



CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION (UK)

DECEMBER 2024

NOAH LAW MP HOSTS FIRST MEETING OF THE
APPG FOR CRITICAL MINERALS

UPDATED UK CRITICAL MINERALS STRATEGY
COMING IN EARLY 2025

CHINA TIGHTENS CRITICAL MINERAL EXPORT BANS



DECEMBER 2024

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

- Noah Law MP Hosts First Meeting of the APPG on Critical Minerals
- CMA (UK) Hosts Largest Annual Conference to Date on 2 December
- Updated UK Critical Minerals Strategy to be Published in Early 2025
- China Tightens Export Bans and Restrictions on Critical Minerals
- Rio Tinto & Imperial College London Launch Centre for Future Materials
- European Commission hosts MSP Forum at Raw Materials Week 2024
- NATO Releases List of 12 Defence Critical Raw Materials
- WTO Launches New Public Database on Critical Mineral Supply Chains
- President Biden Pledges Additional US\$560M to Lobito Corridor Project
- Amendments to Basel Convention Push Metal Recyclers to Localise
- Welcoming our Newest Member Vale Base Metals to the Association
- Welcoming our Newest Member Agratas to the Association
- Cyclic Materials & Circular Implement First End-to-End REE Traceability
- Critical Productions on ESG: The New Normal for the Mining Sector
- News Round Up: Cobalt, Copper, Graphite, Lithium, Nickel, Manganese, Rare Earth Elements, Tin, Tungsten, Vanadium
- Events Calendar 2025

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter by joining our mailing list under 'Contact'

SUBSCRIBE

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



[@CMA Minerals](#)



www.criticalmineral.org



[Critical Minerals Association \(UK\)](#)



NOAH LAW MP HOSTS FIRST APPG MEETING

On 11 December, Noah Law MP, the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) of Critical Minerals, welcomed over 50 members of industry, government and academia to the Houses of Parliament for the launch of the APPG.

The meeting featured opening remarks from Noah Law MP; presentations from Dr Shobhan Dhir (International Energy Agency) on demand & supply trends, as well as Dr Pierre Josso (British Geological Survey) on the Critical Mineral Intelligence Centre's UK 2024 Criticality Assessment and updated Critical Minerals List.

Jeff Townsend, founder of the CMA (UK) and APPG Secretariat, gave an overview of the UK situation, before Co-Chair Perran Moon MP outlined the APPG's objectives and opened the floor to questions and wider discussion.

[READ ON 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 event included a breakfast reception with opening remarks from APPG Chairs, Noah Law MP, Perran Moon MP and Baroness Lindsay Northover, and a drinks reception.

An article about the conference - including summaries and quotes from the day's various presentations, panel discussions and side events - is now available on our website. Recordings of the sessions in the Wolfson Theatre are also available on the CMA (UK)'s Youtube channel.

[READ ON HERE](#)





UPDATED UK CRITICAL MINERALS STRATEGY COMING IN 2025

Sarah Jones MP, the Minister of State for the Department of Business and Trade (DBT) and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), has confirmed that the Government will be releasing a new and updated version of the UK Critical Minerals Strategy in early 2025.

In a Westminster Hall debate on 3 December on the domestic production of critical minerals, led by Perran Moon MP (Co-chair of the APPG for Critical Minerals), Minister Jones said that while the previous Government's strategy introduced a good set of strategic guidelines, it did not set out "any deliverables", nor did it have "any accountability".

The new strategy will differ from previous ones by adopting a 'more targeted and long-term approach', including using data and collaborating with international partners, working closer with the Minerals Security Partnership, and helping UK universities partner globally to build on their expertise.

[READ ON HERE](#)





CHINA TIGHTENS EXPORT BANS ON 3 CRITICAL MINERALS

On 3 December, the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China banned exports of gallium, germanium and antimony to the US.

A White House spokesperson said that the move underscores the importance of diversifying critical mineral supply chains outside of China.

