

# Greg Fenton Discusses Zentek's 2024 Progress and Exclusive Aptamer Technology Rights

written by InvestorNews | February 21, 2024

In a detailed interview with Tracy Weslosky, Greg Fenton, CEO and Director of [Zentek Ltd.](#) (NASDAQ: ZTEK | TSXV: ZEN), shared insights into the company's strategic progress and emerging opportunities, particularly emphasizing its work with aptamer technology. With an exclusive global license for innovative Aptamer-based platform technology developed by McMaster University, Zentek is pioneering advances in both diagnostic and therapeutic applications, underscoring its dedication to healthcare innovation. The company has made notable breakthroughs in COVID-19 therapeutics with its [C19HBA aptamer](#), showing significant promise in preclinical trials by outperforming leading monoclonal antibodies. This success has paved the way for Phase 1 clinical trials for COVID-19 and exploration into other areas such as oncology, immunology, and neurology.

Fenton highlighted the positive reception from major pharmaceutical companies, reflecting a broad industry interest in Zentek's aptamer technology. Additionally, Zentek's ZenGUARD™ technology platform, known for its 99-percent anti-microbial activity, has been instrumental in enhancing the bacterial and viral filtration efficiency of surgical masks and HVAC systems. A [recent study](#) on ZenGUARD™ Enhanced Air Filters revealed its potential to offer significant energy, emission, and cost savings for commercial buildings, showcasing a scalable solution for improving indoor air quality and addressing climate change.

Throughout the conversation, Fenton articulated Zentek's

ambitious plans for partnerships and expansion, leveraging the favorable market conditions to boost the company's visibility and impact. His vision for Zentek includes strategic partnerships, leveraging its proprietary technology, and a commitment to revolutionizing the approach to managing infectious diseases and enhancing environmental sustainability.

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

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## About Zentek Ltd.

Zentek is an ISO 13485:2016 certified intellectual property technology company focused on the research, development and commercialization of novel products seeking to give the Company's commercial partners a competitive advantage by making their products better, safer, and greener.

Zentek's patented technology platform ZenGUARD™, is shown to have 99-per-cent anti-microbial activity and to significantly increase the bacterial and viral filtration efficiency of both surgical masks and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems. Zentek's ZenGUARD™ production facility is located in Guelph, Ontario.

Zentek, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Triera Biosciences Ltd., has a global exclusive license to the Aptamer-based platform technology developed by McMaster University, which is being jointly developed by Zentek and McMaster for both the diagnostic and therapeutic markets.

The Company is not making any express or implied claims that its aptamer technology has the ability to eliminate, cure or contain COVID-19 (or the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus) at this time.

To learn more about Zentek Ltd., [click here](#)

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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 21, 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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# Greg Fenton on how Zentek's Advancement in Aptamer Technology is Revolutionizing Biotech

written by InvestorNews | February 21, 2024

In an interview with host Tracy Weslosky from InvestorNews, [Zentek Ltd.](#)'s (NASDAQ: ZTEK | TSXV: ZEN) CEO Greg Fenton began their discussion on the substantial improvement in the aptamer platform's binding affinity and yield as announced in their [November 15th, 2023, release](#). Greg explains how the new platform may reduce the rapid clearance from the body, the researchers have increased the aptamer platform production to a 95% yield, which substantially reduces costs and positions them as potential replacements for monoclonal antibodies, offering efficiency and cost benefits.

Fenton highlights the rapid production capability of aptamers, taking only 6-8 weeks compared to longer durations for vaccines. Aptamers, composed of DNA sequences, are deemed safe and can be synthesized quickly for specific targets. This speed and cost-effectiveness give aptamers a competitive edge in the market,

especially against antibody therapies.

He also discusses Zentek's collaboration with McMaster University in medical research, noting that the aptamer platform is still in early stages but shows great potential. He emphasizes the importance of safety, dosing ranges, and further research to establish the platform's market value.

Additionally, Zentek's recent developments include ZenGUARD™ enhanced air filters, which offer significant cost savings in healthcare and energy efficiency. The filters reduce absenteeism and energy costs by requiring fewer air exchanges, representing economic benefits for building owners, businesses, and public healthcare systems.

