



CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION (UK)

NOVEMBER 2024

MPS OF THE APPG FOR CRITICAL MINERALS LEAD
DEBATE AT WESTMINISTER HALL

COP29 CALLS FOR EQUITY IN CRITICAL MINERAL
SUPPLY CHAINS

UK CRITICAL MINERALS INTELLIGENCE CENTRE
RELEASES UPDATED CRITICALITY ASSESSMENT



NOVEMBER 2024

Welcome to the CMA (UK) Monthly Newsletter, featuring updates on the critical minerals space. Read on for:

- CMA (UK) 4th Annual Conference, Critical Minerals: Breaking New Ground
- APPG MPs Lead Westminster Hall Debate on Domestic Critical Minerals
- COP29 Calls for Equity in Global Critical Mineral Supply Chains
- Critical Minerals Intelligence Centre Launches UK Criticality Assessment
- Prime Minister Keir Starmer Launches Global Clean Power Alliance
- UKRI and NRC IRAP Announces Joint UK-Canada Funding Opportunity
- Ionic Rare Earths Releases Feasibility Study for REE Facility in Belfast
- Bioscope Technologies Bestowed with 2024 Net Zero Innovation Award
- Minviro to Lead UKRI & DSIT-Funded RESiLABLE Semiconductor Project
- TARGET Centre for Doctoral Training Opens Applications to PhD Students
- Women in Mining UK Launches Sixth Edition of WiM100
- Coal Authority Renamed by DESNZ to the Mining Remediation Authority
- Welcoming SRL Consulting to the Association
- Welcoming Bell Geospace to the Association
- Critical Productions on ESG: The New Normal for the Mining Sector
- News Round Up
- Events Calendar

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Contributors: Tiffany Sarfo, Nareeka Ahir, and Reagan Patrowicz
Editor: Eileen Maes, CMA (UK)

Would you like to feature in a future edition?
Contact our editor Eileen at eileen@criticalmineral.org



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APPG MPS LEAD CRITICAL MINERALS DEBATE AT WESTMINISTER

1

On 3 December, Officer of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Critical Minerals, Perran Moon MP, called for and led a debate in Westminster Hall on the domestic production of critical minerals.

The debate discussed supply chain vulnerabilities, the importance of critical minerals to the UK's defense, industrial and climate goals, and the need to develop extraction, midstream and recycling capabilities.

The debate was attended by Minister Sarah Jones and supported in person by MPs from all over the UK, such as Luke Myer, MP for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland; Luke Murphy, MP for Basingstoke; Alistair Strathern, MP for Hitchin; Alex Sobel, MP for Leeds Central and Headingley; Jim Shannon, MP for Strangford; Andrew George, MP for St Ives; James Wild, MP for North West Norfolk; Tom Hayes, MP for Bournemouth East; and Noah Law, MP for St Austell and Newquay and the Chair of the APPG.

[WATCH THE DEBATE HERE](#)





CMA UK HOSTS LARGEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO DATE

The Critical Minerals Association (UK) recently hosted its 4th Annual Conference, Critical Minerals: Breaking New Ground, at the Royal College of Physicians in London.

We were pleased to welcome over 300 miners, processors, recyclers, chemists, geologists, financiers, ESG experts, lawyers, parliamentarians and more from around the world at our largest event to date.

The day commenced with a breakfast reception with opening remarks from MPs Noah Law and Perran Moon MP, Officers of the Critical Minerals APPG. We featured presentations from the International Energy Agency, UK Export Finance, and Critical Minerals Intelligence Centre, as well as side events hosted by ERM, the Department for Business and Trade, and our sister associations CMA Australia and CMA USA.

Thank you to all who attended. A post event article, photos and recordings of the sessions will be made available soon.





COP29: EQUITY IN CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS

At the 29th United Nations Climate Summit (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, global leaders discussed how to improve equity in critical mineral supply chains for the energy transition.

Rebeca Grynspan, Chief of UN Trade and Development, outlined 4 key actions on critical minerals: "investment in infrastructure, fairer trade and market access, transparent governance, and faster knowledge sharing".