The ban strengthens existing limitations and was enacted in response to US crackdowns on the Chinese semiconductor industry. Germanium and gallium are both semiconductor materials that play important roles in the production of microchips for tech and defense applications.

Graphite exports were not banned, but existing restrictions were further tightened.

[READ ON HERE](#)





RIO TINTO OPENS CENTRE FOR FUTURE MATERIALS

On 2 December, Rio Tinto and Imperial College London (ICL) collaboratively launched the Rio Tinto Centre for Future Materials. Via a \$150 million investment from Rio Tinto over the next decade, the research centre aims to develop new sustainable techniques and technologies to deliver the critical materials required to achieve Net Zero.

Professor Hugh Brady, President of ICL, said: “The Rio Tinto Centre for Future Materials will co-create and fund research programmes that empower diverse, interdisciplinary teams to deliver innovative and transformative solutions with environment, society, and governance at their core.”

A Drinks Reception was held to celebrate the Centre’s launch, and included opening remarks from Sir Chris Bryant, Minister of State at the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

[READ ON HERE](#)



MSP PRINCIPALS MEET AT RAW MATERIALS WEEK

On 12 December, the European Commission hosted high-level Mineral Security Partnership (MSP) Forum events as a part of Raw Materials Week in Brussels.

These events, co-chaired by South Korea and the United States, convened both government officials and private sector investors to discuss critical minerals projects.

The Principals meeting focused on advancing current MSP rare earths projects -- including the HyProMag Project (UK) and the Arafura Nolans Project (Australia). Identifying potential new mining, processing, and recycling critical minerals projects in MSP Forum member jurisdictions was also a key topic of discussion.

[READ ON HERE](#)



NATO RELEASES DEFENCE CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS LIST

On 11 December, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) published a list of 12 critical raw materials essential for the Allied defence industry. These materials are integral to the manufacture of advanced defence systems and equipment.

The initiative is part of a roadmap, endorsed by NATO Defence Ministers, and informed by the NATO Industrial Advisory Group (NIAG), using a defence-capability focused methodology. The list includes aluminium, beryllium, cobalt, gallium, germanium, graphite, lithium, manganese, platinum, rare earth elements, titanium and tungsten.

READ ON [HERE](#)





WTO LAUNCHES CRITICAL MINERALS DATABASE

On 20 November at the Trade and Investment House at COP29, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Secretariat of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) unveiled a database on trade in critical minerals to enhance transparency and support the clean energy transition.

The Trade in Critical Mineral (TiCM) database provides information on trade flows, allows visualizations of trade networks and specialisation patterns, and compiles data on tariffs and other trade policies for 250 critical minerals and related products across value chains.

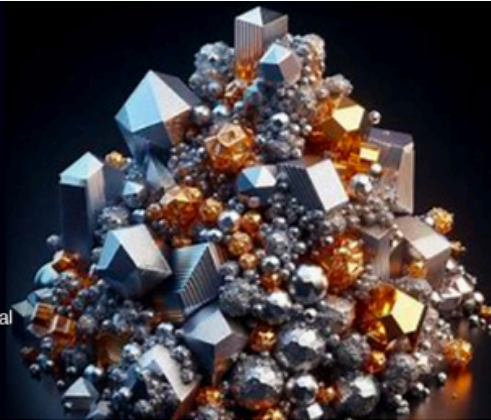
The joint effort by the ADB and WTO aims to enhance transparency regarding critical minerals-related trade and policies across value chains, and thereby foster collaboration and support well-informed decision-making by policymakers and other stakeholders.

[SEE THE DATABASE HERE](#)



Trade in Critical Minerals

A comprehensive repository of information on minerals deemed essential for renewable energy, and efficiency.





BIDEN BACKS LOBITO CORRIDOR WITH ADDITIONAL \$560M

On 4 December, US President Joe Biden met African leaders in Angola to discuss the Lobito Trans-Africa Corridor, which will upgrade regional critical mineral infrastructure.

