

Avalon Advanced Materials advances forward towards becoming a lithium producer

written by Tracy Weslosky | January 25, 2023

As I was having my morning coffee today I came across some quite incredible news. The world's largest lithium miner Albemarle stated that they expect there will be a massive shortage of lithium this decade. The report stated that "[global lithium demand should hit 3.7 million tonnes by 2030.](#)" Given that the total lithium market was only at about 370,000 tonnes pa in 2020 that would mean a 10x increase in demand this decade. Albemarle expects [an 800,000 tonne lithium deficit by 2030](#) with lithium prices staying high. Albemarle CEO Norris [stated](#): "Incentivizing industry to fill this gap requires strong long-term pricing".

This got me thinking about who will be the next lithium miners to help meet this huge demand for lithium. Perhaps it will be [Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.](#) (TSX: AVL | OTCQB: AVLNF) ("Avalon").

Avalon 100% owns the advanced stage [Separation Rapids Lithium Project](#) in Ontario, Canada as well as the [Lilypad Cesium-Tantalum-Lithium Project](#) also in Ontario.

Separation Rapids predominant lithium ore is petalite which contains 4.5% Li₂O and is extremely pure. Petalite ore is already successfully [being mined in Zimbabwe](#) to supply the lithium ceramics industry. Avalon [state](#) on their website that they have "developed a process flowsheet to make lithium hydroxide from its petalite. The potential for production of high-grade lithium hydroxide (99.9%) was demonstrated through laboratory test work performed in 2015 and defined in a

Preliminary Economic Assessment filed in 2016.”



Lithium Minerals at Separation Rapids: a rare type of LCT pegmatite

- › There are two main lithium ore minerals in the Separation Rapids LCT pegmatite: **petalite** & **lepidolite**
- › Petalite is the predominant lithium mineral, with lepidolite occurring in distinct subzones comprising 20% of the resource
- › **Petalite** ($\text{Li Al Si}_4\text{O}_{10}$) contains 4.5% Li_2O with no impurities
- › **Lepidolite** ($\text{K}(\text{Li},\text{Al},\text{Rb})_2(\text{Al},\text{Si})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{F},\text{OH})_2$) is a lithium mica containing other elements including **cesium**
- › They can each be concentrated to make saleable products:
 - Petalite can be used both as an industrial mineral for high strength glass and as a high purity feed to make battery grade lithium hydroxide or carbonate
 - Lepidolite concentrates are being used increasingly for production of battery grade lithium carbonate
- › **Tantalum** minerals are also recoverable along with **Rubidium-rich K-feldspars** as an industrial mineral by-product

Source: [Avalon company presentation](#)

Avalon continues to be somewhat under the radar despite having [an MOU to supply LG Energy Solution Inc. \(“LGES”\)](#) and plans to build a lithium hydroxide refinery in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.

LGES is one of the leading global manufacturers of lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles, mobility, IT, and energy storage systems.

Avalon’s agreement with LGES is to supply battery-grade lithium hydroxide starting in 2025. That suggests that LGES has good confidence in Avalon’s potential to make it to production. The MOU would see Avalon commit, for five years initially, to provide LGES with at least 50% of its planned initial lithium hydroxide production from its Thunder Bay JV refinery (planned

20,000tpa capacity), with the potential to increase production as demand grows.

The Thunder Bay lithium refinery would be designed to accept lithium concentrate material from both Avalon's Separation Rapids Project and other new projects in the region. In a January 10, 2023 regulatory filing Avalon [stated](#):

"Essar failed to confirm their interest in finalizing an agreement with Avalon and the Company is now pursuing agreements with other potential investing partners including LG Energy Solution ("LGES").....This agreement with LGES (when it gets finalized) will involve providing initial financial and development support for building a lithium refinery in Thunder Bay, Ontario that will be designed to accept lithium minerals concentrates, not only from Avalon's Separation Rapids Lithium Project north of Kenora, ON, but also from other aspiring new producers from the many lithium pegmatite resources that occur in northwestern Ontario. It will operate as a separate private business, called Avalon Lithium Inc., a newly established Avalon subsidiary in which LGES would potentially become a co- owner, when they finalize a formal agreement."

Avalon also has [an off-take agreement](#) with a major non-Chinese international glass ceramic manufacturer to supply petalite concentrate from Separation Rapids for the glass-ceramics market.