Fenton also remarks on Zentek's efficient use of funds, highlighting that their current stage of development would typically cost hundreds of millions of dollars, but they achieved it with a fraction of that amount. This efficiency is attributed to their partnership with McMaster University.

Finally, the addition of John Snisarenko, a former pharma industry executive, to Zentek's board is seen as a strategic move to enhance the company's outreach and partnership engagement in the pharmaceutical industry. His extensive pharmaceutical experience and connections are expected to be valuable for Zentek's future development and commercialization strategy.

The news release from November 15, 2023, corroborates these developments, noting the substantial improvement in the aptamer platform's binding affinity and yield. The release also highlights the potential for Zentek's aptamers in precision therapy, competing with monoclonal antibodies, and the significant cost and timeline advantages inherent to their platform technology. Zentek's CEO comments on the potential of

the aptamer platform across various therapeutic areas and the company's shift towards commercialization and partnership strategies. To access the complete interview, [click here](#)

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## **Greg Fenton on China's graphite export restrictions and Zentek's Albany graphite deposit in Ontario**

written by InvestorNews | February 21, 2024

In a recent InvestorNews interview with host Tracy Weslosky, Zentek Ltd.'s (NASDAQ: ZTEK | TSXV: ZEN) CEO and Director, Greg Fenton, discussed China's recent move to restrict graphite exports and its potential impact on global supply chains and the electric vehicle (EV) industry.

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## **5 Stocks on the Radar Amid**

# China's Graphite Export Ban

written by Tracy Weslosky | February 21, 2024

Recent developments from China's Ministry of Commerce concerning export permits on critical graphite products have sent ripples through the financial markets. Graphite, indispensable for electric vehicle (EV) batteries, is now under tighter control by China, a country that dominates its global production.

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# Revolutionary Aptamer-Based Pathogen Technology from Zentek Unveils Rapid and Inexpensive Pathogen Detection Capabilities

written by InvestorNews | February 21, 2024

A Canadian company and their laboratory partner have developed a low cost simple and much faster way to better detect pathogens causing infections in our bodies. In recent weeks the team found a way to dramatically improve the effectiveness of this technology, which is really a medical breakthrough you won't likely see on the news, at least not just yet. Their technology uses 'aptamer' based diagnostics from a simple saliva test.

# What is an aptamer?

Aptamers are short sequences of artificial DNA, RNA, XNA, or peptide that bind a specific target molecule or family of target molecules. In the case of today's company, they are using single-stranded DNA molecules capable of binding specifically with target proteins on the surface of pathogens such as SARS-CoV-2 to detect if a person has COVID-19 or potentially other pathogens.

## Zentek Ltd.

[Zentek Ltd.](#) (NASDAQ: ZTEK | TSXV: ZEN) ("Zentek") is a certified graphene technology company focused on the research, development and commercialization of graphene-based novel products, typically using nanotechnology.

Zentek's aptamer-enabled [Pathogen Detection Technology](#) is a low-cost, rapid, saliva testing, scalable technology initially to be used for COVID-19 testing, but can be adapted to detect other pathogens. Zentek has [exclusive worldwide rights to commercialize](#) their COVID-19 antigen testing aptamer-enabled technology. The technology is being developed by Zentek and their technology partners at McMaster University Li Lab, led by Dr. Yingfu Li.

Zentek's collaboration with McMaster University extends beyond its exclusive license and now encompasses all aptamer and DNAzyme uses, including diagnostics, therapeutics, and neutralization agents, not limited solely to SARS-CoV-2 applications.

# Aptamer technology breakthrough, up to 250 times increase

Zentek recently announced a breakthrough in the team's aptamer-enabled technology, [stating](#):

*"Dr. Yingfu Li and his team at the Li Lab have developed a novel aptamer technology that increases the binding affinity of aptamers by up to 250 times. The increased binding affinity enhances the limits of detection for aptamer-based diagnostics. In addition, the enhanced binding affinity may lead to the successful adaptation of these same aptamers for new therapeutic and prophylactic treatments. Binding affinity is a key metric in both diagnostic and therapeutic applications."*

Understandably most people will not understand the implications of what is going on here, so I will spell it out. Effective Aptamer-based pathogen technology opens up a whole new potential to 'rapidly and cheaply' detect pathogens. In time this can be expanded to potentially detect other markers of disease in the body. Furthermore, it has the potential to more effectively treat diseases. But that's the next chapter, best discussed another time and assuming Zentek continues down that pathway.

