

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

written by InvestorNews | February 13, 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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## About Appia Rare Earths & Uranium Corp.

Appia is a publicly traded Canadian company in the rare earth element and uranium sectors. The Company is currently focusing on delineating high-grade critical rare earth elements and gallium on the Alces Lake property, as well as exploring for high-grade uranium in the prolific Athabasca Basin on its Otherside, Loranger, North Wollaston, and Eastside properties. The Company holds the surface rights to exploration for 113,837.15 hectares (281,297.72 acres) in Saskatchewan. The Company also has a 100% interest in 13,008 hectares (32,143 acres), with rare earth elements and uranium deposits over five mineralized zones in the Elliot Lake Camp, Ontario. Lastly, the

Company holds the right to acquire up to a 70% interest in the PCH Project (See June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Press Release – Click [HERE](#)) which is 40,963.18 ha. in size and located within the Goiás State of Brazil. (See January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Press Release – [Click HERE](#))

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

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**Jack Lifton and Panther Metals  
Darren Hazelwood on the  
“greenstone belt for VMS**

# deposits” in Canada

written by InvestorNews | February 13, 2024

In this Investor.Coffee interview with world renowned critical minerals expert and [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI) Co-Chairman Jack Lifton, Darren Hazelwood, CEO of [Panther Metals PLC](#) (LSE: PALM) discusses their exploration efforts focused on Volcanogenic Massive Sulfide (VMS) deposits in Ontario.

Explaining why Panther’s quest to become the next VMS Camp in Canada is the priority, Darren starts with: “They are polymetallic deposits. In Canada, 49% of the zinc Produced is from VMS, and about 25% of the copper is from VMS – west to us is the Sturgeon Lake Greenstone belt. Now that’s a renowned greenstone belt for VMS deposits. There were 5 past producing mines, all produced commercially from the late 60s to the early 90s.” Darren adds: “Actually, Glencore was back prospecting there in 2023 and Jim Franklin, who’s a world-renowned expert on VMS and a world-renowned geologist said that he believes that Obonga, which is the greenstone belt we’re working on, is the sister greenstone belt to Sturgeon Lake. We couldn’t wish for a better exploration property than Obonga.”

In this interview, Darren and Jack discuss the significance of VMS deposits, and the past success of Northern Ontario for locating such camps. Darren provides commentary on the six holes targeting VMS deposits in the Obonga Project that have already been drilled. Confirming the area’s potential for VMS mineralization, including identifying four separate lenses from five drill holes at the Wishbone area where the Panther team has discovered significant mineralization, including high percentages of zinc, silver, and copper.

With an extraordinary land package of 291 square miles in Northern Ontario, Jack explores the substantial experience of

the Panther Metals team. Citing Nicholas O'Reilly, a reporting geologist who is well known for the work he contributes to the Geological Society in London: Jack focuses on Darren's sizable success as a business professional before transcending into the resource industry. Jack comments: "The thing that is so noticeable about the junior mining industry is that there's no businessmen in it. It's usually geologists with a dream. You bring a different dimension to the business because you're starting off thinking like a business professional. To me, this is a very good thing." To access the complete interview, [click here](#)

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## About Panther Metals PLC

Panther Metals PLC is an exploration company listed on the main market of the London Stock Exchange. Panther is focussed on the discovery of commercially viable mineral deposits. The Company's operational focus is on established mining jurisdictions with the capacity for project scalability. Drill targets are assessed rapidly utilising a combination of advanced technologies and extensive geological data to decipher potential commercial viability and act accordingly. Panther's current geological portfolio comprises of three highly prospective properties in Ontario, Canada while the developing investment wing focuses on the targeting of nickel and gold in Australia.

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# **Riding the EV Revolution Rollercoaster Amid the West's Electric Car Climbdown**

written by Tracy Weslosky | February 13, 2024

Embarking on the electric vehicle (EV) revolution journey has felt like being on a rollercoaster filled with surprising developments, especially when we consider the insights from Jack Lifton, the Co-Chairman of the [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI), who recently shared his thoughts on the opinion published in The Telegraph titled [The West's humiliating electric car climbdown has begun](#). Lifton's sharp analysis pierces through the prevailing chatter, offering a lucid view of the EV market's complex trajectory. He navigates us through the shifting sands of government and auto manufacturers' strategies, the intensifying competition from the East, and the shifting tides of consumer demand. Lifton's insights serve as a guiding light for deciphering the intricate forces shaping the EV

landscape.

