

A stylized graphic of the American flag, with the stars in the upper left and the stripes curving downwards and to the right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

THE CRITICAL ISSUE #7

**JANUARY 2024
NEWSLETTER**



**Critical Minerals Association
USA**

JANUARY 2024

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Events Calendar

Would you like to feature in a future edition?

Submit an expression of interest to

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ASSOCIATION UPDATES

On behalf of the Critical Minerals Association USA (CMA USA) we would like to wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

The team finished 2023 strong following attendance at Resourcing Tomorrow in London, and then the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The  **Magnetics Show**
NORTH AMERICA

We are also very excited to announce that we are a media partner of the Magnetics Show taking place in Pasadena, California from 22-23rd May.

Learn more about the Magnetics Show [here](#).



Bunker Hill Visit

In December 2023, the CMA USA had the pleasure of visiting the Bunker Hill Mining team at the historic mine in Idaho.

The Bunker Hill Mine has a fascinating history dating back to 1885. From that time until the mine closed in 1991 total production totaled 42.77 million tons at an average grade of 8.43% lead, 3.52 ounces silver per ton, and 4.52% zinc.

Now, the team is focused on the exploration and sustainable development of the mine's untapped critical minerals potential to not only support America's strategic goals but also uplift the local community.

The Bunker Hill team are dedicated to forging strong relationships with the economically challenged community and providing long-term employment and upskilling opportunities.

The Digbee-rated, Bunker Hill Mine recently won Resourcing Tomorrow's ESG 2023 award as a result of the team's dedication to responsible stewardship.

A warm thank you to Richard Williams, Chairman, Sam Ash, CEO, and the Bunker Hill team for their trademark hospitality and welcome!

POLITICAL & GEOPOLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS

USA updates to 'foreign entity of concern' guidance will impact supply chains

[...] The US Department of Energy announced that companies with greater than 25% ownership by Chinese, North Korean, Iranian or Russian entities will not qualify for subsidies under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) or the Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IJA).

This would limit access to the two supporting policies, which combined will provide subsidies totalling US\$919Bn for the development of critical materials supply chains, green energy generation and creation of circular supply among other key targets.

The introduction of the foreign entities of concern ownership limit is significant for critical raw materials, with Chinese ownership exceeding the 25% threshold at key producers of lithium, cobalt, manganese and nickel even though these companies are operating assets outside the jurisdictions of concern.

Read on here...

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) launches new office to coordinate critical and emerging technology

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced the launch of the Office of Critical and Emerging Technology to ensure U.S. investments in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), biotechnology, quantum computing, and semiconductors leverage the Department's wide range of assets and expertise to accelerate progress in these critical sectors.

[...] U.S. leadership in science, technology, and innovation is key to the economic, national security, and social benefits enjoyed by Americans, from good-paying jobs to access to reliable and affordable electricity. Leadership in critical and emerging technologies provides the United States a competitive advantage.

Read on here...





Department of homeland mineral security

Agency founded to fight terrorism views mining and critical minerals as vital to economic, national security of the homeland.

For most Americans, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security conjures up images of an intelligence agency borne from the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon that employs TSA airport screenings, border checkpoints, and internet monitoring to protect Americans from terrorist threats, both foreign and domestic.

[...] "Economic competitiveness is a national security issue. Our ability to maintain our way of life, our ability to maintain our position in the world, our ability to fund our physical security – all of these things are dependent on a strong and robust economy," Moughon told attendees of a presentation in Reno.

[Read on here...](#)

US miners miss out on tax credit granted to processors

The US has spelled out new rules for tax credits manufacturers can receive for domestically producing parts necessary for the energy transition — and there's a clear divide for miners and processors.

Companies that mine lithium, nickel, cobalt, gallium or the other 46 minerals deemed critical by the US cannot receive a 10% production tax credit for extraction or acquisition of those raw materials, according to Treasury Department guidance.

[Read on here...](#)

US sanctions Russian metals magnate Sviblov and gold, zinc firms

The US imposed sanctions on Russian mining magnate Vladislav Sviblov and several mining companies connected to him, including one that's developing one of the world's largest zinc mines.

