIntel Summit – Buds, Batteries & Blockchain 2018.

Peter Clausi: It is always nice to be here. This is my fourth year coming to this event. Last year it was all battery metals. I tell people I meet in the industry this is one of my favorite places to come to meet people, get new ideas and see how things work. We are in the business though of making money for our shareholders. We got into the cobalt space about 2 years ago pretty much ahead of many other people. The problem is the Canadian markets did not give us or indeed any of the cobalt juniors real value for the assets that we had. If we are not going to get real value that way we came up with a better plan to generate real value. The disclaimer, has anybody ever read a disclaimer? For this conversation we are only talking about our properties in Gowganda, which is part of the Cobalt Embayment, and one of our properties in Sudbury. We have other properties in Sudbury, British Columbia and Quebec, but this conversation is only about Gowganda and our MacTrack claims in Sudbury. In Gowganda we bought 5 assets in a portfolio. We paid \$114,000 for 5 assets; roughly \$50,000 in cash, the rest in stock. Went to Australia at the end of January, met with bankers, investment bankers, miners, promoters, financiers and began to tell our

story. Australia is far more advanced than Canada and decades ahead of the United States when it comes to the recognition of capitalizing upon critical metals. Cobalt is a critical metal as you heard yesterday, as you have seen in the news. You know it is important when Elon Musk makes fun of it. He is downplaying the need for cobalt. Even the batteries made for Tesla by Panasonic need $4\frac{1}{2}$ kilograms of cobalt per battery. We sold one asset. I like the dancing money. Sold one asset called Bloom Lake for \$50,000 cash and \$50,000 in stock. We had a lot of faith in that management team. That stock though has increased 700%. What we sold for \$100,000 we actually got \$400,000 of value out of for 1 asset. Remember we bought the whole portfolio for \$114,000. We then sold two other assets, again, dancing money, Corkill-Lawson and Farr for \$50,000 and \$87,000 in stock. As of this morning the stock was up over \$100,000. Again, this is one asset that is part of the portfolio of 5. Between this and the other company we are up over \$600,000. Not done yet. We then optioned off 2 of the remaining assets in Gowganda. For that, we have got more dancing money, \$20,000 for each option plus a minimum work commitment over the next year. We also get a 10% management fee. They being in Australia do not want to come to Canada to learn the system, learn the local geologist, the regional geologist, First Nations so they have asked us to run the program for them. For that we get an additional 10% management fee...to access the complete presentation, [click here](#)

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Happy Creek CEO on tungsten as a critical metal

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March 22, 2018 – “We have actually been involved in this tungsten project for over 20 years, long before it became a fashionable new thing. Really tungsten is a special metal. There is not any production of any consequence done in North America. 99% of the tungsten is imported into North America.” states David Blann, CEO, President and Director of [Happy Creek Minerals Ltd.](#) (TSXV: HPY), in an interview with InvestorIntel’s Jeff Wareham.

Jeff Wareham: David is the CEO of Happy Creek. He is also quite an expert on the metals market. When we were talking last David you told me that your intention was to focus on your tungsten asset this year. Does that say something about what you see with tungsten in the market?

David Blann: Absolutely. We have actually been involved in this tungsten project for over 20 years, long before it became a fashionable new thing. Really tungsten is a special metal. There is not any production of any consequence done in North America. 99% of the tungsten is imported into North America.

Jeff Wareham: From where?

David Blann: China, Bolivia, places like DRC. It really brings up the definition of critical metal.

Jeff Wareham: Why do we need it?

David Blann: Tungsten is a real important metal. It is in all the tools that are used to make things. You not only find it in products like your vibration in your cell phones, the tips of

your ballpoint pens, medical tools, hard steels, but it is mostly used in making tools, the drill bits, the cutting teeth, the blades. Things like that, that are used to manufacture just about everything we have around us. North America is not producing anything of consequence in the world of tungsten. Happy Creek hopes to change that.

Jeff Wareham: I was going to say you guys must be pretty excited about the grades you released in your most recent drill.

David Blann: That is true. The resource estimate is top tier in the western world. The metallurgical aspects are awesome. We have a near-surface open-pit component that looks for potentially a rapid cost payback on a mill production scenario for building a mill...to access the complete interview, [click here](#)

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