The recent shifts in the electric vehicle (EV) industry, as observed by Jack Lifton, Co-Chairman of the Critical Minerals Institute (CMI) and a notable expert in the field of technology metals, illuminate the complex interplay of government policy, market dynamics, and consumer preferences. Lifton's insights provide a nuanced understanding of the challenges and potential misalignments within the EV sector, particularly as it pertains to the impact of government strategies, competition, and market dynamics, and the role of consumer demand in shaping the industry.

## **Impact of Government Strategies on the EV Market**

Lifton critiques the effectiveness of state-led industrial strategies in the rapidly evolving EV market, highlighting the retreat of major manufacturers like Renault and Volvo from their ambitious EV initiatives. This move, compounded by a reduction in government support, raises questions about the foresight and adaptability of such strategies. Lifton notes, "It shows that, as always, the invisible hand of the market rules... the automotive companies have suddenly discovered the market's supply demand... government doesn't dictate markets." This observation underscores the limitations of state intervention in forecasting and influencing market demands and suggests a need for more market-responsive approaches.

## **Competition and Market Dynamics**

The competition from Chinese manufacturers has significantly influenced the trajectory of the Western electric vehicle industry. Lifton points out the stark reality facing Western EV

manufacturers, stating, “The cost of making electric vehicles in the United States is too high... People are buying a Chevrolet EV for \$50,000. That car cost \$100,000 to make.” This price disparity, alongside the aggressive expansion of Chinese EV manufacturers into global markets, underscores the challenges Western companies face in maintaining competitiveness. The scenario posits a crucial reflection on the sustainability of the current business models and the need for innovation and efficiency improvements.

## **The Role of Consumer Demand in Shaping EV Industry**

Lifton’s commentary on the shift in consumer preference back to petrol models reveals a significant misalignment between the production of EVs and actual market demand. He remarks on the sudden interest in hybrids by companies like General Motors, indicating a rapid strategic pivot to align with consumer preferences for efficiency and practicality. Lifton argues, “Hybrids... maximize the efficiency of electric and internal combustion and therefore will allow us to have the longest supply of fuels.” This perspective highlights the importance of flexibility in product offerings and the need to closely monitor and adapt to consumer demand trends.

Jack Lifton’s insights offer a candid reflection on the electric vehicle industry’s current state, pointing towards a future where adaptability, market intelligence, and innovation are paramount. His observations remind us that success in the EV market is not solely about ambitious government strategies or manufacturing prowess but about understanding and responding to the nuanced dance of supply, demand, and the global competitive landscape. As we consider the path forward, Lifton’s analysis underscores the importance of striking a balance between

visionary goals and the pragmatic realities of consumer needs and market dynamics. The electric vehicle revolution is far from over, and its success will hinge on the industry's ability to navigate these challenges with agility and foresight.

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# Tawana Bain and ACRG's Drive for a Sustainable American Supply Chain through Net-Zero Mineral Production

written by InvestorNews | February 13, 2024

In a recent Investor.Coffee interview conducted by Jack Lifton, Tawana Bain, the CEO of [American Clean Resources Group, Inc.](#) (OTC: ACRG), shared insights into the company's innovative approach to contributing to the American supply chain through the production of net-zero minerals and metals. Bain highlighted the company's focus on utilizing tailings, which significantly reduces energy consumption by 90% compared to traditional mining processes. The venture is set to power its operations entirely off-grid, leveraging renewable energy platforms developed on their property located in Tonopah, NV, a community nicknamed the **Queen of the Silver Camps** for its mining-rich history.

Bain discussed the strategic position of their property near the developing lithium industry hub, emphasizing the potential for neighboring facilities to benefit from the excess power generated by American Clean Resources Group. Addressing potential roadblocks such as permitting and tribal disputes,

Bain expressed confidence in overcoming these challenges through the support of a robust advisory group and strategic alliances with relevant agencies.