Biden met with leaders from Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Zambia and Tanzania, and pledged \$560 million in new funding, bringing US investments to over \$4 billion.

The project involves railway upgrades and extensions from the copper-belt in the DRC and Zambia to the western port of Lobito in Angola. This will expand copper, cobalt and other critical mineral exports to the Atlantic Ocean.

The US is also supporting mining projects for nickel in Tanzania, rare earths in Angola, and copper in Zambia.

[READ ON HERE](#)





UPDATES TO BASEL CONVENTION PUSH METAL RECYCLERS

In 2022, the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention) adopted amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX. These amendments become effective as of 1 January 2025.

For the metal recycling industry, these amendments mean stricter rules on international shipments, which will push industry to develop local recycling solutions and reduce reliance on exports.

Companies will also face more responsibility to ensure compliance with environmental standards when handling hazardous materials like waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). Transparent processes and investments in new technology will be critical for staying ahead.

[READ ON HERE](#)

BASEL CONVENTION

ON THE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS
OF HAZARDOUS WASTES AND THEIR DISPOSAL





WELCOMING VALE BASE METALS TO THE ASSOCIATION

CMA (UK) is delighted to welcome Vale Base Metals (VBM) to the Association!

VBM is one of the world's largest producers of nickel, copper, cobalt, and platinum group metals. With operations in Canada, Brazil, Indonesia, Japan and the UK, VBM operates the only nickel refinery in the UK through its Clydach Nickel Refinery in Wales.

VBM has more than a century of experience in refining nickel into high-purity and high-quality powders and pellets at more than 99.9 percent purity using carbonyl technology – a process pioneered at the Clydach Nickel Refinery. High-purity nickel alloys and powders are a necessary input for electric vehicle (EV) batteries, aerospace and defence applications, and the Clydach Nickel Refinery therefore helps to place Wales and the United Kingdom as a strategic node in the global critical mineral supply chain.

[READ ON HERE](#)





WELCOMING AGRATAS TO THE ASSOCIATION

CMA (UK) is delighted to welcome Agratas to the Association!

Agratas is a global battery business within the Tata Group, created to supercharge the transition to net zero. They will design, develop and manufacture high-quality, high-performance and sustainable battery solutions for multiple applications.

They have entered their industrialisation phase, building world-class battery cell manufacturing facilities in India and the UK, and unlocking green growth opportunities for global customers in the mobility and energy sectors.

Agratas are committed to developing the next generation of battery technologies. Their R&D Innovation Hubs in India and the UK are empowered to accelerate technological breakthroughs across their entire value chain, working in partnership with leading research and universities to deliver cleaner, greener, more sustainable batteries.

[READ ON HERE](#)

PIONEERING POWER FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS

AGRATAS



WORLD'S FIRST END TO END RARE EARTH TRACEABILITY

13

On 12 December, Cyclic Materials, the advanced recycling company for rare earth elements (REEs), and Circular, the leading supply chain traceability solution, partnered to implement the world's first end-to-end REE traceability.

This collaboration sets a new standard for transparent REE recycling, signaling a shift toward responsible and secure sourcing. It provides automotive, renewables & electronics sectors with verifiable proof that recycled mixed rare earth oxides from Cyclic Materials meet high standards, enabling them to differentiate their products globally.

"We're proud to work with Cyclic Materials to establish first-of-its-kind traceability for recycled rare earth elements (REEs) — essential for clean energy, electronics, and critical infrastructure," says Douglas Johnson-Poensgen, CEO Circular. "As demand for REEs soars, recycling offers a sustainable, secure alternative to traditional sourcing, which Circular's digital product passports will verify."

[READ ON HERE](#)

The logo for Cyclic Materials, featuring the company name in white text with a stylized orange circular graphic element behind the 'o' in 'Materials'.

Cyclic
Materials

The logo for Circular, featuring the company name in white text with a stylized white circular graphic element behind the 'C'.

Circular

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.



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.

- 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.

