

Mark Billings on Auxico critical mineral project advancements in Bolivia and Colombia

written by InvestorNews | October 13, 2023

In a recent InvestorNews interview with host Tracy Weslosky, Auxico Resources Canada Inc.'s (CSE: AUAG | OTCQB: AUXIF) Chairman Mark Billings shared exciting developments regarding the company's critical minerals projects in Bolivia and Colombia.

Russell Fryer on Critical Metals PLC's Strategic Moves in the DRC and Global Expansion Plans

written by InvestorNews | October 13, 2023

In a recent InvestorNews interview, host Brandon Colwell spoke with Russell Fryer, the Executive Director of Critical Metals PLC (LSE: CRTM), about the recent 'transformational' developments in their critical mineral operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo ("DRC"). In addition to signing an offtake agreement for a minimum of 20,000 tons of copper oxide ore, Russell said that Critical Minerals has also secured

a hydrometallurgical plant for producing a finished product.

Zeeshan Syed of Avalon Advanced Materials Discusses Plans for Lithium Processing in Canada

written by InvestorNews | October 13, 2023

In this InvestorIntel interview during PDAC 2023, Tracy Weslosky talks with Zeeshan Syed, President of [Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.](#) (TSX: AVL | OTCQB: AVLNF) discussing Avalon's latest news and progress, particularly in regards to lithium.

Zeeshan says he is most excited about Avalon's Separation Rapids Lithium Project to take advantage of the market's current strong interest in lithium. He discusses the 2018 drilling campaign at the Separation Rapids Project that discovered almost 10 million tonnes of lithium. He mentions there is a new drilling program underway at the Project and that Avalon should soon have an update out on that for investors. He states: *"We are quite optimistic on the results there."*

Zeeshan also discusses their strategic partnership with battery giant LG Energy Solutions ("LGES") and [Avalon's plans for a lithium processing facility in Canada](#) to supply LGES, as well as the strategic importance of these Projects for Canada. He referenced his discussion today with Canada Innovation and Science Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne.

To access the full InvestorIntel 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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Defining Criticality

written by InvestorNews | October 13, 2023

Everybody is claiming to have "Critical Metals/Minerals" these days. Desperados in the copper space are the most shameless at touting this claim, while the most ludicrous are those in the gold space (though that goes without saying).

But how to measure what is and what isn't critical?

Rankings

Criticality and Chinese dominance have become popular themes over the last decade with the British Geological Survey's (BGS) first Criticality ranking in 2011 (in the midst of the Rare Earth boom) firing the starting gun on a race between countries to define what is critical to their own circumstances.

All attempts at ranking criticality are bound to run into criticism with different pundits and different economies perceiving different needs. Moreover, circumstances change, as Cesium showed when it went from being dominated by the US to being dominated by China when the US, fecklessly, let Sinomines acquire Cabot's specialty fluids division. In our perception, Tungsten is not as critical as it was due to numerous non-Chinese developments in the pipeline.

Of all the Criticality lists the BGS one was the only one giving scoring to the metals and then producing degrees of risk to supply. Moreover, it gives the impression of being focused upon which metals are at risk (largely from China-dominance, though unstated) rather than saying (as the JOGMEC list does) that certain metals are critical for a specific (i.e. Japan's) economy.

Criticality as Semantics

Metals rankings have now become like radio stations' Top 40 lists of days gone by. However, it may just be a matter of international semantics as to what the word "critical" actually implies.

Some are saying that this means a metal is vital to an economy (which of course iron ore is to every economy) but others are interpreting it as being that the supply is in some way threatened or vulnerable. And the latter is where the China Factor is invoked. Europe meanwhile wants to fence-sit and pretends that it is not accusing the Chinese of wielding a big

stick threatening EU industries (when really the Chinese are being threatening indeed).

The BGS by using the word “Risk” did not mince its words. Everyone knew what it meant. Chinese dominance meant supply could be turned off.

Rising Tide of Concern?

The financial media chattering about Chinese dominance of particular metals is one thing, but it is when the average householder gets concerned that the issue really becomes popular. Giving a speech several years ago on Erbium and 5G we noted that few, if any, of the public even knew that the jump from black & white TVs to colour TVs was made possible by Europium and behind that lay the Mountain Pass mine.

For the public, the new 5G technology seems to come out of the ether, literally, and thus it is not a good idea to ask too many questions about what metals make it happen because one would find out that (notwithstanding Huawei’s involvement) the REE component (Erbium) in 5G largely is China-sourced or China-processed. Who amongst the Great Unwashed (or experts) can tell us where other 5G inputs, like Scandium, Cesium and Tantalum, come from?

