

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 #9

**APRIL 2024
NEWSLETTER**



**Critical Minerals Association
USA**

APRIL 2024

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Would you like to feature in a future edition?

Submit an expression of interest to admin@cma-usa.org



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GET INVOLVED



Call for comments

Export-Import Bank information request on Financing support for critical minerals projects

In EXIM's 2019 reauthorization, Congress directed the agency to create the China and Transformational Exports Program.

(CTEP) and use its tools and authorities to advance the comparative leadership of the United States with respect to the People's Republic of China (PRC), or support United States innovation, employment, and technological standards through direct exports in 10 transformational export areas.

To understand how EXIM financing can better support U.S. exporters in this sector, diversify supply chains, and ensure access to critical minerals by U.S. users, EXIM is seeking public comment on the financing gaps stakeholders face.

Comments close on 05/06/2024.

Learn more and submit a comment here

Department of Energy launches prize to recycle critical Mmaterials from electronic scrap

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today launched the Electronics Scrap Recycling Advancement Prize (E-SCRAP), which will award **up to \$4 million** to competitors to substantially increase the production and use of critical materials recovered from electronic scrap—or e-scrap.

Phase 1: Incubate – During this phase, competitors will propose solutions that have the potential to substantially increase the amount of recovered critical materials from electronic waste and used in U.S. manufacturing.

Applications for phase one of this prize are due on September 4, 2024, at 5 p.m. EST. DOE anticipates selecting up to 10 winning projects in the first phase, with each award consisting of a \$50,000 in cash and up to \$30,000 in national laboratory analysis support.

Two informational webinars for potential applicants to this prize will be held on March 27, 2024, and on June 18, 2024.

Find our more here



Electronics Scrap Recycling Advancement Prize (E-SCRAP)

AMERICAN
MADE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

POLITICAL & GEOPOLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Biden-Harris Administration announces \$6 billion to transform America's industrial sector

As part of President Biden's [Investing in America agenda](#), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced up to \$6 billion for 33 projects across more than 20 states to decarbonize energy-intensive industries...

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Biden-Harris Administration announces \$475 million investment to support clean energy solutions on current and former mine land

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced up to \$475 million in funding for five projects in Arizona, Kentucky, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia to accelerate clean energy deployment on current and former mine land. This funding—made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—will support a variety of diverse, locally-driven clean energy projects that can be replicated in current and former mining communities across the country.

[Read on here...](#)

Congress is ignoring 'reciprocity' in US-China economic relations

The House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party needs to expand the scope of its policy recommendations to tackle a fundamental, longstanding issue: reciprocity. [..]

Select Committee Chairman Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wisc.) [recognizes the importance of reciprocity](#) in U.S.-China trade relations. [Hearing witnesses](#) reinforced the need for reciprocal treatment during early [committee hearings](#) in mid-2023, but the topic faded from view. While reciprocity is a theme implicit in the [committee's final recommendations](#), it made no specific recommendation establishing an interagency mechanism to develop reciprocity policy.

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Alaska governor calls on Biden to update mine permit process

Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy called on President Joe Biden on Wednesday to update and streamline the US mine permitting process in order to boost domestic production of critical minerals and reduce dependence on foreign nations.

"Our message to the Biden administration is, 'Do everything you can to do everything here in America. Get your permitting processes streamlined,'" Dunleavy told Reuters on the sidelines of the CERAWeek energy conference in Houston.

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Department of Defense looks to establish 'mine-to-magnet' supply chain for rare earth materials

"DOD's strategic investments are building capability at multiple stages of the rare earth supply chain and will provide a clear signal to private capital that the time is right to build additional resiliency," said Danielle Miller, acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for industrial base resilience. "We are on track to meet our goal of a sustainable, mine-to-magnet supply chain capable of supporting all U.S. defense requirements by 2027."

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Statement from Ambassador Katherine Tai on the People's Republic of China's request for WTO consultations regarding the IRA

The Inflation Reduction Act is a groundbreaking tool for the United States to seriously address the global climate crisis and invest in U.S. economic competitiveness. It is our contribution to a clean energy future that we are collectively seeking with our allies and partners. Meanwhile, the PRC continues to use unfair, non-market policies and practices to undermine fair competition and pursue the dominance of the PRC's manufacturers both in the PRC and in global markets.

[Read on here...](#)

Africa to play 'huge role' in US critical mineral strategy, says Treasury's No. 2

The United States is looking to Africa to help loosen a Chinese stranglehold on battery metals and reduce Russia's influence over the market for other minerals, U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said...

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INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

US must improve copper mine permitting process, Freeport CEO says

"The US government needs to stop giving lip [service](#) to permitting," Richard Adkerson told Reuters on the sidelines of the CERAWEEK [energy](#) conference in Houston.

