



A Coca-Cola advertisement in 1936 noting "Broad highways have become America's streets. We're a nation on wheels. Distance doesn't matter if you pause now and then ... to put your feet on the ground". The Coca-Cola Company used to have "CCE" as its U.S. stock symbol (now "KO").

ALL ROADS LEAD TO ASHRAM, EVENTUALLY

Rare earths are making a rabble-rousing comeback and Commerce Resources Corp. has all cards in hand

Most recently, U.S. President Joe Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed to building an EV ("Electric Vehicle") supply chain between both countries. "The move comes as demand for electrified transportation is set to surge over the next decade", [Reuters](#) noted and added that "Washington is increasingly viewing Canada as a kind of '51st State' for mineral supply purposes and plans to deepen financial and logistical partnerships with the country's mining sector over time, according to a U.S. government source". In light of China still dominating the rare earth elements ("REEs") supply chains and a supply gap emerging over the next few years, new REE projects are needed to meet future demand.

Company Details



Commerce Resources Corp.
#1450 – 789 West Pender Street
Vancouver, BC, V6C 1H2 Canada
Phone: +1 604 484 2700
Email: cgrove@commerceresources.com
www.commerceresources.com

ISIN: CA2006977045

Shares Issued & Outstanding: 75,006,544



Chart Canada (TSX.V)

Canada Symbol (TSX.V): [CCE](#)

Current Price: \$0.39 CAD (04/06/2021)

Market Capitalization: \$29 Million CAD



Chart Germany (Tradegate)

German Symbol / WKN: [D7H0 / A2PQKV](#)

Current Price: €0.26 EUR (04/06/2021)

Market Capitalization: €20 Million EUR

All \$-figures in CAD unless otherwise stated



In Canada, the **Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC)** plans to set up the country's first REE processing facility with an annual capacity of 3,000 tonnes of REE-bearing monazite material, slated to be operational in late 2022.

In the United States, **Energy Fuels Inc.** intends to enter the REE market already this year, by processing annually 2,500 tonnes of monazite with its permitted White Mesa Mill in Utah. This quantity contains approximately 8% of current U.S. REE demand, as per Energy Fuels, and as such much more monazite-feedstock is needed to make a meaningful impact in reducing U.S. dependence on Chinese sources. Energy Fuels is looking for at least 15,000 tonnes of annual monazite feedstock as that quantity contains around 50% of current U.S. REE demand and would only require <2% of White Mesa Mill's annual throughput capacity.

Commerce Resources Corp.'s ("CCE") Ashram REE & Fluorspar Deposit in Québec is the largest defined **monazite** dominant deposit in North America. Energy Fuels is one of the many processors having requested a REE concentrate sample from CCE.

Recently on March 8, CCE **announced** to have delivered "a sample of high-grade monazite mineral concentrate from the Ashram Rare Earth and Fluorspar Deposit to an industry processor per their request. The 1.0 kg sample grades 44.3% rare earth oxide (REO) and was produced using the conventional recovery flowsheet developed by Hazen Research at their facilities in Colorado, USA..." CCE's President Chris Grove commented in the news: "We are very pleased to provide this sample to satisfy a third-party request by an industry REE processor. Ashram has a very favourable rare earth mineralogy that is dominated by monazite – a well-known and easily processable mineral for REEs, as well as one having an affinity for high distributions of NdPr. Ashram is one of only a select few projects in development that is capable of producing high-grade mineral concentrates at high recoveries, making it an attractive feed source for REE mineral processors, and then for downstream permanent magnet manufacturers."

Commerce Resources was requested to deliver REE concentrate samples to the following parties (not including majors under NDA): [Energy Fuels Inc.](#), [Urban Mining Co.](#), [Albemarle Corp.](#), [Blue Line Corp.](#), [Advanced Magnet Lab Inc.](#) (all USA) as well as [Ucore Rare Metals Inc.](#) (Canada), [Solvay/Rhodia](#) (Belgium/France), [BASF](#) (Germany), [Thyssen-Krupp](#) (Germany), [Treibacher Industrie AG](#) (Austria), [Auer-Remy](#) (Germany), [REtec](#) (Norway), [Less Common Metals](#) (UK), [DKK](#) (Japan).