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
 - Tanzania: Lifezone Metals [05.12.24]
 - Lifezone adds high-grade nickel, copper and cobalt to resource estimation at Kabanga project.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Asia
 - India: NIO [17.12.24]
 - India's National Institute of Oceanography discovers cobalt deposits in Indian Ocean.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Europe
 - Norway: Kingsrose Mining [18.12.24]
 - Kingsrose finds promising nickel-copper-cobalt zone at site in Norway.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - Canada: Vale [03.12.24]
 - Vale announces completion of Voisey's Bay mine expansion, producing nickel, copper and cobalt.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: Digbee Ltd, Ardea Resources Ltd [09.12.24]
 - ESG progress made on nickel-cobalt resource in Australia.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Copper

- Africa
 - Botswana: Cobre Ltd [03.12.24]
 - Cobre announces discovery of new copper mineralisation from its Comet prospect at the Ngami Copper Project (NCP) in the Kalahari Copper Belt.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Europe
 - Portugal: Boliden AB [09.12.24]
 - Boliden to purchase \$1.52bn worth of copper and zinc operations from Lundin.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - Canada: Glencore PLC [11.12.24]
 - Glencore to be supplied approximately 10k metric tonnes of recycled copper by Cyclic Materials after signing multi-year agreement.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- South America
 - Argentina: McEwen Mining Inc [04.12.24]
 - McEwen Copper receives environmental permit for Los Azules project.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - Chile: Freeport-McMoRan Inc [11.12.24]
 - Freeport applies environmental permission to develop a leaching project at its El Abra mine.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Graphite

- Africa
 - Mozambique: Triton Minerals, Shandong Yulong Gold [09.12.24]
 - Triton Minerals enters agreement with Shandong to sell 70% of its Ancuabe graphite project.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Europe
 - Norway: Mineral Commodities, Norge Mineraler [16.12.24]
 - Mineral Commodities sells its Skaland graphite project to Norge Mineraler.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - USA: American Active Anode Material Producers [18.12.24]
 - AAAMP requests US Department of Commerce and ITC to impose graphite tariffs as high as 920% on China.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - USA: Novonix [16.12.24]
 - Novonix announces conditional commitment for a US\$754.8m loan from US Department of Energy to develop synthetic graphite plant in Tennessee.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - USA: Oak Ridge National Laboratory [17.12.24]
 - Oak Ridge National Laboratory researchers test two new processes to transform coal into graphite.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Lithium

- Europe
 - Austria: Critical Metals [02.12.24]
 - Carinthian state government waives Environmental Impact Assessment step for Critical Metals' Wolfsberg lithium project.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - Canada: LithiumBank Resources [05.12.24]
 - LithiumBank announces excellent desorption results from its first DLE pilot test in Calgary.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - USA: Tesla [16.12.24]
 - Tesla commences operations at its lithium refining facility in Texas.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- South America
 - Argentina: Rio Tinto [12.12.24]
 - Rio Tinto set to invest \$2.5 billion USD to expand production capacity for its Rincon lithium project.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - Chile [06.12.24]
 - Chilean government designates six additional eligible sites for private companies to extract lithium.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Manganese

- Africa
 - Gabon: Eramet [15.12.24]
 - France's Eramet sharply cuts 2024 production targets for its manganese mine in Gabon, citing market downturn.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - South Africa: Metalloys [18.12.24]
 - Competition Tribunal approval of the acquisition of ferromanganese major Metalloys raises hopes of a revival of South Africa's manganese alloy potential.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Asia
 - East Timor: Estrella Resources [09.12.24]
 - Estrella Resources extends its exploration trials at the Samalari and Sica manganese prospects.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: Firebird Metals, KNAC [09.12.24]
 - Firebird Metals signs a mining lease agreement with the Karlka Nyiyaparli Aboriginal Corporation (KNAC) for the Oakover Manganese Project.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- South America
 - Brazil: DeSoto Resources Ltd. [11.12.24]
 - DeSoto Resources begins exploration at its Dom Silverio manganese project.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Nickel