The next steps for Avalon include a winter drilling campaign ([deeper drilling](#) at Separation Rapids main lithium pegmatite resource known as the Big Whopper), completing Feasibility Study-level cost estimates, project engineering and pilot plant work to optimize lithium battery materials process flowsheet & costs for the refinery and confirm the location for the refinery on a vacant industrial site in Thunder Bay. Also to complete

environmental assessments and project permitting. Beyond that Avalon plan to begin small scale commercial operations with sales of petalite and mineral by-products while the new battery materials refinery is constructed [ready for production in 2025/26](#), all going well.

Avalon Advanced Materials ticks many boxes for investors. Great lithium assets in Ontario Canada, supportive local, state and Federal governments, and a preliminary agreement to work with a multi-billion dollar company such LGES to establish a lithium supply chain in Canada. All at a time when it appears lithium will have a great decade. Execution risks to achieve lithium production remain high, but should de-risk with each successful step along the way. What's not to like with Avalon Advanced Materials on a market cap of [C\\$68 million](#).

InvestorIntel plans to have some interviews in 2023 with CEO Don Bubar to get an update on how the Company's plans are progressing.

Don Bubar of Avalon Advanced Materials on delivering lithium for batteries and advanced ceramics

written by InvestorNews | January 25, 2023

In this Critical Minerals Institute interview, host Jack Lifton talks to [Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.](#)'s (TSX: AVL | OTCQB:

AVLNF) President, CEO and Director Don Bubar about establishing a North American lithium supply chain and Avalon's new [off-take agreement](#) with a major international glass-ceramics manufacturer for petalite concentrates.

In the interview, which can also be viewed in full on the InvestorIntel YouTube channel ([click here to access InvestorChannel.com](#)), Don talks about the competitive advantages of building Avalon's lithium refinery in Thunder Bay, Ontario. In addition to having recently signed an MOU with LG Energy Solution to supply battery-grade lithium hydroxide starting in 2025, Don tells Jack: "The main reason for establishing it there was also to basically open the door to other producers of lithium mineral concentrates from the many, many lithium pegmatites that occur throughout Northwestern Ontario..." In addition to lithium, Don says that Avalon provides exposure to multiple other minerals like rare earths, tantalum, and cesium.

Don also talks about a recently announced multi-year agreement for Avalon to supply a non-Chinese international glass ceramic manufacturer with petalite concentrates. "High strength glass ceramic products of various types," Don tells Jack, "that's a market you don't hear a whole lot about for lithium. It is growing now too through further innovation in other types of high strength glass products and ceramic products."

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

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About Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.

Avalon Advanced Materials Inc. is a Canadian mineral development company specializing in sustainably-produced materials for clean

technology. The Company now has four advanced stage projects, providing investors with exposure to lithium, tin and indium, as well as rare earth elements, tantalum, cesium and zirconium. Avalon is currently focusing on developing its Separation Rapids Lithium Project near Kenora, Ontario while continuing to advance other projects, including its 100%-owned Lilypad Cesium-Tantalum-Lithium Project located near Fort Hope, Ontario. Social responsibility and environmental stewardship are corporate cornerstones.

To learn more about Avalon Advanced Materials Inc., [click here](#)

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Don Bubar of Avalon Advanced Materials on signing key new agreements and the high demand for lithium

written by InvestorNews | January 25, 2023

In this InvestorIntel interview, host Tracy Weslosky talks to [Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.](https://www.sedar.com)'s (TSX: AVL | OTCQB: AVLNF) President, CEO and Director Don Bubar about the growing world demand for lithium for high strength glass ceramics, and its recent announcement that it has secured a firm commitment to purchase petalite concentrates produced at the company's Separation Rapids Lithium Project in Ontario, Canada.

In the interview, which can also be viewed in full on the

InvestorIntel YouTube channel ([click here to access InvestorChannel.com](https://www.investorchannel.com)), Don tells Tracy that most people are aware of the growing importance of lithium in EV battery technology, but “one of the main uses from the past has always been in high strength glass ceramic products... It’s actually the mineral that Corning used to invent CorningWare cookware, which was one of the first examples of high strength glass ceramic product.” He goes on to say that there is increasing demand and innovative uses for other types of high strength glass ceramic products that require the high purity lithium aluminum silicate mineral petalite produced by Avalon. Don also discusses the new multi-year off-take agreement recently announced by Avalon for the delivery of petalite to a major non-Chinese international glass ceramic manufacturer.