Grynspan highlighted that many nations rich in critical minerals face development challenges, which could be exasperated by a resource rush as part of the energy transition. Therefore nations are being encouraged to focus on developing their own responsible critical mineral supply.

There were also discussions on diversifying critical mineral supply chains and underscoring investments with sustainable finance.

[READ ON HERE](#)





CMIC RELEASES UK 2024 CRITICALITY ASSESSMENT

The Critical Minerals Intelligence Centre (CMIC) at the British Geological Survey released its 2024 UK Criticality Assessment, commissioned by the Department for Business and Trade.

Out of the 82 materials assessed, CMIC deemed 34 minerals as “critical”, a considerable increase from the 18 that were selected in the 2021 assessment. Director Gavin Mudd commented that the Assessment “confirms that the growing diversification of the UK economy — alongside the expanding reliance on global trade — brings an increasing vulnerability in terms of disruption to the supply of critical minerals.”

The report is intended to assist and inform UK policymakers in securing its most vital critical mineral supply chains, essential for energy security and economic resilience.

[READ ON HERE](#)



UK Critical Minerals
Intelligence Centre





PM LAUNCHES GLOBAL CLEAN POWER ALLIANCE

At the G20 in Rio de Janeiro on 19 November, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer officially launched the Global Clean Power Alliance. 11 nations and the African Union signed on to its first mission, with the United States and European Union also partnering on the initiative.

The UK-led alliance looks to unite and share knowledge between developed and developing nations in an effort to speed up the clean energy transition, with the goal of meeting COP28 commitments to triple renewable energy and double energy efficiency.

Energy Secretary Ed Miliband said: "The UK is back in the business of climate leadership and that means working more closely with other countries to get off the fossil fuel rollercoaster and unlock the rewards of cheap, secure and clean power at home and abroad."

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UK-CANADA LAUNCH JOINT INNOVATION FUNDING

On 4 November, Innovate UK and the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP) announced a £3 million funding opportunity for innovative projects across Life Sciences, Digital and Emerging Technologies, and Sustainability disciplines.

The competitive research grant is part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the United Kingdom and Canada in January 2024, seeking to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the nations. Proposals are welcome from organisations who wish to form a project consortia.

Successful projects must last between 12 - 24 months, and operate within the 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2027 timeframe, with a majority of the work undertaken in the UK and Canada. Deadline for proposals is 6 April 2025.

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**Innovate
UK**



IONIC RARE EARTHS RELEASES FEASIBILITY STUDY

7

On 18 November, Ionic Rare Earths (IonicRE) announced a feasibility study that showed strong potential for a profitable Rare Earth Oxide manufacturing facility in Belfast. The facility would recycle pre-consumer rare earth magnet scrap and end-of-life magnets.

Managing Director Tim Harrison said: “Financially, this [study] represents a low capital risk pathway to sovereign magnet REO production compared to alternative sources, offering strong financial returns based on a ‘circular economy’ model of sustainable production, backed by the UK Government and our project partners.”

IonicRE is progressing with site permitting, with construction expected to be completed by the end of 2026. The company is also set to submit an application for a capital grant from the Automotive Transformation Fund, led by the Advanced Propulsion Centre UK.

[**READ ON HERE**](#)

ionic
rare earths



BIOSCOPE TECH PRESENTED WITH NET ZERO AWARD

On 15 November, Bioscope was awarded the prestigious Net Zero Innovation Award at the Technology Supply Chain Awards for its “bacteria bioleaching development work and industrial-scale sustainable refining of strategic metals from printed circuit board (PCB) e-waste.”

Following this achievement, the company has announced its aims to be fully operational by January 2025 with a focus on the recovery of copper, gold, palladium, platinum and tin from circuit boards. Next year Bioscope Technologies also plans to progress its research and scaling efforts to improve recovery of additional critical metals and silica.

The company's work was recently featured in The Economist, highlighting its innovative promise.

