

# Disruptive Shift to Rare Earth Processing as Aclara Moves into American Market

written by InvestorNews | April 3, 2024

In an update on the disruptive industry news that broke this morning, Jack Lifton, Co-chair of the [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI), offered a detailed analysis of [Aclara Resources Inc.](#)'s (TSX: ARA) strategic move into the U.S. rare earths processing market. Aclara, backed by the Hochschild Mining Group, has set its sights on exploiting ionic clay deposits from Chile and Brazil to secure heavy rare earth elements (HREEs) like Dysprosium and Terbium, pivotal for high-performance magnet manufacturing. This venture is marked by partnerships with the Saskatchewan Research Council and Hatch Ltd. for the development and engineering of a processing facility. However, Lifton expressed reservations about the ambitious timeline, stating, "The actual [announcement](#) says they've engaged with the Saskatchewan Research Council to develop a separation technology operation and with Hatch, of Toronto, to actually engineer whatever the plan that comes out of the Saskatchewan Research Council is into hardware, into an actual separation plant."

Lifton's insights illuminate the intricate challenges Aclara faces in pioneering rare earth separation technologies in North America, a domain where success has been limited. He juxtaposes Aclara's emerging efforts against established industry players like [Energy Fuels Inc.](#) (NYSE American: UUUU | TSX: EFR), which has already made significant progress in light rare earth (LREE) separation and is now venturing into HREEs and alloys. This nuanced perspective raises doubts about Aclara's capability to swiftly navigate the complex technological and operational

hurdles inherent in rare earth processing.

The interview further delves into the competitive dynamics of the rare earth market, highlighting Aclara's entry into a space occupied by Energy Fuels, and buildouts already in play from [MP Materials](#) (NYSE: MP) and [Ucore Rare Metals Inc.](#) (TSXV: UCU | OTCQX: UURAF). Each company has its unique approach and strategic plans, indicating a fiercely competitive environment. Lifton's critique underscores a broader theme of Aclara's need for deeper industry integration and strategic partnerships, and suggested that this was perhaps a missed opportunity in which they should have engaged with Ucore.

Lifton's comprehensive analysis provides a crucial viewpoint on Aclara's bold yet fraught journey into the rare earths processing industry. While Aclara's plans signify a positive stride towards diversifying the global rare earths supply chain and enhancing geopolitical supply chain independence, Lifton underscores the formidable challenges ahead. This initiative marks a significant moment in the rare earth industry, setting the stage for Aclara's ambitious endeavor to navigate the technological, logistical, and competitive hurdles that lie in its path.

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## Pat Ryan on Ucore's Engineering Advantage in the

# Production of Heavy Rare Earths for Permanent Magnets

written by InvestorNews | April 3, 2024

At PDAC Toronto 2024, [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI) Co-Chairman Jack Lifton interviewed Pat Ryan, the Chairman and CEO of [Ucore Rare Metals Inc.](#) (TSXV: UCU | OTCQX: UURAF), discussing Ucore's advancements in the rare earths' permanent magnet supply chain. Ryan highlighted the company's focus on mid-market separation technologies, particularly their RapidSX technology, which significantly improves throughput rates for extracting rare earths essential for high-temperature applications like electric vehicles. With a commercial demo plant in Kingston, Ucore is engineering a full-scale system capable of producing heavy rare earths, including dysprosium, at purities above 99%. Ryan emphasized the strategic importance of heavy rare earths, noting, "The one critical thing we're really focused on is that heavy rare earth element...the permanent magnets really only work because the heavy rare earth allows it to operate at very high temperature."

Ucore's approach to securing feedstock for these valuable minerals is noteworthy, as Ryan mentioned sourcing from the Asian market outside of China. This strategic sourcing is part of Ucore's broader vision to disrupt China's control over the North American rare earth supply chain. With plans to operationalize a full-scale plant in Louisiana by 2025, Ucore is poised to become a significant player in the rare earths market. The company's engagement in joint ventures rather than traditional buy-sell agreements reflects a collaborative strategy aimed at strengthening the western rare earths supply chain. This initiative is further supported by Ucore's recent announcement of successfully separating a range of heavy rare

earth elements using its RapidSX technology, marking a critical step towards establishing a domestic rare earth processing capability.

Ucore's commitment to innovation and strategic partnerships underscores its potential to influence the North American rare earths market significantly. By focusing on the production of heavy rare earths and employing advanced separation technologies, Ucore aims to reduce dependence on foreign rare earths and contribute to the resilience of critical supply chains. With a seasoned executive like Ryan, who has extensive experience in manufacturing and supply chain management, Ucore is well-positioned to navigate the complexities of rare earth processing and meet the growing demand for these essential components in various high-tech applications.

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

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Through strategic partnerships, this plan includes disrupting the People's Republic of China's control of the North American REE supply chain through the near-term establishment of a heavy and light rare-earth processing facility in the US State of Louisiana, subsequent Strategic Metal Complexes in Canada and

Alaska and the longer-term development of Ucore's 100% controlled Bokan-Dotson Ridge Rare Heavy REE Project on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska, USA.