Dr. Yingfu Li recently [stated](#):

*"The novel aptamer technology platform developed in my lab at McMaster University is demonstrating a robust increase in binding affinity to every aptamer we have tried so far. Combining this technology with aptamers that have high specificity **has created a very exciting potential for new therapeutics and diagnostics**. The enhanced binding affinity from these new aptamers has led to **consistent and successful in vitro testing** in my lab and the lab of Dr. Leyla Soleymani for*

*diagnostic applications, and more recently, with in vivo testing in the lab of Dr. Matthew Miller for therapeutic applications. These early results are very exciting, and we look forward to future work that applies the technology to other potential therapeutic and diagnostic targets.”*

*Note: Bold emphasis by the author.*

## **The advantages of Zentek’s aptamer technology for detecting Covid-19 or potentially other pathogens**

**The advantages of Zentek's aptamer technology are:**



- **Simplicity & Comfort** – uses saliva rather than a nasal swab reducing aversion to testing and risk of error in the sampling process
- **Accuracy** – electrochemical sensing technology rather than lateral flow allows for sensitivity equivalent to a 36 count RT PCR
- **Mobility** – simple hardware lends itself to easy transport and high throughput, point-of-care testing
- **Speed** – results in under 10 minutes
- **Low Cost** – aptamers can be developed more quickly and cost effectively compared to antibodies allowing us to be highly competitive compared to currently available rapid detection tests now and into the future
- **Scalability** – new aptamers can be developed to detect numerous other pathogens giving our technology the ability to enhance safety and empower businesses, governments and our healthcare providers well beyond COVID

Source: [Zentek website](#)

The potential for aptamer-based disease detection is truly remarkable. There is also potential one day that aptamers can be used to much more precisely target disease treatment or prevention in the body.

Greg Fenton, CEO of Zentek [commented](#):

*“Initially, we were working to develop aptamers for diagnostic purposes.....Dr Li’s initial breakthrough was important for diagnostic purposes, and now early testing points to the*

*potential to create new therapeutics and prophylactics. I can't emphasize enough how unexpected these results were to our team and how significant this development is if it is confirmed through future testing."*

For more details, investors can watch the recent Zentek CEO interview [here](#).

Zentek is now at the stage of commercializing their aptamer-enabled technology [stating](#) that they are "commercial prototyping readiness, and working with [Halteres Associates](#), a world-leading bioscience consultancy, to assist us in our commercialization process."

## Zentek's product pipeline

### Graphene Pipeline: What We're Working On

**zentek**



**We know graphene: a key building block for a healthier and more sustainable future**

Source: [Zentek company presentation](#)

## Closing remarks

There is no more exciting company than Zentek. Apart from their aptamer technology Zentek has many other applications for their graphene nanotechnology including: [ZENGuard™](#) (a graphene coating applied to PPE to prevent Covid and other infections; also used for air filtration (HVAC) systems), [icephobics](#) (to prevent ice build up on planes etc), ZENArmor (corrosion resistance), [fuel additives](#) (helping reduce carbon emissions), [Graphene-wrapped silicon anodes](#), [conductive inks](#), [intumescent coatings](#), and [anti-inflammatory therapies](#).

Furthermore, Zentek makes their own graphene oxide at their Guelph facility and owns the Albany Graphite Deposit ([planned to be spun out](#)).

Zentek Ltd. trades on a market cap of [C\\$216 million](#). With commercialization of ZENGuard™ underway and Zentek's aptamer technology potentially to follow soon, Zentek is at a great stage to rapidly grow from here. Stay tuned in 2023 to see how Zentek performs and if they can successfully start to monetize their technology.