Don also talks about Avalon being one of the three companies to sign a non-binding memorandum of understanding with LG Energy Solution to supply them with a battery-grade lithium hydroxide starting in 2025. The MOU was signed during the visit of South Korea’s President, Yoon Suk Yeol, to Canada in September. Under the terms of the MOU, Avalon would commit for an initial period of five years to provide LGES with at least 50% of its planned initial lithium hydroxide production. Don adds: “We’ve been getting the message out on our vision for creating the lithium battery materials refinery in Thunder Bay, and that would be an ideal location to serve the needs of companies that are now going to set up manufacturing facilities in Southern Ontario.”

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

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company specializing in sustainably-produced materials for clean technology. The Company now has four advanced stage projects, providing investors with exposure to lithium, tin and indium, as well as rare earth elements, tantalum, cesium and zirconium. Avalon is currently focusing on developing its Separation Rapids Lithium Project near Kenora, Ontario while continuing to advance other projects, including its 100%-owned Lilypad Cesium-Tantalum-Lithium Project located near Fort Hope, Ontario. Social responsibility and environmental stewardship are corporate cornerstones.

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Avalon Advanced Materials Don Bubar on the Acceleration of the Separation Rapids Lithium Project

written by InvestorNews | January 25, 2023

In this InvestorIntel interview with host Tracy Weslosky, [Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.](https://www.sedar.com/financials/sec-filings/avalon-advanced-materials-inc)'s (TSX: AVL | OTCQB: AVLNF) President, CEO and Director Don Bubar talks about their lithium extraction technology and about securing a [\\$3M convertible security funding](#) to accelerate Separation Rapids Lithium Project.

In the interview, which can also be viewed in full on the InvestorIntel YouTube channel ([click here to access](#)

InvestorChannel.com), Don starts, "We've been in this space for 25 years...while 25 years ago was a bit early for battery materials, we knew it would have a day and that day has finally come." Don also provides an update on reactivating Avalon's East Kemptville Tin Project which "was the only ever primary tin producer in North American history." Emphasizing how tin has emerged as a very important technology metal due to its growing usage in many technology applications, Don talks about Avalon creating a new supply.

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

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Rare Earths and the Challenges of Building a Domestic EV Material Supply Chain

written by InvestorNews | January 25, 2023

In this InvestorIntel PDAC 2022 Panel on rare earths and “Building the EV Material Supply Chain”, host Byron W King is joined by [Search Minerals Inc.](#)’s (TSXV: SMY | OTCQB: SHCMF) President, CEO, and Director Greg Andrews, [Appia Rare Earths & Uranium Corp.](#)’s (CSE: API | OTCQX: APAAF) President Frederick Kozak, [Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.](#)’s (TSX: AVL | OTCQB: AVLNF) President, CEO and Director Don Bubar, and [Vital Metals Limited](#)’s (ASX: VML | OTCQB: VTMXF) Managing Director Geoff Atkins.

In the video, which can also be viewed in full on the InvestorIntel YouTube channel ([click here](#)), the panel discusses whether there is enough rare earths supply to meet the future demand for electric vehicles. Vital Minerals’ Geoff Atkins talks about the shift from government pressure to move to electric vehicles to increasing consumer demand for EVs, especially outside the United States, and the different processing requirements for EV batteries and rare earths magnet components which make “just in time” supply chain inventory management impossible.

Avalon President Don Bubar notes that China’s rare earths dominance came from how “they saw before anyone in the West how you have to create the downstream manufacturing and processing capacity in order to justify creating the primary supply, and that’s a foreign concept to the traditional mining industry here in Canada.” Greg Andrews agrees that the challenge is “trying to create rare earths industry in Canada that doesn’t exist,” but

as Appia president Frederick Kozak points out, the new Saskatchewan rare earths processing facility makes domestic processing more attractive “as opposed to having to ship it to China for processing.”

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

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About Search Minerals Inc.

Led by a proven management team and board of directors, Search is focused on finding and developing Critical Rare Earths Elements (CREE), Zirconium (Zr) and Hafnium (Hf) resources within the emerging Port Hope Simpson – St. Lewis CREE District of southeast Labrador. The Company controls a belt 63 km long and 2 km wide and is road accessible, on tidewater, and located within 3 local communities. Search has completed a preliminary economic assessment report for **FOXTROT**, and a resource estimate for **DEEP FOX**. Search is also working on three exploration prospects along the belt which include: **FOX MEADOW**, **SILVER FOX** and **AWESOME FOX**.

Search has continued to optimize our patented Direct Extraction Process technology with support from the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and from the Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency. We have completed two pilot plant operations and produced highly purified mixed rare earth carbonate concentrate and mixed rare earth concentrate for separation and refining. We also recognize the continued support by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for its Junior Exploration Program.

