

PRESS RELEASE

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IIF Digital Capital Markets Conference: Security of supply with raw materials as a challenge

According to the European Union (EU), the industry in Europe is particularly dependent on 34 critical metals. The Critical Raw Materials Act is intended to secure the supply of vanadium, nickel and other critical metals. The International Investment Forum (IIF), on May 10, 2023, will present several companies that aim to sustainably mine critical metals in stable legal jurisdictions.

In mid-March, the EU presented the Critical Raw Materials Act. The Act aims to make member states more independent in the mining, processing and recycling of 34 critical metals and minerals. The draft stipulates that at least 10% of the annual raw material consumption within the EU should be produced domestically, recycled materials should account for 15%, and processed materials for 40%. In addition, there is a diversification requirement: If the law is implemented according to its draft, at most 65% of the annual consumption of a strategic raw material may come from a single third country. This is intended to prevent dependence on Russian energy, such as Germany had until the outbreak of the war of aggression against Ukraine. But which sources of critical metals and minerals will be considered in the future?

The 7th edition of the International Investment Forum (IIF) will focus on supply security on May 10. Three companies, Manuka Resources (vanadium), Power Nickel (nickel), and Almonty Resources (tungsten), which are dedicated to the search and extraction of metals that are considered critical within the EU, will present at the digital investor conference. Additionally, the Canadian oil producer Saturn Oil & Gas, which places a strong emphasis on sustainability in oil production, will also present and is well-positioned in the market due to low extraction costs.

"Especially against the background of the sustainable transformation of the industry, critical metals such as vanadium, nickel and tungsten are gaining in importance," says Mario Hose, Managing Director of Apaton Finance GmbH and co-organizer of the IIF. "Securing these raw materials from reliable sources as sustainably as possible is a challenge for the EU as an industrial location," adds Hose. Nickel, for example, is found in many alloys but also in batteries for electromobility. The same applies to tungsten and vanadium. The latter element is one of the main components of vanadium redox batteries, which are suitable for storing large amounts of energy, for example, from renewable sources.

IIF participant Manuka Resources is developing a vanadium project in New Zealand which, according to the Australian mining standard JORC, has a resource of 3.8 billion tonnes of rock. Preliminary calculations foresee an annual production of around 55 million pounds of vanadium-bearing rock. This could make Manuka Resources the world's third-largest vanadium producer after Russia and China. "It is mining projects such as Manuka Resources' South Taranaki Bight project in New Zealand that have what it takes to noticeably ease the supply situation of critical raw materials," adds Hose.

"On the road to production, however, it is important for companies to keep up with changing conditions and constantly adapt plans to new circumstances. This requires active communication. The IIF provides the perfect opportunity for this," says Manuel Hölzle, CEO of the research house GBC AG and co-organizer of the IIF. The same applies to Almonty Resources, which is currently completing its Sangdong mine in South Korea, which is set to become the largest tungsten project outside China, and Power Nickel, which aims to sustainably mine battery metals for the North American market.

"In addition to investors who have an increased need for information, especially during the development phases of raw material projects, media representatives and technically interested parties also have the opportunity to gain deeper insights at the IIF. After each company presentation, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions via chat," adds Hose. In addition to commodity companies, the May edition of the IIF also features companies from the hydrogen, battery technology, industry, and health sectors that will present in concise 30-minute slots.

The 7th IIF will take place on May 10, 2023. [Participation is free](#) via Zoom and registration is possible at www.ii-forum.com.

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About IIF – International Investment Forum

The 7th IIF – International Investment Forum - will take place on May 10, 2023. Companies and their board members or top managers will present and answer question from investors via Zoom. The event will start at 9:55 CEST (Central European Summer Time) and end at 20:00 CEST. The event is organized from Germany as a cooperation project between Apaton Finance GmbH and GBC AG.

For further information: www.ii-forum.com

About Apaton Finance GmbH (Co-Organizer)

Apaton focuses primarily on growth companies and helps to build investor relationships. Partners are located all over the world. When a company is in a transition phase and enters a new market or a growth phase, Apaton becomes active. Apaton's experts create investable visibility in new regions and markets.

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About GBC AG (Co-Organizer)

GBC AG has been organizing capital market conferences since 2001. Around two-thirds of all German issuers from the small & mid cap sector have already used GBC Conferences in the 20 years of conference history to address the capital market directly. Generally, the GBC conference series aims primarily at asset managers, fund managers, family offices, analysts, and financial journalists.

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