Reflecting on her background, Bain shared her extensive experience in environmental consulting, strategy, and community outreach, marking her public debut in a leadership role with this project. Lifton praised Bain for identifying a critical need in energy production and for her efforts to educate the investing public on the benefits of the company's model, beyond political considerations. To access the complete interview, [click here](#)

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## **About American Clean Resources Group, Inc.**

American Clean Resources Group, Inc. (ACRG) is poised to be a trailblazer in renewable and environmental development within the United States. Committed to strengthening the American Supply Chain and advancing Climate Change Reduction through comprehensive Resource Management, ACRG aims to spearhead the largest renewable energy project in the U.S. located in Nevada's Big Smokey Valley of Esmeralda County, near Tonopah. Our strategic advantage lies in controlling the largest renewable energy site in the country, holding water rights, and possessing vital infrastructure. Over the past 15 years, we've retained ownership despite lucrative offers, aligning with our strategic vision to construct the United States' largest renewable energy park focused on processing Gold and Silver.

Our strategy involves leveraging existing assets and pursuing

strategic acquisitions across air, water, and land domains, aligning both vertically and horizontally. Additionally, we aim to lead in reprocessing mineral waste and providing toll, specialty, and custom milling services for precious and rare earth metals.

To learn more about American Clean Resources Group, Inc., [click here](#)

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## **Technology      Metals      Report (02.02.2024) :    Rumors    between**

# MP and Lynas, Tesla EV Recall – the Rightsizing of Critical Minerals Begins?

written by Tracy Weslosky | February 13, 2024

Welcome to the latest Technology Metals Report (TMR), where we highlight the Top 10 news stories that members of the [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI) have forwarded to us over the last 2 weeks.

In early 2024, the rare earths sector is witnessing significant strategic movements amidst a backdrop of declining prices and geopolitical tensions. Lynas Rare Earths Ltd. and MP Materials Corp., key players outside China, are rumored to be considering a mega-merger in response to falling rare earth prices and to mitigate the impact of Chinese trade restrictions. This potential consolidation aims to strengthen their production capabilities and align with the Australian and US governments' efforts to reduce reliance on Chinese supplies, particularly for defense applications.

CMI's Jack Lifton comments, "In the swirling rumors of a mega-merger between MP Materials and Lynas Rare Earths, it's clear that the OEM industry's disdain for single sourcing of critical materials is being overlooked. Litinski is eager to deploy his capital before it devalues, while Lacaze eyes a boost in share price ahead of her retirement. This scenario is akin to two veterans of the trade, unadorned and stark, facing the harsh daylight. Both MP and Lynas are in a precarious position, each with a singular customer and seemingly devoid of new strategies to navigate the market's tumultuous waters."

Concurrently, the industry is adjusting to market corrections,

as highlighted by the Critical Minerals Institute's [observations](#) on the electric vehicle (EV) materials market, indicating a shift towards efficiency and cost management. Meanwhile, initiatives like Controlled Thermal Resources Holdings Inc.'s funding quest for its lithium brine project and [Appia Rare Earths & Uranium Corp.](#)'s (CSE: API | OTCQX: APAAF) exploration successes underscore the ongoing diversification and expansion within the critical minerals domain. These developments reflect a broader industry trend towards securing resilient supply chains for critical minerals amidst fluctuating market dynamics and geopolitical pressures.

Also breaking news today, Tesla Inc.: The EV maker [is recalling](#) 2.2 million vehicles, or nearly all of its electric vehicles in the United States, due to incorrect font size on warning lights, which increases the risk of a crash, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said. This is more than the 2.03 million vehicles it recalled in the United States two months back, its biggest-ever such move at the time, to install new safeguards in its Autopilot advanced driver-assistance system. The latest recall includes vehicles across Tesla's various models, including the Model S, Model X, 2017-2023 Model 3, Model Y, and 2024 Cybertruck vehicles, the NHTSA said. Separately, U.S. safety regulators said they have upgraded their probe into Tesla vehicles over power steering loss to an engineering analysis – a required step before they could potentially demand a recall.