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redefining the tech cycle



MINVIRO TO LEAD UKRI RESILIBLE PROJECT

On 1 October, Minviro announce their involvement in the RESiLABLE project under the 'Improving and Scaling-up Semiconductor Manufacturing – CR&D' initiative.

With support from Innovate UK and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), RESiLABLE is part of a transformative £11.5 million investment across 16 projects aimed at advancing semiconductor manufacturing and resilience in the UK.

Led by Sahin Alacacayir, with partners from universities across the UK, Minviro is proud to contribute to strengthening the UK's semiconductor ecosystem and powering growth in our thriving tech industry, establishing a life cycle assessment approach to supply chain sustainability and resilience in the country.

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TARGET CDT OPENS APPLICATIONS FOR PHD STUDENTS

The Training and Research Group for Energy Transition Mineral Resources (TARGET), a UKRI NERC funded Centre for Doctoral Training, is welcoming PhD applications for its second cohort of students.

TARGET Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) aims to train a new generation of interdisciplinary environmental experts in through the collaboration of a consortium of UK universities, industry partners, and research organisations to equip its students with the skills needed to tackle the challenges of the energy transition.

The CDT is supported by £2.6 million of funding from Innovate UK, and is poised to make significant contributions to critical minerals research in the UK.

Deadline for applications is 22 January 2025.

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TARGET
Mineral Resources



WIM UK ANNOUNCES 6TH EDITION OF WIM100

On 26 November, Women in Mining UK (WiM UK) announced the launch of the sixth edition of its WIM100, a report of 100 Global Inspirational Women in Mining.

The initiative is announced every two years and is its tenth year. It aims to celebrate and highlight the diverse talent of women within the mining industry, while also identifying role models who can inspire the next generation.

10 Women based in the UK received this award: Abbi Buxton, Emma Chapman, Katie Fedosenko, Katherine Evans, Dr. Laura Brooks, Maria Elisa Lloyd, Naomi Hodgkinson-Lee, Dr. Kathryn Moore, Louise Porteus, Lisa Pinney MBE.

Congratulations to all the honourees.

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COAL AUTHORITY RENAMED TO MINING REMEDiation

On 28 November, the Coal Authority announced a re-naming to the Mining Remediation Authority, following approval from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Under the new name, the Mining Remediation Authority plans to intensify its efforts on mine water treatment and environmental remediation, as well as providing opportunities for local communities in conjunction with its existing work on metal mine pollution prevention and tip safety.

The Chair of the Mining Remediation Authority, Jeff Halliwell, stated: "As we look to the future and [our] work increasingly focuses on remediation and exciting low carbon opportunities, such as mine water heating, it is appropriate to change our name to reflect the important work ahead."

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WELCOMING SLR CONSULTING TO THE ASSOCIATION

CMA (UK) is delighted to welcome our newest member SLR to the Association!

Companies across the world are facing unprecedented pressure to take an active part in creating a more just and sustainable future. SLR exists to support clients on this journey to 'Making Sustainability Happen'. Their specialist teams offer services from strategy, performance and sustainability strategy through to project delivery support.

From concept and feasibility to planning and permitting, operations and compliance through to decommissioning, SLR is here to help you on your sustainability journey.

[READ ON HERE](#)

The SLR logo, featuring a stylized sunburst icon to the left of the letters 'SLR'. The background of the entire page is a photograph of a person riding a bicycle on a path through a field of tall grass, with several wind turbines visible in the distance under a bright sky.