Alarm bells though have been ringing in the C-Suites (of Germany and South Korea, more than Detroit) about the vulnerability of the EV “revolution” to Chinese machinations and that has set off a furious hunt for non-Chinese supply chains.

Curiously though, the European list does not include Lithium amongst the critical metals, though this is probably predicated upon its upstream supplies being mainly from “friendly” sources such as Australia, Argentina and Chile. But with China dominating conversion of Lithium into Lithium ion batteries (and

having a stranglehold on Cobalt from the DRC) it does not pay to be so simplistic in calculating where one's sources might be.

Ergo, with China being the principal midstream processor, can one be so blithely dismissive of the criticality of Lithium?

The various surveys that followed on the heels of the original BGS Criticality rankings now reinforce the sheer number of metals at risk, though as one can see below each agency producing these lists has differing views of the criticality of different metals within their remit.



We can note from the lists above that the US regards most metals as having some degree of criticality.

Conclusion

The critical metals space is torn with rising demand for metals that have seen little, to no, development since before the Commodity Supercycle even began and is now seeing a secular decline in Chinese production due to over-production, exhaustion and environmental devastation. This makes for a rather dramatic tug of war.

It is now clear that the genie set free by Trump's seemingly prophetic "Trade War" of the Chinese threat to supplies cannot be put back in its bottle. The "love" of the US industrial complex's for cheap Chinese minerals has now even been called into question. We doubt that the East Asians (i.e. Japan, Korea and Taiwan) and the Germans can ever be easily lulled back into a false sense of security (of supply) by the Chinese.

The legacy of underinvestment and the lack of capital markets' interest in specialty metals stories (beyond momentary pump-and-dumps) combined with the Chinese massive own goal in splurging

its resource base in predatory pricing and, frankly, dumping over three decades has made for a secular crisis in metals supplies.

This crisis is likely to be enduring and will definitely result in the long-term higher prices (even shortages).

All the chatter does not provide money for projects. Unfortunately, it is only metal price spikes that seem to do so. The soaring price of Lithium and Cobalt in 2017 was a case in point and then the Vanadium surge of 2018. However, the REE putsch of mid-2019 waxed and waned so fast that no party got any financings done before the brief window of opportunity slammed shut.

Less sexier metals never even get their day in the sun. Tellurium or Cesium could quadruple and it would not generate more than a muffled whisper in the trade journals. The same for individual Rare Earths such as Erbium and Dysprosium.

We are of the opinion that the critical “state” of the metals world will remain as long as the West is not self-sufficient in its supply of specialty metals. The Chinese have shown themselves to be malevolent players and that was while they had the whiphand in many metals. As they start to lose their grip the frustrations will start to rise, already we are starting to see some rancour in relations with Burma over neo-colonial resources policies being imposed by China on its neighbour. Other Belt-and-Road “beneficiaries” have found that Chinese largesse comes at a hefty price. Is this mere sparring or the first shots in a monumental struggle over the world’s most crucial mineral resources?

In retrospect, Trump’s “Trade War” of 2018-20 may be seen as the “phoney war” phase of a much bigger tussle over access to the world’s scarce specialty metals resources. The criticality

rankings are the playlists for the background music as this plays out.

Note from Publisher: Next week – on Wednesday, November 9th in Toronto, the inaugural [Critical Minerals Summit](#) is on! To secure a delegates pass, [click here](#) – READ: [Summit to Address the Impact of the \\$1.2 Trillion EV Market Demand by 2030 on the Critical Minerals Sector](#)

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

written by InvestorNews | October 13, 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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Don Bubar of Avalon Advanced Materials on signing key new agreements and the high demand for lithium

written by InvestorNews | October 13, 2023

In this InvestorIntel interview, host Tracy Weslosky talks to [Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.](#)'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](#)), 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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Avalon Advanced Materials Don Bubar on the Acceleration of the Separation Rapids Lithium Project

written by InvestorNews | October 13, 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 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.

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Pierre Gauthier of Auxico Resources talks about recent off-take agreements and rare earths trades

written by InvestorNews | October 13, 2023

In this InvestorIntel interview with host Tracy Weslosky, [Auxico Resources Canada Inc.](https://www.auxicoresources.com)'s (CSE: AUAG) Chairman and CEO Pierre

Gauthier talks about recently announced off-take agreements for tantalum and tin and successful trades of rare earths from its DRC project.