The sanctions are the latest move against the Russian metals and mining sector, and come after the UK imposed sanctions against Sviblov last month.

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INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

North Carolina adds to growing 'battery belt' by landing another lithium-ion plant, 350 new jobs

Another lithium-ion battery manufacturer is destined for North Carolina, further solidifying the state's position in an emerging "battery belt" that's extending across the American Southeast.

The state approved plans for the Japanese company Dai Nippon Printing to create 352 jobs at a new facility 50 miles northeast of Charlotte. The site in the small unincorporated Davidson County town of Linwood will focus on the production of lithium-ion battery pouches to power electric vehicles. It's the latest in a string of statewide lithium-based projects —which include a massive incoming Toyota plant in Randolph County as well as smaller future facilities near Wilmington and in the Triangle.

A pair of lithium mining companies — Albemarle Corp. and Piedmont Lithium — also seek to expand or revive operations in Gaston County, west of Charlotte.

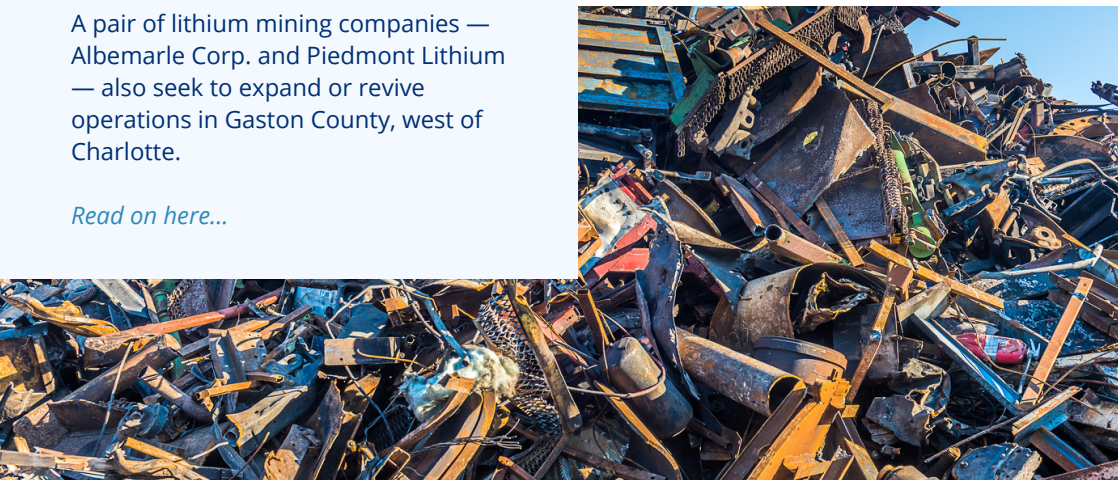
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U.S. Department of Defense Awards \$23.4 million to expand domestic capability to upcycle scrap material into high-grade metal

The Department of Defense today announced award of \$23.4 million via the Defense Production Act Investment (DPAI) Program to 6k Additive, LLC to expand capability to upcycle waste and scrap material for conversion into higher grade metals for use in defense and commercial supply chains.

"U.S. dependency on foreign sources for specialty metals presents a significant risk to national security," said Dr. Laura Taylor-Kale, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy (ASD (IBP)). "6K's products will feed supply chains that form the basis of our military's core warfighting capabilities."

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Appian provides US Strategic Metals with \$230m financing package

Investment advisor Appian Capital Advisory has committed a \$230-million financing package to US battery metals producer US Strategic Metals (USSM) for the development of USSM's cobalt/nickel mine and the construction of its hydrometallurgical battery metals recycling facility based in Fredericktown, Missouri.

The initial funding consists of a \$120-million secured term loan facility, along with a \$70-million secured royalty financing arrangement and warrants

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Friedland says \$15 000/t copper needed to spur new mines

Copper prices need to nearly double in order to prompt mining companies to build costly mines to meet rising demand for critical materials, according to billionaire Robert Friedland.