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## Zentek's Breakthrough Aptamer Platform Shows Promise in Fighting COVID-19

written by InvestorNews | February 21, 2024

In a recent interview conducted by Tracy Weslosky of



InvestorIntel, Greg Fenton, the CEO & Director of Zentek Ltd. (NASDAQ: ZTEK | TSXV: ZEN), unveiled some thrilling developments surrounding the company's revolutionary aptamer platform. With an exclusive global license from McMaster University, this groundbreaking platform has demonstrated remarkable success in pre-clinical animal model tests as a potential prophylactic or therapeutic for SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Spearheaded by Dr. Yingfu Li's team at McMaster, this platform harnesses a series of synthetic molecules known as aptamers, exhibiting a high affinity for the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

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## Greg Fenton of Zentek Discuss Anti-Icing Drone Technology & Spinning Out the Albany Graphite Project

written by InvestorNews | February 21, 2024

In this InvestorIntel interview, Tracy Weslosky talks with [Zentek Ltd.](#)'s (NASDAQ: ZTEK | TSXV: ZEN) CEO and Director Greg Fenton about the [successful testing](#) of its "best-in-class" [icephobic coating](#) for drones, first in wind tunnels and then real-world conditions.

While the drone with uncoated propeller blades rapidly lost the ability to maintain flight in an outdoor icing environment, Greg discusses how the drone coated with Zentek's icephobic coating prevented ice from adhering to the surface and was able to



maintain flight until the end of the battery life. Greg explains how Zentek is positioned to potentially be the only company in Canada with a product to help drones fly in winter conditions to meet [Transport Canada's](#) anti-icing requirements for drones.

Greg also provides [an update](#) on Zentek's [Albany Graphite Project](#). With an increased demand for North American battery supply chains, Greg discusses how there has been a renewed market interest in their Albany graphite project. Recognizing this, Greg talks about Zentek's decision to resume work on the project and transfer the project to its wholly-owned subsidiary Albany Graphite Corp., to secure funding for its development and attract investors, including discussions with battery manufacturers and car companies.

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

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## **About Zentek Ltd.**

Zentek is a graphene technology company focused on the research, development, and commercialization of graphene-based novel products to give its commercial partners a competitive advantage by making their products better, safer, and greener.

Zentek's patented ZenGUARD™ coating is shown to have 99-per-cent anti-microbial activity and to significantly increase the bacterial and viral filtration efficiency of both surgical masks and HVAC systems. Zentek's ZenGUARD™ production facility is located in Guelph, Ont. Zentek's second technology is the patent-pending ZenARMOR™ platform focused on corrosion protection applications.

To know more about Zentek Ltd., [click here](#)

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direct at [info@investorintel.com](mailto:info@investorintel.com).

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# Greg Fenton of Zentek on Customer Demand for its Innovative Antimicrobial Coating for HVAC Systems

written by InvestorNews | February 21, 2024

In this InvestorIntel interview, Tracy Weslosky talks with [Zentek Ltd.](#)'s (NASDAQ: ZTEK | TSXV: ZEN) CEO and Director Greg Fenton about an update on the commercialization of Zentek's patented ZenGUARD™ antimicrobial technology.

With the ability to increase viral filtration efficiency of an HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) filter by almost 5 times, Greg explains how a ZenGUARD™ coated HVAC filter is an incredibly safe way to improve indoor air quality and remove pathogens from the air without any additional energy requirements.

Although currently going through a regulatory approval process through Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency ("PMRA") in Canada, ZenGUARD™ has already received approval from another branch of Health Canada, indicating a high likelihood of approval from PMRA. Greg also discusses how ZenGUARD™ is seeing a growing demand from end users including filter manufacturers, provincial and municipal governments, and private sector customers.

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**Zentek's ZenARMOR is  
potentially a major  
breakthrough in the US\$23.8B+**

# Global Anti-Corrosion Coatings Market

written by InvestorNews | February 21, 2024

The anti-corrosion coatings market may not sound very glamorous, but it is a multi-billion dollar business. According to Vantage Market Research, the global anti-corrosion coatings market was valued at [US\\$23.8 billion in 2021](#) and is forecast to grow to \$43.2 billion by 2028. Zentek quoted from a 2012 U.S. Congressional Briefing that “corrosion-related costs amounted to US\$452 billion per year in the US, including US\$22 billion for the Department of Defense.” This just highlights the importance of anti-corrosion coatings and the fact the market for coatings can grow much larger over time.