March 8, 2021: Commerce Resources Corp. delivers high-grade 44.3% REO monazite concentrate to third-party processor

Nd/Pr 21.2%

Monazite Concentrate (44.3% TREO + Y2O3)
Source: Ashram Deposit
Company: Commerce Resources Corp.
Lab: Hazen Research, Inc. Project 12209
Sample ID: 41833-54 Composite, minus 75 µm
Cleaner 2 Magnetic
Date: February 25, 2021



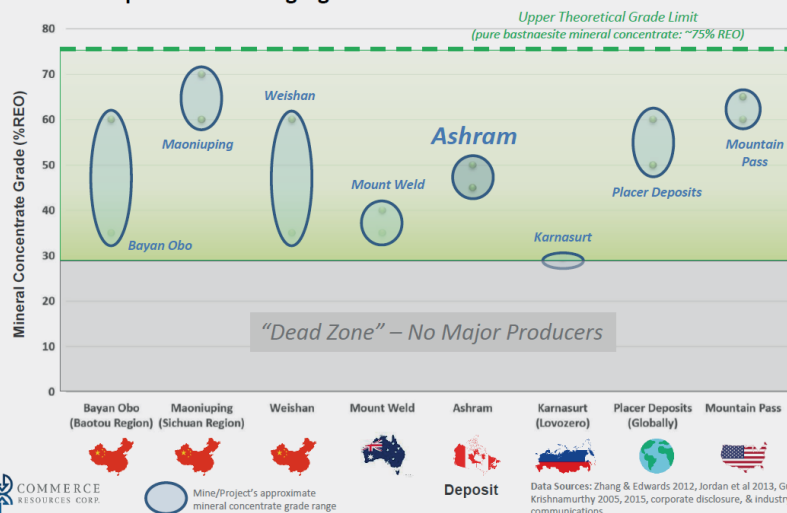
Classification	Tonnage (t)	Density (t/m3)	TREO* (%)	LREO* (%)	MREO* (%)	HREO* (%)	MHREO* (%)	F (%)	MH/T* Ratio
Measured	1,590,000	3.07	1.77	1.60	0.089	0.085	0.17	3.76	9.8%
Indicated	27,670,000	3.02	1.90	1.77	0.073	0.056	0.13	2.89	6.7%
Measured + Indicated	29,270,000	3.02	1.90	1.77	0.073	0.057	0.13	2.94	6.9%
Inferred	219,800,000	3.00	1.88	1.77	0.068	0.045	0.11	2.21	6.0%

COG 1.25% TREO - BASE CASE

Ashram is one of the largest REE and fluorspar deposits in the world with defined resources at an advanced stage (actively working towards Prefeasibility Study level). Ashram's primary commodities of interest are **magnet-feed REEs** as well as **fluorspar** being a highly attractive by-product target at limited extra cost.

The Target Zone for RE Mineral Concentrates

Ashram is comparable to producers because it hosts the same rare earth minerals that allow for the production of high-grade mineral concentrates – monazite and bastnaesite



"The Ashram Deposit is one of only a select group of deposits in development globally that can produce mineral concentrate at high recovery (> 70%) and high grade (> 40% REO). All major hard rock REE miners globally produce mineral concentrates of at least 40% REO, which are then used for downstream processing to marketable products. Such high grades of mineral concentrate considerably reduce the downstream processing cost and risk through lower reagent use, fewer deleterious elements entering solution, and a smaller hydromet plant requirement by comparison. Following the production of this monazite mineral concentrate sample, the Company continues to advance its metallurgical programs at Hazen Research, which have been designed to both satisfy several key industry sample requests, as well as obtain the remaining design criteria required to complete the Pre-feasibility Study for the Ashram Rare Earth and Fluorspar Project." (Source: Commerce Resources Corp.'s [news-release](#) on March 8, 2021)



MONAZITE: THE MONA LISA OF RARE EARTH MINERALS

Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting, the Mona Lisa, has been [described](#) as "the best known, the most visited, the most written about, the most sung about, the most parodied work of art in the world" and is one of the most valuable paintings in the world.

Monazite, the reddish-brown phosphate mineral containing rare earth elements, has jumped into the spotlight of the REE sector for a good reason. Monazite-hosted deposits are praised for having a high percentage **neodymium (Nd)** and **praseodymium (Pr)**, the two most widely used REEs in rare earth permanent magnets (the fastest growing and highest value market of all REEs).