In the interview, which can also be viewed in full on the InvestorIntel YouTube channel ([click here](#)), Pierre explains that “we’re in the rare earth business but the byproducts are as important as the earths themselves... What we’re looking at is to start off by producing a concentrate of tin with off-take agreements for tin. It’s a large market and easy market to access.” Auxico’s Massangana project in Brazil has 30 million tons of tailings with a 0.65 tin content, as well as niobium, tantalum and monazite. “It puts us on third base in terms of a project in terms of cash flow,” he tells Tracy, and “if we could be making cash flow from tin and niobium then those are tremendous credits against rare earths and reduce our cost of producing rare earths just about down to nothing.”

Pierre also discusses Auxico’s rare earths project in the DRC, which has already made two successful trades of rare earths monazite sands. He explains how it has a low extraction cost as a sand compared to hard rock mining, and uses their unique, patented ultrasound technology to separate and recover the rare earths metals at a fraction of the usual time and cost.

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About Auxico Resources Canada Inc.

Auxico Resources Canada Inc. (“Auxico” or the “Company”) is a Canadian company that was founded in 2014 and based in Montreal. Auxico is engaged in the acquisition, exploration and development of mineral properties in Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Bolivia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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The Colombian sun rises for Auxico Resources with a mining permit for its rare earths and PGM project

written by InvestorNews | October 13, 2023

A pleasant surprise is always a nice thing. These days it seems that any time you see the S&P 500 or the Nasdaq in positive territory on the day it's considered a pleasant surprise. But that's not what I'm talking about. What I'm referring to is a situation where you are a junior mining company in hot pursuit of a valuable and globally in-demand commodity, like rare earths, and you come across decent grades of gold, platinum and titanium, at surface no less. I believe that is what you call "having your cake and eating it too", if you are at all familiar with that expression. If that phrase means nothing to you, then let's stick with a pleasant surprise.

The company that looks like it's blessed with an abundance of riches is [Auxico Resources Canada Inc.](#) (CSE: AUAG), a Canadian company engaged in the acquisition, exploration and development of mineral properties in Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). They are a combination project generator, miner, processor and marketer all rolled up into one, with a focus on the production of critical minerals and high-value metals, including niobium, tantalum, platinum

group metals (such as platinum and iridium), and rare earth elements. Additionally, Auxico is the exclusive trade agent for rare earth concentrates from the DRC. The Company owns directly or through joint ventures, mineral rights in Colombia, Bolivia, and Brazil, with access to close to 4 million tonnes of critical minerals and rare earth elements – the largest deposits outside of China.

But today we are going to focus on their Minastyc Property in Vichada, Colombia, where Auxico recently announced the [granting of a mining permit](#) (specifically a Work Plan Authorization) from the National Mining Agency of Colombia. This is a very significant development for the Company because Auxico will now be able to move forward with the formal purchase of the Minastyc Property from its current owner. The approval of the Work Plan was the last condition in the purchase agreement. This leaves one step left, a site visit by representatives of Corporinoquia (the Colombian environmental agency), before the Company will be able to move equipment on site, including heavy machinery for bulk sampling and a processing facility, which will enable Auxico to move towards making a production decision for small-scale mining operations.

In the meantime, Auxico has been busy at the Minastyc Property having previously announced [a NI 43-101 Technical Evaluation Report](#) on March 28th of this year with highlights including a 3.2 tonne bulk sample from two locations of the Area 50 pit resulting in a 7.7 kg fine concentrate returning Total Rare Earth Oxides (TREO) grading 68.32% and 65.67% respectively from the two locations. Back in October 2021 the Company reported the [discovery of platinum group metals](#) (PGM's) in samples including Sample 1 with 42.8% titanium, 25.4% niobium, and 8.3% tantalum while Sample 2, found in a different zone on the property, originating from a rock sample containing 30.4% tantalum, 23.3%

niobium and 24.5% titanium.

But the fun doesn't end there. The latest results published by Auxico show [gold, platinum, titanium, zirconium and hafnium test results](#) on samples taken from the Area 50, TA Area and two other areas from the Minastyc property. At this point, it's almost easier to talk about what metal or mineral they don't have on this property. All joking aside, highlights from the latest fourteen samples, taken from pits in the first metre from surface in these areas, gave an average head grade of 9.5 g/t of gold, and 13.5 g/t of platinum from 8 of the 14 samples that returned grade. Additionally, the Company reported the discovery of 24.5% titanium, 7.8% zirconium, and 2.4 kilograms of hafnium. And if those grades aren't enough to get your attention, then perhaps the fact that the Company suggests that based on these field observations and from the satellite interpretation, an estimated minimum of 250,000 tonnes of material is represented by this Ferricrete layer in the first metre from surface at Area 50 and the TA area.