**Lynas linked to rare earths mega-merger as price falls bite (February 2, 2024, [Source](#))** – Amid a sharp decline in rare earths prices and concerns over Chinese trade restrictions, there are speculations that [Lynas Rare Earths Ltd.](#) (ASX: LYC) may be considering a merger with its New York-listed rival, [MP Materials Corp.](#) (NYSE: MP). Industry insiders suggest that the two companies, both leading non-China producers of essential

rare earth materials used in defense and various industries, could be in talks to create a mega-merger. The exact details of the deal are unclear, given the current slump in rare earth prices and Western concerns about China's dominant position in the supply chain. However, a potential merger between Lynas, based in Western Australia and Malaysia, and MP, operating in California's Mountain Pass, aligns with efforts by the Australian and US governments to strengthen collaboration between their resource companies for critical minerals extraction and processing, reducing dependency on China. Both Lynas and MP have suffered significant stock price declines, and a merger could help them bolster production capabilities and meet growing demands, particularly from the US Department of Defense, which aims to reduce reliance on Chinese supplies. *Referral, CMI Co-Chairman [Jack Lifton](#)*

**Critical Minerals “rightsizing” in reaction to governments' efforts to regulate market (February 1, 2024, [Source](#))** – The critical minerals industry is undergoing significant changes in the electric vehicle (EV) materials market. Jack Lifton, Co-Chairman of the [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI), views recent price declines in key EV component materials as a natural market correction rather than a disaster, emphasizing minimal regulatory intervention. Declining profits for industry leaders, including China Northern Rare Earth, result from overestimated EV demand, economic factors, and falling sales, especially in California. Lifton advises investors to focus on efficient, low-cost producers, particularly in neodymium. The January [2024 CMI Report](#) notes the U.S. government's plan to ban Pentagon battery purchases from major Chinese companies and hints at potential recovery in lithium prices. Lynas Rare Earths' revenue drop reflects market trends but also strategic capacity expansion. In summary, the industry faces short-term challenges but underscores the importance of efficiency, cost management, and

adaptability for long-term success. *Source, [Investor.News](#)*

**GM, Stellantis-Backed Lithium Startup Seeks More Than \$1 Billion for Brine Project (February 1, 2024, [Source](#))** – Controlled Thermal Resources Holdings Inc., (CTR) a US lithium startup backed by Stellantis N.V. (NYSE: STLA) and General Motors (NYSE: GM), seeks over \$1 billion in funding for its California lithium brine project. This initiative defies the industry's 80% drop in lithium prices since late 2022. CTR's unconventional approach focuses on geothermal brine deposits, seen as a potential future lithium supply source once technology challenges are overcome. This aligns with US government efforts to establish a domestic EV commodity supply chain. The funding plan includes equity and debt financing, with Goldman Sachs as the lead bank. Stellantis and GM have previously invested significantly in CTR to secure lithium for EV production. *Referral, CMI Co-Chairman [Jack Lifton](#)*

**Attention set on rare earths in Canada and Brazil, Appia hits 2024 running (January 31, 2024, [Source](#))** – [Appia Rare Earths & Uranium Corp.](#) (CSE: API | OTCQX: APAAF) is focusing on its rare earths projects in Canada and Brazil: the Alces Lake Project and the PCH Ionic Clay Project. The Alces Lake Project in Canada is recognized for its high-grade rare earths and gallium in monazite ore. Recent drill results have shown up to 1.57 wt.% Total Rare Earth Oxides (TREO) with mineralization extending to a depth of < 85 meters. In Brazil, the PCH Project offers a simplified extraction process for rare earths essential for electric motor magnets in most EVs. Hole RC-063 reported a total weighted average of 3.87% TREO. Appia's expansion of mining claims and plans for a Maiden Resource in Q1, 2024, signal their commitment to these projects, with a market cap of C\$27 million suggesting a potentially significant year ahead in 2024. *Source, [Investor.News](#)*

**China EVs: lithium producers Ganfeng, Tianqi issue profit**

**warnings, blame price plunge for battery material as stocks sink (January 31, 2024, [Source](#))** – Chinese lithium producers Ganfeng Lithium and Tianqi Lithium have issued profit warnings, attributing their declining profits to a significant drop in lithium prices. Ganfeng expects its 2023 net profit to plummet by 70-80% to between 4.2 billion yuan and 6.2 billion yuan. After accounting for non-recurring items, net profit will range from 2.3 billion yuan to 3.4 billion yuan, down 83-88.5% from 2022 levels. Tianqi anticipates a net profit decline of 62.9-72.6% to 6.62 billion yuan – 8.95 billion yuan. Both companies attribute their struggles to the cyclical nature of the lithium industry and declining lithium prices. The average price of China-produced lithium hydroxide exported to South Korea fell by 45% last month. While electric vehicle sales are still growing, the rate has slowed, impacting lithium demand. However, global lithium demand is expected to rise by 27% this year, with a surplus expected before a deficit in 2026. *Referral, CMI Co-Chairman [Jack Lifton](#)*