"The question is, given our political [system](#) that we have today and the dysfunctionality of it, how do you go from getting a [project](#) verbally accepted to getting actions done?"

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Department of Defense awards \$7 million to enhance domestic nickel and cobalt supply chains

The Department of Defense announced today an award of \$7 million to The Doe Run Resources Corporation (Doe Run) via the Defense Production Act Investment (DPAI) Program to complete a demonstration-scale hydrometallurgical plant for separation of cobalt and nickel at their facility in Viburnum, Missouri.

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Lithium Americas receives conditional commitment for \$2.26 billion ATVM loan from the U.S. DOE for construction of Thacker Pass

Lithium Americas Corp. has received a conditional commitment from the U.S. Department of Energy for a \$2.26 billion loan under the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program for financing the construction of the processing facilities at Thacker Pass, located in Humboldt County, Nevada.

[Read on here...](#)

Department of Energy explores nickel farming concept

Will we soon be able to farm some of the nickel needed for lithium-ion batteries? The U.S. Department of Energy is investing \$10 million to find out.

The leaves of the *Antidesma montis-silam*, a fast-growing tree that grows on the island of Borneo, contain as much as 3.3% nickel and 4.6% manganese – and the sap has much higher concentrations of these met

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INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Japan negotiates potential investment into Ukrainian titanium industry

Japan-based Toho Titanium, along with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have hosted the Ukrainian Head of the State Property Fund to discuss the possibility of Japanese investment into the Ukrainian Titanium Industry. [...]

Ukraine hosts a wealth of heavy mineral sand mines that supply raw material feedstock to the titanium industry, while the country also has its own titanium sponge producer, ZTMP.

[Read on here...](#)

Chinese mining companies must process minerals in Laos before export

Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone has directed the Ministry of Energy and Mines to require mining companies to process raw minerals in Laos before export – a demand aimed at the country's numerous Chinese-funded mining projects.

[Read on here...](#)

Chinese business chamber urges EU to abandon non-market measures that disrupt global raw material supply chain

Chinese business chamber urged the EU not to disrupt global supply chain of major raw materials through non-market measures, and provide fair business environment to Chinese enterprises.

The statement by the China Chamber of Commerce to the EU was sent to the Global Times on Wednesday, regarding the approved Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), as the act was seen as a move to affect normal China-EU economic activities.

The EU's attempt to find substitutes for Chinese raw material supplies will challenge economic and trade cooperation between China and the EU, and ramp up costs for Europe in its digital and economic transformation, Chinese experts said.

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ASM receives US\$600M Letter of Interest from US EXIM for Dubbo Project, as US partnerships begin to play a significant role

EXIM's support is linked to the potential US content (equipment, goods and services) to be supplied in the construction phase of the Dubbo Project and the key strategic role the Dubbo Project can play in the critical minerals supply chain. The Lol is subject to completion of due diligence by US EXIM and ASM obtaining all necessary approvals for the Dubbo Project.

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Congo rebels block trade routes, threatening supply of key metal

Since last month, the M23, a rebel group that Congo says is backed by neighboring Rwanda, has blocked trade routes to the city of Goma and is helping to smuggle tantalum from some of the country's richest deposits, according to Congolese government and military officials and United Nations experts. [...]

Tantalum is on a list of mineral resources that have raised international red flags for helping to fund years of conflict in Congo

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Cyclic Materials and VACUUMSCHMELZE partner to recycle critical magnet manufacturing by-products

[Cyclic Materials](#), an advanced metals recycling company building a circular supply chain for rare earth elements and other critical metals, announced a partnership with [VACUUMSCHMELZE](#) (VAC), a leading developer of magnetic materials and solutions.

The companies have signed an agreement ensuring that by-products containing critical materials used in high-performance permanent magnets will be recycled. T

[Read on here...](#)

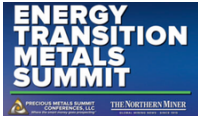
France sets end March deadline for New Caledonia nickel deal

[...] Under the proposed deal, the French state would in particular subsidize energy prices alongside local authorities up to 200 million euros a year and invest in electricity production benefiting local nickel plants.

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CONFERENCE CALENDAR 2024

APRIL



29 Apr
Washington DC, US

OCTOBER



29 - 31 Oct
Sydney, Australia

MAY



3 - 6 May
Pasadena, USA

DECEMBER



3 - 5 Dec
London, UK

JUNE



11 - 12 Jun
Washington DC, USA



23 - 26 Jun
Maryland, USA

SEPTEMBER



26 - 27 Sept
London, UK



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