SLR



WELCOMING BELL GEOSPACE TO THE ASSOCIATION

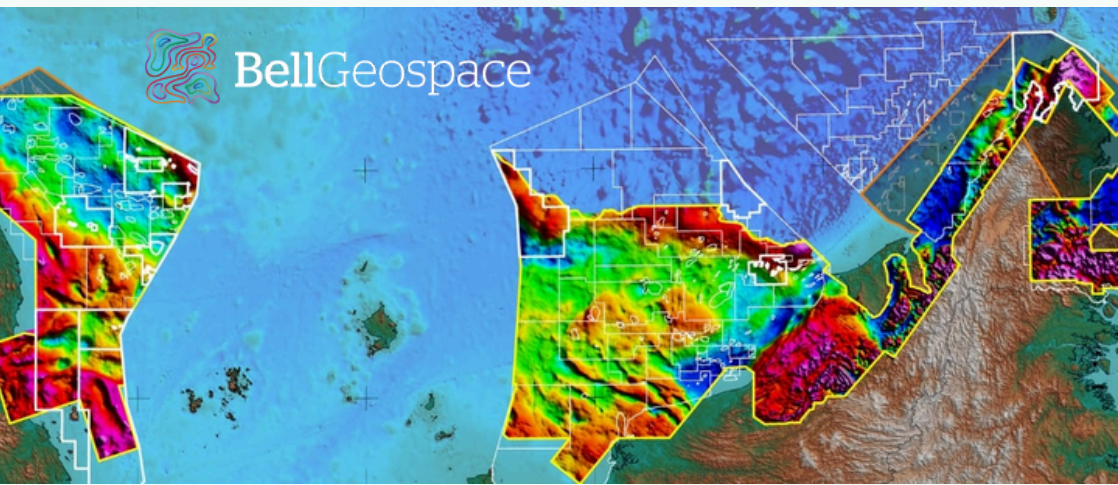
CMA (UK) is delighted to welcome our second newest member, Bell Geospace, to the Association!

With over 26 years of operational excellence, Bell Geospace acquires, processes and interprets Full Tensor Gravity Gradiometry (FTG) data for the mining industry. Using airborne surveys, they've accumulated more than 2 million line kilometres of data, and consistently improve the quality of their data, year on year.

From Brazil to Sweden, Bell Geospace has mapped mineral prospectivity across the globe for hundreds of projects.

Learn more about Bell Geospace and their work below.

READ ON [HERE](#)



ESG: The New Normal

The Journey of a Responsible Mineral, From Compliance to Value: Elevating ESG in Mining.



Stewardship or Green-washing

While the very nature of mining, extracting materials from the earth, inherently challenges sustainability, the sector offers more than just the extraction of minerals.

Recently, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards have been embraced primarily as a means of aligning with best practices, often pivoting towards compliance especially when investor interest is at stake.

01 15 minute sponsored documentary – released through CP channels featuring sponsor logos.

02 2 x 30 sec trailer – Wide and Vertical – short but concise trailers focussing on varied demographics. Released through CP and sponsor channels.

03 3 x individual interviews – standalone interviews with main sponsor, two other interviews as requested. Branded and sponsored. Released through CP and Sponsor Channels.



The E, S and G

Companies with demonstrable ESG good practice are on average 4-5% more profitable than competitors.*

We will engage with organisations that are making tangible, practical contributions to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards, beyond mere green-washing.

These entities may not market themselves as ESG compliant, yet they implement substantial practices that enhance their operations and promote genuine sustainability, focussing on how these practical actions result in positive impacts, showcasing the real benefits of authentic ESG integration in business.

Impacts & Objectives

Showcasing the changing face of the mining industry in regards to ESG, and the strategic advantage that a good stewardship can have.

If you can't grow it, you must mine it. So what can we do to ensure this is done to the highest standards.

Who are the companies making sure they are key stakeholders in their environments, and making steps to improve the impact of mining.

Showcasing the best of the mining industry and changing the public perception of mining and it's importance in the race for a greener future.

Production and costing

- ✓ Three days filming on-site
- ✓ Five days editing
- ✓ Six, social-ready, high impact content pieces: Boost Engagement, shape the conversation

£15,000*

*Excluding applicable expenses and taxes



* ESG compliant firms 'more profitable' says Bain & EcoVadis



NEWS ROUNDUP

The following news articles from Argus Media, Mining Weekly, Mining Magazine, Financial Times, and others, provide an overview of critical mineral mining for:

- Cobalt
- Copper
- Graphite
- Lithium
- Nickel
- Manganese
- Rare Earth Elements
- Tin
- Tungsten
- Vanadium

The Critical Minerals Association (UK) takes no credit for any articles and makes no endorsement of any of the content.