- Asia
 - Indonesia
 - Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry weigh deep cuts to nickel ore quota to boost prices.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - Canada: Canada Nickel [06.12.24]
 - Drilling shows high grades at Bannockburn site.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - Canada: Grid Metals, Teck Resources [12.12.24]
 - Grid and Teck partner to explore nickel-copper project in Manitoba.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - US: Talon Metals [12.12.24]
 - Talon Metals receives government funding for nickel extraction research.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - New Caledonia: Prony Resources New Caledonia SAS [08.12.24]
 - Nickel mine restarts following unrest.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- South America
 - Brazil: Brazilian Nickel [09.12.24]
 - Brazilian Nickel receives letter of interest from US to fund its nickel project in Northeast Brazil.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Rare Earth Elements

- Asia
 - Tajikistan: Geological Survey of Tajikistan [13.12.24]
 - State geological service announces the discovery of 15 major deposits of REEs.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Europe
 - UK: Ionic Rare Earths [05.12.24]
 - Ionic Rare Earths applies for capital grant to fast track development of its REO manufacturing facility.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - Greenland: Critical Metals Corp [09.12.24]
 - Critical Metals Corp confirms Tanbreez Project contains high-grade REEs.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: Iluka Resources [05.12.24]
 - Australian government grants additional AUD\$400m loan to develop rare earths refinery.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- South America
 - Brazil: St George Mining, SENAI, FIEMG [13.12.24]
 - St George Mining signs five-year partnership MOU with SENAI and FIEMG to advance downstream production of REEs from the Araxá project.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Tin

- Africa
 - Democratic Republic of Congo [17.12.24]
 - DRC files criminal complaints in Belgium and France against subsidiaries of tech giant Apple, accusing it of using conflict minerals such as tin, tungsten and tantalum.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: Stellar Resources Limited [04.12.24]
 - Stellar Resources announces wider and higher-grade tin mineralisation at its Heemskirk Tin Project than previously modelled.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Tungsten

- North America
 - Canada: Fireweed Metals [17.12.24]
 - Canada and US DOD announce investments totalling \$35 million USD for Fireweed Metals' Mactung mine, one of the largest tungsten deposits on Earth.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - USA [12.12.24]
 - The US Trade Representative's office announces tariff increases on some tungsten products from China, taking effect on 1 January.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Vanadium

- Asia
 - China: Rongke Power [09.12.24]
 - Rongke announces successful completion of world's largest vanadium flow battery project in Ushi, China.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Europe
 - UK: Invinity Energy Systems [03.12.24]
 - Invinity commercially releases ENDURIUM™, its next-generation vanadium flow battery.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - USA: Storion Energy [20.12.24]
 - Largo Clean Energy Corp (LCE) and Stryten establish joint venture company to establish manufacture vanadium electrolyte.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: Critical Minerals Group [05.12.24]
 - Critical Minerals Group secures \$2.7 million grant from the Australian government to advance domestic vanadium electrolyte production.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - Australia: NewPeak Metals [06.12.24]
 - NewPeak Metals acquires AusVan Battery Metals, including its Allaru vanadium project in Queensland.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

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](#)

FEBRUARY 2025

- Hyve | **Investing in African Mining Indaba** | CTICC, Cape Town, South Africa | 3 - 6 February
 - [Register here](#)
- Spire Events | **Critical Minerals & Energy Investment Australia** | Perth, Australia | 24 - 25 February
 - [Register here](#)

Interested in upcoming events?

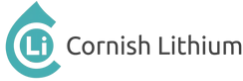
Contact eileen@criticalmineral.org

What's Your Story?

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

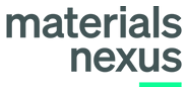


OUR MEMBERS



DALRADIAN

FASKEN





www.criticalmineral.org

Twitter: @CMA_Minerals

LinkedIn: Critical Minerals Association (UK)

Contact: eileen@criticalmineral.org

Company number 12419306