**Mining analyst-turned-Vital Metals CEO eyes much larger Nechalacho reboot (January 29, 2024, [Source](#))** – Geordie Mark, CEO of Vital Metals Limited (ASX: VML), aims to revamp the Nechalacho rare earths project in the Northwest Territories, leveraging 15 years of experience as a mining analyst. Recognizing the growing demand for rare earth elements in the technology and electric vehicle (EV) markets, Mark plans to shift Vital's strategy towards a bulk tonnage operation targeting lighter rare earths like praseodymium and neodymium. This comes after the failure of the company's processing division and a Chinese investment lifeline in 2023. A comprehensive scoping study is crucial for long-term viability, and Mark expects demand for praseodymium and neodymium to rise significantly in the next decade, particularly in China and Europe. Shenghe Resources' investment provides vital capital for

Nechalacho's development, positioning it to compete with North America's only rare earths mine, [MP Materials Corp.](#)'s (NYSE: MP) Mountain Pass operation. *Referral*, CMI Co-Chairman [Jack Lifton](#)

**The Critical Minerals Institute Report (01.25.2024): U.S. government bans Pentagon battery purchases from major Chinese companies starting October 2027 (January 25, 2024, [Source](#))** – The January 2024 Critical Minerals Institute (CMI) report highlighted key economic and geopolitical developments. U.S. inflation in December 2023 impacted interest rate reduction plans, while the S&P 500 rose by 2.04% year-to-date. China's economy slowed, with falling home prices, and global tensions persisted. In the global electric vehicle (EV) market, December 2023 set a record for plugin electric car sales, led by China. However, the EV sector's growth rate slowed compared to previous years. The U.S. reported a surge in EV sales and enacted Zero Emission Vehicle mandates to boost adoption. In the EV battery sector, the U.S. government announced a ban on Pentagon battery purchases from major Chinese companies, starting October 2027. Challenges in the critical minerals sector included depressed prices due to oversupply and slowing EV market growth. Recovery in lithium prices was anticipated in late Q1 or early Q2 2024. The report emphasized a negative supply response from producers and expected a potential recovery in the second half of 2024, assuming reasonable EV sales growth. *Source*, [Investor.News](#)

**Tesla Projects Slower Growth in 2024 as EV Demand Softens (January 24, 2024, [Source](#))** – Tesla Inc. (NASDAQ: TSLA) anticipates slower growth in 2024 amid a challenging landscape for the electric vehicle (EV) industry. CEO Elon Musk desires greater control, aiming for a 25% ownership stake to deter activist shareholders. This follows Musk's ultimatum to shift focus to AI and robotics if control isn't achieved. Tesla faces declining demand, shrinking profit margins, heightened competition, and recent price cuts. Despite doubling fourth-

quarter net income to \$7.9 billion, costs for projects like the Cybertruck and AI research impact profitability. Tesla's valuation, historically tied to sales and Musk's vision, faces uncertainty. Challenges include Hertz selling EVs and Chinese automakers [overtaking Tesla](#). EV enthusiasm wanes due to pricing, charging concerns, and range limitations. Tesla plans cost reduction for future vehicles but encounters short-term cost pressures. Despite this, strong Cybertruck demand is expected, with production scaling up gradually. *Referral, CMI Director, [Alastair Neill](#)*

**Rare-earths miner Lynas' Q2 revenue halves on falling prices, lower China demand (January 24, 2024, [Source](#))** – Australia's Lynas Rare Earths reported a significant drop in its second-quarter revenue, falling by 51.7% to A\$112.5 million due to plummeting rare earth prices and reduced demand in China, particularly in the appliance sector amid a construction slowdown. This decline in revenue, which missed analysts' forecasts, led to a 30-month low in its share prices. Despite this downturn, Lynas has continued to expand its operations, including the near-completion of its Kalgoorlie processing plant in Australia, upgrades to its Malaysian facilities, and ongoing work at the Mt Weld mine. The company, a major supplier outside China, has also been working on a new facility in Texas to serve the U.S. Department of Defense. Despite these efforts, Lynas' challenges are compounded by the lower average selling price of its products, which has more than halved compared to last year. *Referral, CMI Director, [Russell Fryer](#)*