Cobalt

- Africa
 - DRC [20.11.24]
 - International Labour Organization (ILO) launches project to combat child labour in cobalt mining.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - DRC: Gecamines, Chemaf [22.11.24]
 - Gecamines offers \$1 million to buy Chemaf's cobalt and copper assets, blocks Chinese buyers.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Asia
 - China [06.11.24]
 - China proposes step up in domestic exploration of cobalt, lithium and nickel.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - India [08.11.24]
 - India auctions first ever tungsten and cobalt mineral blocks.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - US: Electra Battery Materials [19.11.24]
 - Electra secures exploration permit for Idaho cobalt-copper targets.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - US: US Strategic Metals [05.11.24]
 - US Strategic Metals gains approval for \$100.8m loan for cobalt mining project in Missouri.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Copper

- Africa
 - Morocco: Genius Metals Inc [14.11.24]
 - Genius Metals to acquire 100% stake in Timarighine Copper project after signing option agreement.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Asia
 - Azerbaijan: Anglo Asian Mining PLC [11.11.24]
 - Anglo Asian Mining to consider reopening its Demirli copper mine in Azerbaijan.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - India [28.11.24]
 - India in talks with Mongolia on preliminary mining shipment pact.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Middle East
 - Saudi Arabia: Vedanta Ltd [26.11.24]
 - Saudi Arabia to receive investment from India's Vedanta Limited subsidiary to improve copper processing capabilities.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- South America
 - Chile: BHP Group Ltd [20.11.24]
 - BHP to announces plans to invest \$14bn in copper production in Chile.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Graphite

- Asia
 - Malaysia: Graphjet [19.11.24]
 - Graphjet commences operations at green graphite facility, expected to produce up to 3000 metric tonnes per annum from agricultural waste.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Africa
 - Mozambique: Syrah Resources [01.11.24]
 - US International Finance Corporation grants Australia's Syrah Resources with USD\$150M loan to support its Balama graphite operation.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: International Graphite [10.11.24]
 - Springdale Graphite Project receives second mining lease.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - Australia: International Graphite [13.11.24]
 - International Graphite receives \$4.5 AUD grant from the Australian government to construct its Collie graphite micronising facility.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - Australia: Novonix, Volkswagen [26.11.24]
 - Novonix signs synthetic graphite supply deal with PowerCo, Volkswagen's battery company.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Lithium

- Europe
 - UK: Imerys [13.11.24]
 - Imerys buys out all minority interests in Imerys British Lithium, now having full ownership of the company.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - USA: Exxon Mobil, LG Chem [20.11.24]
 - Exxon Mobil signs non-binding lithium supply MOU with battery parts manufacturer LG Chem.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - USA: Rice University [13.11.24]
 - Team of researchers at Rice develop an electrochemical reactor to extract lithium from natural brine solutions.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: Mineral Resources [13.11.24]
 - MinRes announces temporary closure of its Bald Hill lithium mine, citing downturn of current global lithium market prices.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- South America
 - Bolivia: CBC [26.11.24]
 - Bolivian government and China's CBC signs an agreement to joint develop two lithium extraction plants.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Manganese

- Africa
 - South Africa: Menar [27.11.24]
 - Menar awaits Competition Commission approval to acquire Metalloys ferromanganese facility, as it looks to restart production.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Asia
 - East Timor: Estrella Resources [18.11.24]
 - Estrella Resources confirms two manganese discoveries at its Lautém project.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - Japan: University of Tokyo, The Nippon Foundation [21.11.24]
 - Japanese researchers discover 230 million ton deposit of manganese nodules near Minami-Torishima Island, with initial estimates to be worth US\$26.3 billion.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: Black Canyon [27.11.24]
 - Black Canyon confirms a 3km strike of manganese mineralisation from its Wandanya project.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Nickel