According to a November 2022 [report](#): “The anti-corrosion coating material is widely used in marine industries, oil & gas, automotive, and infrastructure... Additionally, increased infrastructure investment, particularly in developing and emerging countries, has been a major driver of demand for anticorrosion coatings.”

Canadian graphene technology specialist company [Zentek Ltd.](#) (NASDAQ: ZTEK | TSXV: ZEN) has just [announced](#) that they have developed a novel corrosion protection technology known as [ZenARMOR™](#). The technology is based on graphene oxide and Zentek’s CEO and Director Greg Fenton [stated](#) it is “better than the best existing anti-corrosion systems currently in the marketplace.”

Given that Zentek trades on a market cap of just [C\\$228 million](#), the opportunity to break into a US\$23.8 billion market with a major breakthrough technology could be potentially game-changing for Zentek.

## ZenARMOR™

ZenARMOR™ is a graphene oxide additive that can be added to existing paint and applied to surfaces to help prevent corrosion. Initial testing results on ZenARMOR™ showed [no signs of corrosion even after 1,500 hours](#) of salt spray testing. The best systems on the market start breaking down at 1,000 hours. Zentek spent 2 years developing ZenARMOR™ and it has been third-party validated. Greg Fenton commented (video [here](#)) that he sees ZenARMOR™ as a “potentially game-changing technology”.

The next steps will be further testing by potential end users over the next 6-9 months, if successful, it is to be followed with the commercialization of ZenARMOR™. If Zentek gets to the stage of selling the product, the Company believes it can ramp up supply to meet demand.

In the February 8, 2023 announcement, Zentek [stated](#):

“The Company also reports that the ZenARMOR™ corrosion protection self-healing coating was submitted to the Innovative Solutions Canada (ISC) testing stream – Military Call for Prototypes. The Company is pleased to announce that it has been advised that ZenARMOR™ has met the mandatory and technical evaluation criteria of the Military Call for Prototypes, Military Component, and is considered conditionally qualified, pending further steps such as matching our innovation with a Government of Canada Organization (GCO) interested in testing ZenARMOR™.”

## ZenGUARD™

In further breaking news, Zentek’s Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (“HVAC”) filtration product ZenGUARD™ has performed well in Stage 2 testing. ZenGUARD™ is a graphene-based coating

that can be used to upgrade existing HVAC filters. Zentek [announced](#) on February 7, 2023 that “ZenGUARD™-treated MERV 8 filters achieved 34.56% filtration efficiency of the Phi6 virus, a surrogate for COVID-19 during a single air exchange. This compares to 7.24% for uncoated MERV 8 filters, a 27.32% net improvement.”

Zentek CEO, Greg Fenton, [stated](#): “The ZenGUARD™ technology is a simple and practical way to improve one of the biggest problems facing workspaces, planes, trains, buses, and other indoor spaces: indoor air quality.....we believe our patented ZenGUARD™ technology has the potential to not only protect people’s health by removing more pathogens from the air we breathe, but to do so in a way that reduces financial burden and environmental footprint.”

More details [here](#) in a CEO video discussing ZenGUARD™.

**Zentek’s Guelph manufacturing center is one of the world’s largest graphene-based production facilities (produces the graphene oxide for coatings for ZenARMOR™ and ZenGUARD™)**



Source: [Zentek website](#)

## Closing remarks

Zentek continues to innovate at a rapid pace with all types of graphene-related products. Commercialization is underway with their revolutionary ZenGUARD™ being used in [face masks which remove 98.9% more bacteria and 97.8% more virus](#) compared to standard surgical masks. Zentek is also developing numerous other graphene-based products such as [icephobics](#) (help prevent ice buildup), [fuel additives](#) (to reduce carbon emissions), and [fire-retardant coatings](#) just to name a few. Graphene is a



revolutionary product and Zentek is at the cutting edge of developing and commercializing numerous uses for graphene-based products.

InvestorIntel will continue to keep investors up to date with Zentek's amazing progress in what promises to be another potentially superb year for the company.