**Investors turn to copper, gold and uranium amid battery metals rout (January 24, 2024, [Source](#))** – In 2024, investors are shifting their focus away from battery metals, such as nickel and lithium, due to significant price declines. Instead, they are turning to commodities like copper, gold, and uranium. Copper prices have rebounded following supply shortages and

disruptions in production by key global producers. Gold is experiencing renewed interest, driven by geopolitical crises and a weakening US dollar, with forecasts predicting it to trade above \$2,000 per ounce in the coming year. Uranium has gained substantial momentum, reaching decade-high prices, driven by limited supply and increased demand for nuclear energy in Western countries. Investors are diversifying their portfolios, seeking better prospects in these alternative commodities. *Referral, CMI Director, [Russell Fryer](#)*

**China, in comic strip, warns of 'overseas' threats to its rare earths (January 22, 2024, [Source](#))** – China's State Security Ministry released a comic strip on social media, depicting foreign threats to its rare earth resources. The narrative shows security officers uncovering covert operations by foreign-looking characters, suggesting overseas interest in China's strategic minerals. China, the leading producer of rare earths essential for high-tech industries, has imposed [export restrictions](#) on these elements and related technologies, citing national security. The move has heightened tensions, particularly with the United States, amidst accusations of economic coercion. The comic underscores the importance of safeguarding these resources against international competition and espionage. The state-controlled Global Times highlighted the story, reflecting on the global race for rare earths, vital in military, consumer electronics, and renewable energy sectors, as a national security issue. *Referral, CMI Director, [Alastair Neill](#)*

**Tanzanian, Canadian firms to search for rare metal (January 22, 2024, [Source](#))** – Tanzanian firm Memnon Project Management Services Company Limited and Canadian company Anibesa Energy Metals Corp. are set to collaborate in prospecting for niobium in Mbozi District, Songwe Region, with an anticipated investment of up to \$50 million. They have obtained regulatory approvals

and are finalizing the acquisition of three licenses for niobium minerals, while three more geologists are expected to join the exploration team. Memnon Project Management Services is involved in various projects, including the Kongwa Lithium Project and solar energy initiatives. Niobium, a rare metal, enhances the strength of alloys and is used in various industries, including aerospace and construction. As of 2022, Brazil held the largest niobium reserves globally. The partnership aligns with Tanzania's goal of attracting international companies to boost the mining industry by focusing on valuable critical metals projects. *Referral, CMI Director, [Alastair Neill](#)*

### **Investor.News Critical Minerals Media Coverage:**

- February 01, 2024 – Critical Minerals “rightsizing” in reaction to governments’ efforts to regulate market <https://bit.ly/49f78zC>
- January 31, 2024 – Attention set on rare earths in Canada and Brazil, Appia hits 2024 running <https://bit.ly/3ueaxjg>
- January 25, 2024 – The Critical Minerals Institute Report (01.25.2024): U.S. government bans Pentagon battery purchases from major Chinese companies starting October 2027 <https://bit.ly/4961zU0>
- January 22, 2024 – Unveiling Insights from Ecclestone on the Future of Mining and Investment from Riyadh's Future Minerals Forum Event <https://bit.ly/491pV0S>

### **Critical Minerals IN8.Pro Member News Releases:**

- February 2, 2024 – Appia Announces Plans for Drilling at the Loranger Uranium-Bearing Property, Saskatchewan, Canada <https://bit.ly/3Uphb0s>
- February 1, 2024 – Obonga: Wishbone Exploration Permit Application <https://bit.ly/3UlnF0j>

- February 1, 2024 – First Phosphate to Provide Project Update to the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean Region of Quebec, Canada <https://bit.ly/42ugvt1>
- January 31, 2024 – Defense Metals Announces Closing of its \$738,836 Non-Brokered Private Placement <https://bit.ly/3umNv9S>
- January 31, 2024 – First Phosphate Announces Launch of 25,000 m Drill Campaign at its Bégin-Lamarche Project <https://bit.ly/3SmPtPD>
- January 30, 2024 – Ucore Announces Closing of Debenture Offering <https://bit.ly/3SHT1xa>
- January 30, 2024 – Western Uranium & Vanadium Bolsters Mining Team to Scale-Up Uranium Production <https://bit.ly/47UTIHZ>
- January 30, 2024 – F3 Hits 2.05m Off Scale >65,535 CPS in First Hole of Winter Program at JR Zone <https://bit.ly/3SCxru9>
- January 29, 2024 – First Phosphate Confirms Two Additional New High-Grade Discoveries at Begin-Lamarche Property and up to 39.45% P2O5 at Larouche <https://bit.ly/30lGWew>
- January 29, 2024 – American Rare Earths Quarterly Activities Report for the Period Ending 31 December 2023 <https://bit.ly/3SB0QeM>
- January 29, 2024 – Australian Strategic Materials Quarterly Activities Report to 31 December 2023 <https://bit.ly/3UdGXVK>
- January 26, 2024 – Appia Rare Earths & Uranium Corp. Announces New Cooperation Agreement with the Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources Office <https://bit.ly/30ke4TU>
- January 25, 2024 – First Phosphate, American Battery Factory and Integrals Power Sign MOU to Produce LFP Cathode Active Material and Battery Cells in North America <https://bit.ly/48MnCiU>