The mining magnate said that forecasts of copper prices reaching \$9 000 a metric ton next year isn't enough to stimulate the industry to take on risks of building huge, capital-intensive mines, especially in Latin America.

[Read on here...](#)

Komatsu, GM to co-develop hydrogen fuel cells for electric trucks

Mining equipment manufacturer Komatsu and automaker General Motors announced they will jointly develop a hydrogen fuel cell power module for the Japanese company's 930E electric drive mining truck.

[Read on here...](#)

Electric vehicle batteries may have a new source material – used tires

The company, called T-Phite is putting used car tires through a process called pyrolysis, which entails putting the tires under extreme heat so that they break down into smaller molecules.

T-Phite CEO Bernardita Diaz says those molecules become three primary byproducts – pyrolytic oil, steel and carbon black, a substance that contains graphite material essential to providing an electric pathway within batteries for energy to surge.

[Read on here...](#)

INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Canadian Government funding to advance Nico critical minerals project

The Canadian government has offered funding to support metallurgical test work for the Nico critical minerals project, which entails a planned openpit and underground mine in the Northwest Territories, as well as a hydrometallurgical refinery in Alberta. The proposed Alberta refinery will process concentrates from a future mine at Nico and other sources to produce cobalt sulphate, gold dore, bismuth ingots and copper.

[Read on here...](#)

Queensland's Stewart heads to US for critical minerals mission

Resources Minister Scott Stewart will head to the US next week to secure partnerships with government and industry representatives to grow Queensland's critical minerals industry.

[Read on here...](#)

Australia's Lontown in talks with U.S. Department of Defence (DOD) on tantalum supply

Miner Lontown Resources is speaking with the United States Department of Defense (DoD) about supplying tantalum from its Australian operations if the US passes a new regulation by year end as expected, its chief executive told Reuters on Thursday.

[Read on here...](#)

Kalgoorlie rare earths facility receives first feed

The first feed material from the Mt Weld mine has been introduced into the A\$730-million Kalgoorlie rare earths processing facility, marking the facility's transition from the commissioning phase to first production.

[Read on here...](#)





Mitsubishi, Freeport completes copper smelter expansion in Indonesia

Indonesian copper smelter operator PT Smelting, a joint venture between Mitsubishi Minerals Corp and PT Freeport Indonesia, inaugurated on Thursday an expansion in capacity of its smelter facility in East Java.

The processing capacity was expanded to 1.3-million metric tons of copper concentrate, from 1-million tons previously. It was unclear when production at the expanded facility would commence.

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Mining urged to embrace international council's new Scope 3 emissions guidance

The guidance is a tool to assist mining companies in their engagement with the financial sector, investors, regulators, suppliers, customers and other mining sector stakeholders on Scope 3 emissions, which are a critical area of concentration for the mining and metals industry as they represent up to 95% of a company's total emissions for some commodities.

[Read on here...](#)

Canada launches grants for critical minerals traceability projects

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Jonathan Wilkinson has announced a call for proposals for grants that support the critical minerals traceability project (CMTP) as part of the Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy.

With up to C\$675 000 available over three years, the CMTP will provide funding to private sector, commercial-stage pilot traceability projects for critical mineral supply chains.

[Read on here...](#)

Rwanda, European Investment Bank ink critical material declaration

The government of Rwanda and the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a joint declaration, on December 19, enabling a strategic alliance to enhance investment in critical raw material value chains.