All this explains why Auxico is presently coordinating the site visit with Corporinoquia and expects the visit to occur near term. With these kinds of grades literally at surface they could be generating a decent revenue stream in short order to help finance further exploration, a preliminary resource estimate or whatever they determine is the best use of funds.

With a market cap of C\$55 million, this isn't one of those undiscovered companies that provides an almost free option on their exploration. However, with almost every valuable hard rock commodity on the planet concentrated in one spot with pretty impressive grades, any expansion in size could be a boon to shareholders. And I didn't even touch on the myriad of other interesting opportunities going on at Auxico Resources that you can explore on your own at their [website](#).

Market applauds Avalon Advanced Materials' lithium battery materials refinery news

written by InvestorNews | October 13, 2023

Governments around the world are starting to figure out what China realized 20 (or more) years ago, if you want to be at the leading edge of a technology you need to secure and support the resources that facilitate it. Unfortunately, it took a global pandemic followed by a war on European soil to disrupt supply chains and impact resource availability, for developed nations to begin to figure this out. But perhaps the light switch has been turned on and the politicians of the world have finally recognized that simply saying something repeatedly doesn't necessarily make it happen. I will spare readers from another rant from me, even though it's like shooting fish in a barrel, but let's just hope that rumblings out of Ottawa, with respect to the next Canadian budget are accurate. It's anticipated that Canada's federal budget will include [an investment of at least \\$2 billion](#) for a strategy to accelerate the production and processing of critical minerals needed for the electric vehicle battery supply chain. Specifically, the investment would be focused on critical minerals including nickel, lithium, cobalt and magnesium.

What a novel concept. I wonder how they managed to come up with such a creative idea? (I really need to find an emoticon or something that expresses when I am being sarcastic).

Nevertheless, it's progress so we should all be happy that an encouraging step is being made by politicians. This progress follows on the heels of another supportive announcement, this time from the provincial government of Ontario, where they defined their own first-ever [Critical Minerals Strategy](#). Premier Doug Ford is quoted as saying "The Critical Minerals Strategy is our government's blueprint to connect industries, resources and workers in our province's north to the future of manufacturing in the south as we build up home-grown supply chains."

The timing of these announcements couldn't dovetail any better with news from [Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.](#) (TSX: AVL | OTCQB: AVLNF) on Monday that it has signed a binding [letter of intent](#) to establish Ontario's first regional lithium battery materials refinery in Thunder Bay, Ontario. I can state with confidence that their timing was excellent because the market rewarded Avalon shareholders handsomely, rallying the stock by 48% on the day. So let's have a little closer look at why investors got so excited about this particular press release.



Avalon 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 as witnessed by the fact that the Company recently reported its [tenth](#) (yes, they have been doing this for 10 years) annual comprehensive [sustainability report](#). In a nutshell, Avalon

Advanced Materials is an ESG focused company at the forefront of sustainable best practices in cleantech mineral development. Find me a box that doesn't tick.

Timing of all this coming together is somewhat fortuitous for the Company, given they weren't waiting around for any government support. They recognized a long time ago what their roadmap to success would include. Simply finding critical materials wasn't going to be enough, Avalon identified that to control their destiny, they had to control their destiny. To get production started another key step is to have a centrally located lithium refinery that could purchase concentrates produced locally to make the battery material products. Avalon had a much bigger vision whereby a lithium refiner would be designed to accept lithium minerals concentrates, not only from Avalon's Separation Rapids Lithium Project, but also from other aspiring new producers from the many lithium pegmatite resources that occur in northwestern Ontario. Monday's announcement states this refinery will operate as a separate private business, called Avalon Lithium Inc., a newly established Avalon subsidiary.

Avalon's do-it-yourself (sustainably and responsibly) mantra has resulted in fantastic timing as both Provincial and Federal governments have only just realized what needs to be done at the same time as Avalon is actually doing it. Combine that with an exemplary ESG track record and you have yourself a pretty exciting investment opportunity. Even after the recent run-up, Avalon's market cap is sitting at roughly C\$77.5 million. Is that a fair price for a company doing the right things, in the right way, at the right time?