Nd and Pr are critical for high performance magnets used by the automotive sector and in wind turbines.

Monazite also contains notable amounts of **terbium (Tb)** and **dysprosium (Dy)**, also used in certain rare earth permanent magnet applications where high temperature operation is required.

[Roskill](#) noted: "By 2030, rare earth magnet applications are forecast to account for ~40% of total demand, raising potential for a tight supply-demand balance for key magnetic rare earth elements, providing opportunity for new production capacity to be financed, constructed and commissioned."

The Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) and Energy Fuels Inc. are both setting up to process monazite-hosted feedstock material:

SRC's \$35 million [Rare Earth Processing Facility](#) was announced in the summer of 2020 by the Government of Saskatchewan and will be located in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, with completion slated for late 2022. At a planned treatment capacity of 3,000 tonnes per year, the initial product is a mixed rare earth carbonate concentrate to be fed to SRC's separation plant to produce approximately 500 tonnes of separated, individual rare earth oxides, excluding cerium.

Global REO Producers and the Ashram Deposit

Deposit / Mine	State of Activity	Region	Deposit Type	Primary Rare Earth Mineralogy	Deposit Grade ⁵ (REO)	Mineral Concentrate Grade ⁵ & Recovery ⁵	Comments
Bayan Obo ¹	Production		Carbonatite ⁴	Monazite, Bastnaesite	1-6%	Two concentrates 55-65% REO & 36% REO @ 60% combined recovery	Dominates global production, primary iron mine with REO by-product
Mount Weld ² 	Production		Carbonatite (laterite)	Monazite (secondary)	7-11%	40% REO @ 70% recovery	Significant technical challenges
Mountain Pass 	Production		Carbonatite	Bastnaesite	6-9%	60 to 65% at high recovery	Once primary REO producer globally
Sichuan ³	Production		Carbonatite	Bastnaesite	2-3%	60-70% REO @ >80% recovery	Second largest producing region globally
Weishan	Production		Carbonatite	Bastnaesite	1-3%	Two concentrates 60% REO & 35% REO @ 80% combined recovery	Head grade is falling, lower quality material, inconsistent producer
Ashram	Development		Carbonatite	Monazite, Bastnaesite	2%	40-50% @ >75% recovery	Unique enrichment in Pr, Nd, Dy, Tb
Karnasurt, (Lovozero)	Production (minor)		Granitoid	Loparite	0.9%	30% REO @ 70% recovery	Unique to Russia, REE by-product of Nb-Ta-Ti
Placer	Production (minor)		Placer (heavy sands)	Monazite, Xenotime	<0.2%	50-60% REO @ >80% recovery	Source of HREO, REO co-product with Ti-Zr...
Clay	Production		Clay	n/a (ion-absorbed)	0.05-0.2%	n/a	Primary source of HREO



1. Includes Baotou Region
2. Central Lanthanide Deposit
3. Includes Maoniuping and surrounding region
4. Remains a matter of debate
5. Approximate

Data Sources: Zhang & Edwards 2012, Jordan et al 2013, Gupta & Krishnamurthy 2005, 2015, corporate disclosure, & industry personal communications

As the SRC has begun searching for feedstock material, the companies grabbing most headlines recently are **Appia Energy Corp. (CSE: API; market capitalization: \$69 million)** and **Medallion Resources Ltd. (TSX.V: MDL; market capitalization: \$26 million)**.

Appia's Alces Lake Property in northern Saskatchewan is an early-stage exploration project which saw drilling in 2018. It is a high-grade, monazite-hosted prospect; however no mineral resource has yet been completed. Although the grades are significant, the tonnage potential is not clear as mineralized intercepts are limited in width (typically 3 m to <15 m) and modelling indicates that mineralization is comprised of multiple unconnected bodies. The company is planning a 2021 drill program and has started bench-scale monazite processing and metallurgical testing at the SRC.

As SRC's facility is scheduled to be operational in 2022, a quicker feedstock source might be needed.

With some testwork programs concluded at the SRC, Medallion is developing a processing method for monazite as a by-product from tailing streams (waste) from heavy mineral sands mining operations globally. It remains to be seen if Medallion can secure reliably a meaningful quantity

of monazite feedstock to be processed. Further, the impact of the SRC REE processing facility on Medallion's business model is not clear as both appear to be potentially competitors.