[Read on here...](#)

CONFERENCE CALENDAR 2024

JANUARY



9 - 11 Jan
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

FEBRUARY



5 - 8 Feb
Cape Town, South Africa



22 - 23 Feb
Miami, USA

MARCH



3 - 6 Mar
Toronto, Canada

MAY



3 - 6 Mar
Pasadena, USA

JUNE



11 - 12 Jun
Washington DC, USA



23 - 26 Jun
Maryland, USA

SEPTEMBER



26 - 27 Sept
London, UK

OCTOBER

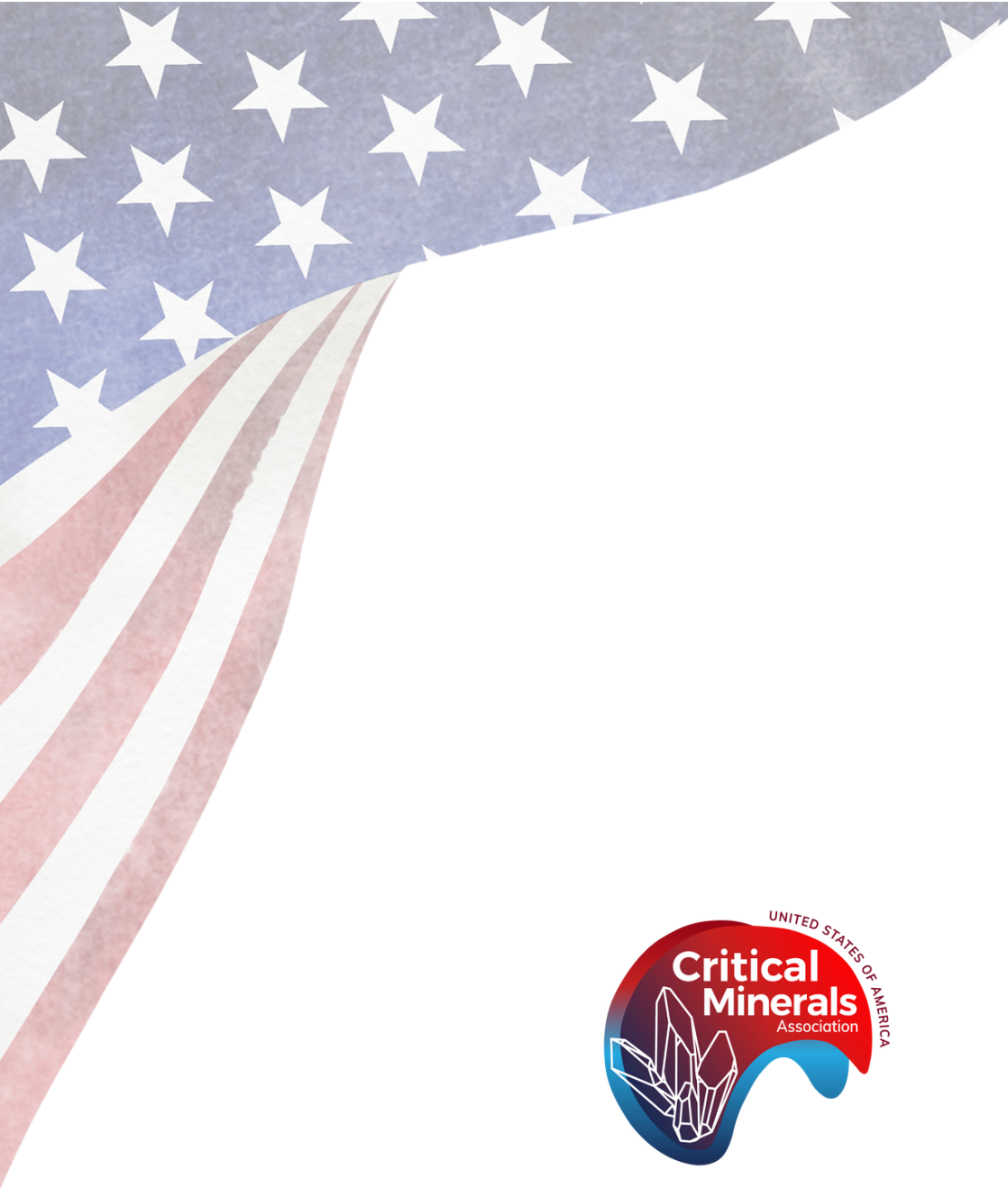


29 - 31 Oct
Sydney, Australia

DECEMBER



3 - 5 Dec
London, UK



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