- January 23, 2024 – F3 Announces Commencement of Drilling at PLN <https://bit.ly/3Uc6C0o>
  - January 23, 2024 – Power Nickel Announces Filing of Amended Technical Report <https://bit.ly/3HvYPUd>
  - January 23, 2024 – First Phosphate Corp. Welcomes the Addition of Apatite (Phosphate) to the Critical and Strategic Minerals List of Quebec, Canada <https://bit.ly/48Pv7Wf>
  - January 22, 2024 – First Phosphate Announces Closing of the Third and Final Tranche of Oversubscribed Private Placement Financing for Total Gross Proceeds of \$8.2 Million <https://bit.ly/3U5Vl2l>
  - January 22, 2024 – Elcora Develops Innovative Process To Extract Vanadium From Its Moroccan Vanadinite Deposit <https://bit.ly/3Hu8Zon>
  - January 22, 2024 – American Rare Earths Announces Breakthrough Metallurgical Results <https://bit.ly/3096trp>
  - January 22, 2024 – F3 Expands PLN Project with Acquisition of PW Property from CanAlaska <https://bit.ly/3vKBMTb>
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## **Technology Metals Report (01.19.2024): Rainbow Rare Earths Discovery, Middle East Critical Minerals Chess Play,**

# and ANSTO Invests in Critical Minerals Research

written by Tracy Weslosky | February 13, 2024

Key highlights in this Technology Metals Report include significant developments such as Rainbow Rare Earths Limited's discovery in South Africa, China's unveiling of the new heavy rare earth mineral Bayanoboite-Y, and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)'s \$13.9 million funding for critical minerals research.

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## CMI Masterclass: The Middle East's Escalating Investment Interest in Africa's Critical Minerals

written by Tracy Weslosky | February 13, 2024

The "CMI Masterclass: The Middle East's Escalating Investment Interest in Africa's Critical Minerals" hosted by Tracy Weslosky, Director of the [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI), brought together a panel of experts including CMI Directors Melissa "Mel" Sanderson, Jack Lifton, and Russell Fryer. The masterclass delved into the growing trend of Middle Eastern investment in Africa's critical minerals sector. The discussion opened with an exploration of why this trend is significant for investors and the global market. The panelists examined the

reasons behind the Middle Eastern capital flow towards Africa's rich mineral resources, emphasizing its strategic importance in the global supply chain and the potential it holds for reshaping the critical minerals industry.

The conversation then shifted to the implications of this trend for American companies, particularly those committed to sustainability. A key question raised was whether Middle Eastern investments in Africa could influence or deter support from the American investment community. This part of the discussion also touched upon the competitive dynamics between China and the Middle East in Africa, considering their respective investment strategies and objectives.

Finally, the masterclass addressed the broader impacts of Middle Eastern investments in the sector, using the example of Robert Friedland's company, which received a significant investment from the Middle East. This case study led to a discussion on the potential positives and negatives of attracting Middle Eastern capital. While acknowledging the immediate financial benefits, the panelists debated the long-term implications of such investments. They explored the strategic, economic, and geopolitical ramifications, weighing the short-term gains against possible long-term challenges. This comprehensive analysis provided a nuanced understanding of the complex interplay between investment, sustainability, and global geopolitics in the critical minerals sector. To enjoy the full CMI Masterclass, [click here](#)

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# Jack Lifton with Mark Chalmers on Energy Fuels Rare Earth Deal and Increasing US Uranium Production

written by InvestorNews | February 13, 2024

In a comprehensive interview, Jack Lifton, Co-Chair of the [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI) and Host at InvestorNews, engages with Mark Chalmers, CEO of [Energy Fuels Inc.](#) (NYSE American: UUUU | TSX: EFR). They discuss key issues in the critical minerals sector, focusing on Energy Fuels' transformative [MOU](#) with Astron Corporation. This agreement signifies a major shift toward establishing a U.S.-centric rare earths supply chain. Central to this collaboration is the processing of rare earth concentrates from Australia's Donald Project at Energy Fuels' Utah facility, a critical step for the nation's future needs.