Energy Fuels Inc. (TSX: EFR; market capitalization: \$1.1 billion) is an U.S.-based producer of uranium and vanadium (no material sales in 2020 though), planning to enter the REE market in 2021 following a [December-2020 agreement](#) to purchase a minimum of 2,500 tonnes of monazite per year (for 3 years) from a facility located in Georgia, USA, owned by **The Chemours Company (NYSE: CC; market capitalization: \$4.8 billion USD)**, where monazite is produced as a by-product of heavy mineral sands operations that primarily recover zircon and titanium.

In March 2021, Energy Fuels and **Neo Performance Materials Inc. (TSX: NEO; Market capitalization: \$803 million)** [announced](#) the launch of a new "U.S.-European REE Production Initiative", expected to produce value-added REE products from monazite sands.

Energy Fuels plans to process the monazite sands into a mixed REE carbonate at its 100% owned White Mesa Mill in Utah and sell this product as feed material for Neo's value-added separated REE production plant in Estonia.



In the past, monazite sands were not sold directly to China’s rare earth industry, due to the presence of uranium and other radionuclides. Recovering and managing these radionuclides requires special licenses and expertise, which Energy Fuels has at its White Mesa Mill.

Recently on March 22, Energy Fuels [announced](#) that the company is seeking “new sources of alternate feed materials and new fee processing opportunities at the White Mesa Mill that can be processed under existing market conditions (i.e., without reliance on current uranium sales prices)”. This statement indicates that Energy Fuels is capable to process much larger quantities of monazite than supplied under the 2,500 tonnes/year agreement with Chemours, which quantity contains ~8% of current U.S. REE demand, according to Energy Fuel’s latest [presentation](#), which also notes that “15,000 tons of monazite would only require <2% of [White Mesa] Mill’s annual throughput capacity” and that “15,000 tons of monazite contains ~50% of current U.S. REE demand”.

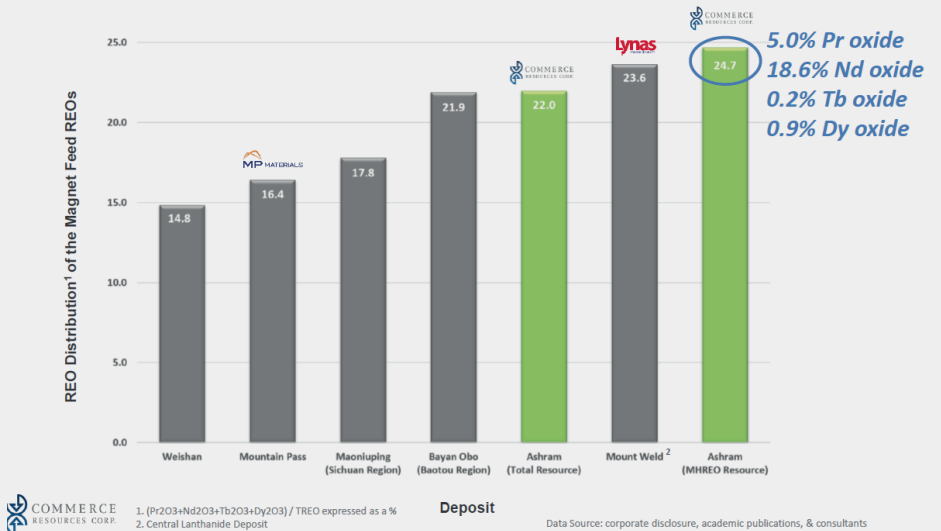
The White Mesa Mill is licensed and designed to process 2,000 tons of ore per day on average, or 720,000 tons of ore per year.

Energy Fuels “has a goal to process 15,000+ tons of monazite and other sources of ore per year for the recovery of REEs and uranium”.

According to Energy Fuels: Of the 55% TREO (total rare earth oxides) typically found in monazite sands from the southeast U.S., the neodymium and praseodymium oxides (“NdPr”) comprise approximately 22% of the TREO. Nd and Pr are among the most valuable of the REEs, as they are the key ingredient in the manufacture of high-strength permanent magnets which are essential to the lightweight and powerful motors required in electric vehicles (“EVs”) and permanent magnet wind turbines used for renewable energy generation, as well as to an array of other modern technologies, including, mobile devices and defense applications.