- Asia

- Indonesia: PT Vale, GEM Co. [12.11.24]
 - PT Vale and China's GEM Co. partner to develop US\$1.4 billion nickel processing plant in Sulawesi province, specialising in high-pressure acid leach (HPAL) technology.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Indonesia: Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Co. [07.11.24]
 - China's Huayou seeks \$2.7 billion in financing for Ford-backed battery-nickel facility in Indonesia.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Indonesia [13.11.24]
 - Recent nickel acquisition raises environmental concerns in SW Papua.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

- North America

- Canada: Inomin, Sumitomo [04.11.24]
 - Inomin and Sumitomo partner to unlock potential nickel source in British Columbia.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Canada: Flying Nickel [04.11.24]
 - Norway House Cree Nation acquires nickel project in Manitoba from Flying Nickel.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Rare Earth Elements

- Asia
 - Saudi Arabia: Hastings, MISA [28.11.24]
 - Hastings Technology Metals signs MOU with the Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia (MISA) to establish rare earths processing facility.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - Canada: Aclara Resources [13.11.24]
 - Aclara Resources to work with the US Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration to find location for a rare earth separation facility.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - USA: The University of Texas at Austin [19.11.24]
 - UT Austin research suggests that up to 11 million tons of rare earth elements exist in accessible coal ash in the USA.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: Lynas Rare Earths [11.11.24]
 - Lynas Rare Earths officially opened Australia's first rare earths processing plant in Kalgoorlie.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- South America
 - Brazil: Ionic Rare Earths, Viridion [07.11.24]
 - Two companies enter 5-year MOU with SENAI FIEMG Innovation and Technology Centre for rare earth magnet production.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Tin

- Africa
 - Morocco: Atlantic Tin [04.11.24]
 - Australian company Atlantic Tin announces resource upgrade for its Achmmach tin project, with 2024 estimates suggesting a 33% increase in tin over the 2021 estimate.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- South America
 - Brazil: Minsur, CNMC [26.11.24]
 - Peru's Minsur agrees to sell its Taboca tin mine in Brazil to China's CNMC.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Tungsten

- North America
 - USA: Desmesne [06.11.24]
 - Desmesne Resources Ltd. acquires IMA Mine Project in Idaho, a past-producing tungsten mine.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: EQ Resources [18.11.24]
 - EQ Resources to acquire Tungsten Metals Group and its subsidiaries.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Vanadium

- Europe
 - Scotland: Invinity Energy Systems [03.12.24]
 - Battery storage manufacturer Invinity launches next-generation 'Endurium' battery, a grid-scale vanadium flow battery.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - Canada: Western Uranium & Vanadium Corp [20.11.24]
 - Western Uranium & Vanadium completes second tranche with gross proceeds of CAD\$5.5 million.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- South America
 - Brazil: Largo Inc [27.11.24]
 - Largo announces its Maracás Menchen Mine operation is likely to remain open until 2054.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: VSUN Energy Pty Ltd [06.11.24]
 - Australian Vanadium subsidiary announces plans for utility-scale VFB battery storage project.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - Australia: Surefire Resources NL [20.11.24]
 - German commodities trading group HMS Bergbau AG expresses interest in Surefire Resources due to vanadium and titanium portfolio at Victory Bore.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- Critical Minerals Association (UK) | **Critical Minerals: Breaking New Ground** | London, UK | 2 December
 - [Register here](#)
- Beacon Events | **Resourcing Tomorrow** | London, UK | 3 - 5 December
 - [Register here](#)

JANUARY 2025


- Saudi Arabian Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources | **Future Minerals Forum** | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | 14 - 16 January
 - [Register here](#)
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) | **WEF Annual Meeting 2025** | Davos-Klosters, Switzerland | 20 - 24 January
 - [Register here](#)

Interested in upcoming events?

Contact eileen@criticalmineral.org



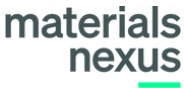
What's Your Story?



Media production and marketing for the critical minerals and sustainability sectors.
[Critical-Productions.com](https://www.critical-productions.com)



OUR MEMBERS





www.criticalmineral.org

Twitter: @CMA_Minerals

LinkedIn: Critical Minerals Association (UK)

Contact: kirsty@criticalmineral.org

Company number 12419306