Search Minerals was selected to participate in the Government of Canada Accelerated Growth Service (“AGS”) initiative, which

supports high growth companies. AGS, as a 'one-stop shop' model, provides Search with coordinated access to Government of Canada resources as Search continues to move quickly to production and contribute to the establishment of a stable and secure rare earth element North American and European supply chain.

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

About Appia Rare Earths & Uranium Corp.

Appia is a Canadian publicly-listed 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 105,026 hectares (259,525 acres) in Saskatchewan. The Company also has a 100% interest in 12,545 hectares (31,000 acres), with rare earth element and uranium deposits over five mineralized zones in the Elliot Lake Camp, Ontario.

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

About Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.

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responsibility and environmental stewardship are corporate cornerstones.

To learn more about Avalon Advanced Materials Inc., [click here](#)

About Vital Metals Limited

Vital Metals Limited (ASX: VML) is Canada's first rare earths producer following commencement of production at its Nechalacho rare earths project in Canada in June 2021. It holds a portfolio of rare earths, technology metals and gold projects located in Canada, Africa and Germany.

To know more about Vital Metals Limited, [click here](#)

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InvestorIntel is digging for stories at PDAC 2022

written by Stephen Lautens | January 25, 2023

PDAC 2022 is underway, and InvestorIntel is one of the media sponsors at the world's largest mining and exploration convention. We are busy looking for new stories and meeting old friends at the first in-person PDAC since 2020.

Monday through Wednesday (June 13-15), InvestorIntel is conducting exclusive interviews with industry leaders, presidents and CEOs of some of the most interesting silver, gold, rare earths, uranium and other critical materials

companies.

On Monday our first panel was **Rare Earths, Sustainability & Meeting the EV Market Demand** hosted by InvestorIntel CEO and Founder Tracy Weslosky with panelists Mark Chalmers, President and CEO of [Energy Fuels Inc.](#) (NYSE American: UUUU | TSX: EFR) and Constantine Karayannopoulos, President, CEO and Director of [Neo Performance Materials Inc.](#) (TSX: NEO).

Our next panel discussion was hosted by Chris Thompson of [eResearch](#) on **Silver, The Technology Metal & Market** with Byron W. King, InvestorIntel columnist, [Bald Eagle Gold Corp.](#)'s (TSXV: BIG) CEO Chris Paul, [Silver Bullet Mines Corp.](#)'s (TSXV: SBMI) VP Capital Markets and Director Peter Clausi, and Simon Ridgway, Founder, Director, President and CEO of [Volcanic Gold Mines Inc.](#) (TSXV: VG).

To finish off Monday's schedule, InvestorIntel columnist and renowned critical materials expert Byron W. King, led a panel discussion on **Building the EV Material Supply Chain** with [Appia Rare Earths & Uranium Corp.](#)'s (CSE: API | OTCQB: APAAF) President Frederick Kozak, [Search Minerals Inc.](#)'s (TSXV: SMY | OTCQB: SHCMF) President, CEO, and Director Greg Andrews, [Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.](#)'s (TSX: AVL | OTCQB: AVLNF) President, CEO and Director, Don Bubar, and [Vital Metals Limited](#)'s (ASX: VML | OTCQB: VTMXF) Managing Director, Geoff Atkins.

If you are at PDAC, be sure to visit the InvestorIntel media studio on Level 700.

Avalon's Don Bubar on the first regional lithium battery materials refinery in Ontario

written by InvestorNews | January 25, 2023

In this InvestorIntel interview with host Tracy Weslosky, [Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.](#)'s (TSX: AVL | OTCQB: AVLNF) President, CEO and Director, Don Bubar talks about Avalon's recent [partnership agreement](#) with an Essar Group company to co-develop Ontario's first regional lithium battery materials refinery in Thunder Bay, Canada.

In the interview, which can also be viewed in full on the InvestorIntel YouTube channel ([click here](#)), Don Bubar says that the setting up of the refinery is the key step in establishing a domestic battery materials supply chain to serve the needs of future electric vehicle and battery manufacturers in North America. Touching upon the Ontario government's Critical Minerals Strategy to support a domestic electric vehicle supply chain, Don provides an update on the feasibility studies for both the refinery operations and lithium mineral concentrate production at Avalon's Separation Rapids, Ontario, Project. With the Canadian Federal government also signaling strong support to the domestic critical minerals industry in the 2022 Canadian Federal Budget, Don talks about the renewed interest for Avalon petalite lithium mineral concentrates from high strength, high temperature capable, glass and ceramic manufacturers.