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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 | April 3, 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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# **Defense Metals Signs MOU with Ucore to Ship Rare Earth Carbonate to RapidSX™ Facility in Ontario**

written by Tracy Weslosky | April 3, 2024

Defense Metals Corp. (TSXV: DEFN | OTCQB: DFMTF) and Ucore Rare Metals Inc. (TSXV: UCU | OTCQX: UURAF) have entered into a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to explore joint efforts in establishing a North American rare earth element (REE) supply chain. As a significant step under this MOU, Defense Metals will send a mixed rare earth carbonate sample from its Wicheeda REE project in British Columbia to Ucore's RapidSX™ Commercialization and Demonstration Facility (CDF) in Kingston, Ontario.

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# Ucore's Strategic Leap: Pat Ryan Discusses the First Mover Advantage in Rare Earths Processing at Louisiana's Strategic Metals Complex

written by InvestorNews | April 3, 2024

In a recent InvestorNews interview with host Tracy Weslosky, Pat Ryan, Chairman and CEO of [Ucore Rare Metals Inc.](#) (TSXV: UCU | OTCQX: UURAF), shared insights into the company's latest strategic developments, particularly focusing on the Louisiana Strategic Metals Complex (LA-SMC) discussed in Ucore's most recent [news release](#). Central to Ucore's progress is the support from Louisiana Governor Jon Bel Edwards, who has played a pivotal role in advancing the LA-SMC project through the execution of a contract for exemption of ad valorem taxes. This move is part of a larger \$15 million incentive package from Louisiana Economic Development and is expected to yield an estimated \$8.2 million in tax savings over ten years, significantly aiding the project's progression.

The recent visit by Ucore's team to the Kingston, Ontario, RapidSX™ Demo Plant marks a key step in the transition process of replicating the plant's technology in Louisiana. This initiative is part of Ucore's broader strategy to establish a strong operational base in North America, positioning itself as a critical player in the rare earth processing industry.

Additionally, Ryan discussed the potential collaborations Ucore is exploring with both government support in [the US](#) and [Canada](#); along with various industries, emphasizing the company's focus on strengthening the supply chain for metal alloy making and catering to sectors such as automotive, wind energy, and national defense.

Also in the interview, there was a discussion surrounding feature coverage of Ucore in a Reuters' [article](#) titled *Insight: Western start-ups seek to break China's grip on rare earths refining*, dated December 4, 2023, Ucore Rare Metals stands out for its innovative approach in the rare earths sector. Ucore aims to revolutionize rare earths processing by mid-2025 using RapidSX technology, which is touted to be thrice as fast as the traditional solvent extraction process, without generating hazardous chemical waste, and requiring significantly less physical space. Ucore's initiative is a part of a broader movement among Western companies to establish a non-Chinese supply chain for these critical minerals, essential for numerous electronic devices and the clean energy transition.

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

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Through strategic partnerships, this plan includes disrupting the People's Republic of China's control of the North American REE supply chain through the near-term development of a heavy and light rare-earth processing facility in the U.S. State of Louisiana, subsequent Strategic Metal Complexes in Canada and Alaska and the longer-term development of Ucore's 100% controlled Bokan-Dotson Ridge Rare Heavy REE Project on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska, USA.

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**Ucore's Pat Ryan on the significant milestone in being**

# **awarded a \$4.28 million funding agreement by the Canadian Government**

written by InvestorNews | April 3, 2024

In a recent interview with InvestorNews' host Tracy Weslosky, Pat Ryan, Chairman and CEO of Ucore Rare Metals Inc. (TSXV: UCU | OTCQX: UURAF), detailed a significant development in the rare earths sector. The Canadian government has awarded Ucore a \$4.28 million funding agreement, a move that underscores Canada's commitment to advancing critical mineral processing and green energy transition.

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# **Technology Metals Week-in- Review: The British Stake Claim in Quebec and the Uranium Boom in North America**

written by Jack Lifton | April 3, 2024

# **Northvolt's Innovative Financing in Quebec: A Model of International**

# Collaboration

The [recent news](#) about [Northvolt AB](#)'s venture in Quebec is a testament to the power of international finance collaboration. This project, backed by a mix of private European and American financiers, alongside public funds from Ontario and Quebec, is remarkable. Notably, the involvement of major players like Volkswagen, BlackRock, Goldman Sachs, and Canadian provincial investment groups highlights a unique synergy. This contrasts sharply with the American approach, which often relies on tax breaks rather than direct investment. The Canadian model, with its subject matter awareness and understanding, is a commendable approach that others, especially in the U.S., should consider emulating.

## Ucore's Dual Government Support: A Sign of Confidence

[Ucore Rare Metals Inc.](#)'s (TSXV: UCU | OTCQX: UURAF) recent acquisition of a \$4.28 million [funding agreement](#) from the Canadian Government, in addition to support from the U.S. Department of Defense, speaks volumes about its credibility. This bi-national backing for a Canadian company with operations in the U.S. showcases the growing government recognition of the importance of rare earth elements and the technologies that Ucore brings to the table.