Chalmers also highlights Energy Fuels' strategic decision to ramp up [uranium production](#) at various U.S. mines. He outlines the company's initiatives to leverage favorable market conditions and supportive government policies, aiming for a significant increase in uranium production in the near future. This expansion is integral to Energy Fuels' broader commitment to playing a key role in the energy transition, showcasing their expertise in handling natural radioactive minerals.

The dialogue with Lifton further explores the wider implications of Energy Fuels' projects, particularly in aligning with U.S. strategies to reduce dependence on foreign critical minerals. Chalmers emphasizes the substantial impact these initiatives are poised to have on the U.S. electric vehicle and clean energy

sectors. He underscores Energy Fuels' crucial contribution to creating a sustainable, competitive, and independent supply chain for these vital resources. To access the complete interview, [click here](#)

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## About Energy Fuels Inc.

Energy Fuels is a leading US-based critical minerals company. The Company, as the leading producer of uranium in the United States, mines uranium and produces natural uranium concentrates that are sold to major nuclear utilities for the production of carbon-free nuclear energy. Energy Fuels recently began production of advanced rare earth element ("**REE**") materials, including mixed REE carbonate, and plans to produce commercial quantities of separated REE oxides in the future. Energy Fuels also produces vanadium from certain of its projects, as market conditions warrant, and is evaluating the recovery of radionuclides needed for emerging cancer treatments. Its corporate offices are in Lakewood, Colorado, near Denver, and substantially all its assets and employees are in the United States. Energy Fuels holds two of America's key uranium production centers: the White Mesa Mill in Utah and the Nichols Ranch in-situ recovery ("**ISR**") Project in Wyoming. The White Mesa Mill is the only conventional uranium mill operating in the US today, has a licensed capacity of over 8 million pounds of  $U_3O_8$  per year, and has the ability to produce vanadium when market conditions warrant, as well as REE products, from various uranium-bearing ores. The Nichols Ranch ISR Project is on standby and has a licensed capacity of 2 million pounds of  $U_3O_8$  per year. The Company recently acquired the Bahia Project in Brazil, which is believed to have significant quantities of

titanium (ilmenite and rutile), zirconium (zircon) and REE (monazite) minerals. In addition to the above production facilities, Energy Fuels also has one of the largest NI 43-101 compliant uranium resource portfolios in the US and several uranium and uranium/vanadium mining projects on standby and in various stages of permitting and development.

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

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**CMI    Masterclass:    Securing  
North    America's    Future,    A**

# Conversation on the Critical Minerals Supply Chains with Jack Lifton

written by InvestorNews | February 13, 2024

In an insightful interview conducted by Brandon Colwell, the Director and Government Relations Liaison for the Critical Minerals Institute (CMI), with CMI Co-Chairman Jack Lifton, the focus is on the burgeoning challenges and strategic responses related to critical mineral supply chains in North America, especially in the context of China's dominance. Jack, a veteran in the field with over 60 years of experience, points out the significant gap in subject matter expertise within the governments of the United States and Canada. This gap, he argues, hinders the effective development and implementation of policies in the mineral sector. He emphasizes the complex and time-consuming process of converting a mineral discovery into an economically viable mining project, underscoring the need for more informed and strategic decision-making in governmental investments and policy development in this domain.

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## John Passalacqua on First Phosphate's Strategic

# Collaboration with Sun Chemical

written by InvestorNews | February 13, 2024

In an Investor.Coffee interview series hosted by Jack Lifton, Co-Chairman of the Critical Minerals Institute (CMI), and guest John Passalacqua, CEO and Director of First Phosphate Corp.'s (CSE: PHOS | FSE: KD0), Jack commends John for First Phosphate's exceptional operation and strategic alliance recently announced with Sun Chemical Corporation.