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Don Bubar of Avalon Advanced Materials talks about the surge in interest following the Rock Tech LOI

written by InvestorNews | January 25, 2023

Don Bubar, President and CEO of [Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.](https://www.avalonadvancedmaterials.com) (TSX: AVL | OTCQB: AVLNF), talks to InvestorIntel's Tracy Weslosky about Avalon's recent surge in stock price and volume after announcing their letter of intent with Rock Tech Lithium to collaborate on the development of a North American lithium process facility.

Avalon's announcement has attracted a lot of industry attention. "This is the fifth media interview I've done to talk about that news release," Don told Tracy. "Avalon and Rock Tech have long been aspiring producers of lithium from resources in northern Ontario," he continued, "and we had this shared vision of how this centrally located processing facility would make a lot of sense for us to collaborate to create different lithium products and serve different markets."

"The demand for lithium battery materials is escalating," he continued, "with plans to establish EV and battery manufacturing capacity here. The interest is building all the time and is accelerating now with government policy," Don told Tracy. "And the push for more rapid adoption of electric vehicle technologies is obviously creating new demand with government providing incentives to get these new facilities started."

Don went on to describe how with Rock Tech's German-based management's connections in Europe, this arrangement to collaborate on a new lithium process facility will help Avalon grow its business both in Europe and North America.

Don Bubar is recognized as one of the global experts on rare earths and lithium in particular, and sees an exciting "opportunity to put a processing facility in a central location close to transportation infrastructure and access to market for the product."

In the interview Don also provides an update on Avalon's Nechalacho Rare Earth Elements Property, and its deal with Australia's Vital Metals. "They are pretty much ready to go," he said, as soon as pandemic conditions allow. "The idea all along is for them to take advantage of the small, relatively easy to process resource called the T-Zone," he continued, "and once you get that production and supply chain started then we could be in

a position to scale it up.”

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

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Don Bubar on Avalon’s 20 years in rare earths and their diversified asset base of critical materials

written by InvestorNews | January 25, 2023

“We have been in rare earths business for over 20 years now,” Don Bubar, President, CEO and Director of [Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.](#) (TSX: AVL | OTCQB: AVLNF), tells InvestorIntel’s Tracy Weslosky [in an interview](#). “And we are very well known among investors in the US for our lead role in the rare earths bubble 10 years ago. Whenever there is new development and news headline related to the risk on security of supply, then you will see speculative trading activity in Avalon.”

“Our strategy has been to have a diversified asset base,” Bubar continued. “That gives us exposure to broad range of these new emerging critical materials. We are basically positioned to react to when there is a new demand in the marketplace.”

Bubar went on to say that Avalon is working with a partner on its Nechalacho rare earth elements property and has maintained its main resource for any future upside. “We continue to look at other possibilities to create new rare earths supplies, by looking at how we can use new technology to recover rare earths from non-traditional sources such as historic mine wastes,” he said.

Bubar also commented on Avalon’s Separation Rapids Lithium Project: “Our focus now is on taking advantage of the opportunity in lithium markets. We are permitted now to recover a bulk sample to finalize our process flowsheet, do a pilot plant run and produce some product samples for customers who have expressed interest in the product in the glass industry as well as start to revisit serving the battery materials market going forward.”

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

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Don Bubar on the ORE Act and Avalon’s lithium and rare earths projects

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“The ORE Act is a great start. There is no doubt that if we are going to see these rare earths supply chain established in North America government has to help by providing incentives to

businesses and entrepreneurs to make that whole supply chain happen. It is not as simple as just starting a new mining operation and everything will happen easily after that. I think it is encouraging that they recognize that now that they do need to provide these incentives and maybe we will actually start to see them.” States Don Bubar, President, CEO and Director of [Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.](#) (TSX: AVL | OTCQB: AVLNF), in an interview with InvestorIntel’s Tracy Weslosky.

Don went on to say that the whole COVID-19 pandemic has raised awareness in the public about the vulnerability of supply chain in North America by relying on a sole source of supply, especially when it comes from a country like China. He added, “There is increasing trade tension between China and the US. If that continues to grow then for sure there is real risk of China weaponizing their control on the supply chain of rare earths and other critical minerals.”

Don also provided an update on Avalon’s Separation Rapids Lithium Project. He said that the company is increasingly seeing real opportunities with their Separation Rapids Lithium Project. There is a lot of innovation happening in the glass ceramics space that prefers a form of lithium that is in the high purity mineral petalite at Separation Rapids. The demand from the battery sector is also continuing to grow.

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

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