## First Phosphate's Vision and Recognition

The [acknowledgment](#) of [First Phosphate Corp.](#) (CSE: PHOS | FSE: KD0) by Professor Whittingham, a key figure in lithium-ion battery development, is significant. First Phosphate's strategy

to leverage Quebec's phosphate resources for lithium iron phosphate batteries aligns well with current industry trends and Professor Whittingham's endorsement. This positions them as an underrated yet potentially influential player in the battery materials market.

## **The Uranium Boom: A New Era for North American Energy**

The recent surge in interest and investment in uranium, highlighted by companies like [F3 Uranium Corp.](#) (TSXV: FUU | OTCQB: FUUFF) and [Energy Fuels Inc.](#) (NYSE American: UUUU | TSX: EFR), signals a major shift in North American energy priorities. The rapid market capitalization growth and the reopening of mines underscore a renewed focus on nuclear power as a crucial component of the future energy mix. This shift is a clear response to the growing need for sustainable and reliable energy sources.

## **Biden-Harris Administration's Push for Domestic Battery Manufacturing**

The announcement of a [\\$3.5 billion investment](#) by the Biden-Harris Administration to bolster domestic battery manufacturing marks a significant step in America's clean energy journey. This investment aims to enhance the U.S.'s position in the global battery market, create jobs, and support the clean energy transition. It's a move that aligns with the growing realization of the importance of battery technology in the modern energy landscape.

# Critical Minerals Institute's Masterclass: A Focus on Future Financing

The upcoming [Critical Minerals Institute](#) masterclass on [charitable flow-through and critical minerals](#) is a crucial event for those in the industry. Understanding the mechanics of flow-through financing is vital for the development of junior companies. This masterclass represents an invaluable learning opportunity for those looking to deepen their understanding of the financial landscape in the critical minerals sector.

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Jack Lifton brings his extensive knowledge and insight into the latest developments in the technology metals sector, offering a comprehensive overview of the current trends and future prospects. Jack is the Co-Chairman of the Critical Minerals Institute and is well known for coining the term #technologymetals in 2010.

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## Pat Ryan on How Ucore Is Leading the Charge Towards North American Heavy Rare

# Earths Processing

written by InvestorNews | April 3, 2024

In a recent InvestorNews interview, [Ucore Rare Metals Inc.](#)'s (TSXV: UCU | OTCQX: UURAF) Chairman and CEO Pat Ryan shared updates on the company's progress towards becoming a heavy rare earths processor in North America.

Host Tracy Weslosky began the conversation by acknowledging Ucore as the front-runner in this pivotal endeavor. Pat confirmed this, highlighting their RapidSX™ Commercial Demonstration Plant in Kingston, Ontario where they have been separating heavy and light rare earths. Pat also provided an update on their commercial-scale Louisiana Strategic Metals Complex, where they plan to start producing 900 tons per annum of heavy rare earths and 1600 tons of light rare earths by the end of 2024.

Tracy commended Ucore's progress and asked pertinent questions about their transformation into a technology leader in the critical minerals sector. Pat stressed the importance of bringing critical minerals supply chains to commercial scale, leveraging their extensive engineering efforts and the modular ramp-up potential of their RapidSX™ technology.

Discussing Ucore's recent [US\\$4 million award](#) from the US Department of Defense, Pat talked about their pricing strategies, emphasizing their competitive approach based on Chinese pricing indexes to ensure their customers get reliable pricing.

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

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# Pat Ryan on Ucore's \$4M Department of Defense Award and Plans in Louisiana

written by InvestorNews | April 3, 2024

In this InvestorIntel interview, Chris Thompson talks with [Ucore Rare Metals Inc.](#)'s (TSXV: UCU | OTCQX: UURAF) CEO and Chairman Pat Ryan about being [awarded US\\$4 million](#) from the US Department of Defense (DoD) to demonstrate rare earth element (REE) separation technology capabilities at its RapidSX™ Commercialization and Demonstration Facility in Kingston, Ontario.

Pat believes the award signifies recognition and credibility for Ucore's work in the past years and its ability to process both heavy and light rare earths. He also comments that the DoD contract is open-ended, providing an opportunity for further commercial-level contracts in the future.

Providing an update on ramping up production at their Louisiana Strategic Metals Complex, Pat discusses how Ucore is securing US-friendly feedstock sources for its processing facility for converting heavy and light REEs feedstock sources to salable individual rare earth products. Ucore aims to be a first mover in delivering rare earth oxides to the North American market, proving commercial viability and insuring a domestic supply.

Pat remarks that investors can anticipate upcoming news regarding feedstock arrangements, potential off-take agreements, ongoing government support, and additional government funding

opportunities.

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

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If you have any questions surrounding the content of this interview, please contact us at +1 416 792 8228 and/or email us direct at [info@investorintel.com](mailto:info@investorintel.com).

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## **Ucore Awarded \$4M from the US**

# DoD to Support Rare Earths Separation Facility in North America

written by InvestorNews | April 3, 2024

Ucore Rare Metals Inc. is building a North American rare earths supply chain, with an initial focus on the midstream refining process of rare earths in North America. To achieve this the Company has been making excellent progress with the help of government support in both Canada and the USA.