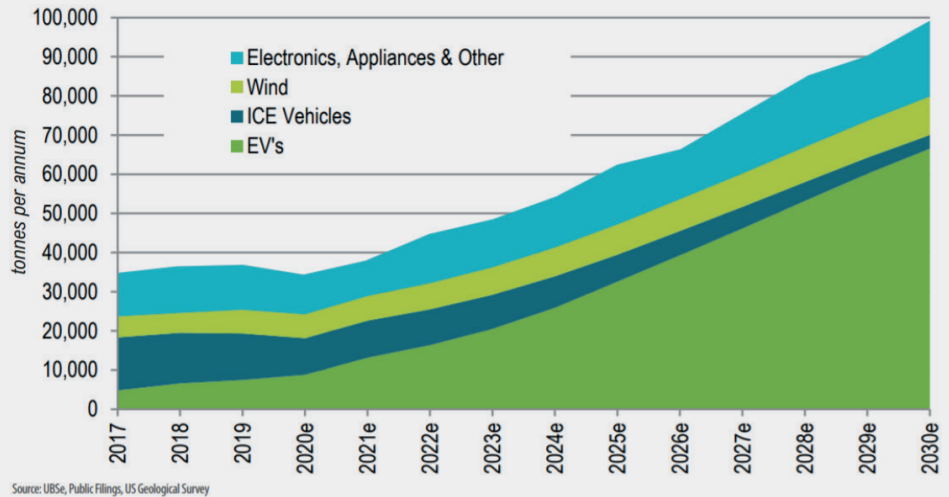
High Magnet Feed REO Content

Ashram has an enrichment in the Magnet Feed REOs that is superior to leading global producers, well positioning it for the market long-term

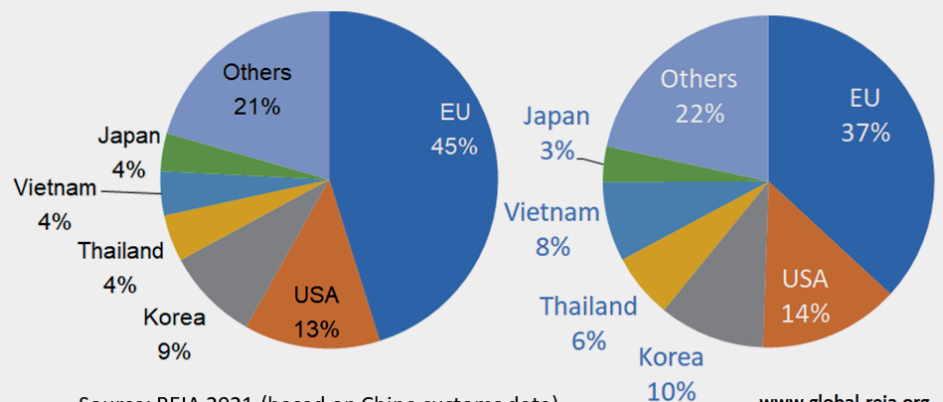


Approximately 85% of Ashram’s REO value is from the magnet-feed REOs (Pr, Nd, Tb, Dy). Roughly 2/3rd of this value is from neodymium (Nd).

Projected Demand for NdPr Metal



China's Rare Earth Permanent Magnet Export in 2019 and 2020





THE FLUORSPAR KICKER

In addition to being one of the largest REE deposits globally, the Ashram Deposit is also one of the world's largest fluor spar deposits.

On April 5, 2021, CCE [announced](#) that it "expects to recover a fluor spar by-product (met-spar and acid-spar) from the tailings of the primary REE recovery circuit. The recovery of fluor spar was not incorporated into the Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) for the Project, completed in 2012; however, it is now anticipated to provide a significant secondary revenue stream in the PFS. Further, as the fluor spar concentrate would be produced from the tailings of the REE concentrate, the Company would be generating value from its tailings (i.e. typically waste), and therefore incorporating a circular economy component to the project."

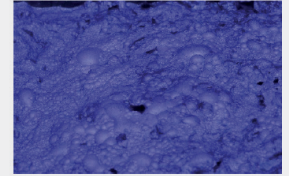
According to CCE's [webinar at Amvest Capital \(March 8, 2021\)](#): The currently defined resource for the Ashram Deposit outlines >11.5 million tonnes of contained fluor spar (based on the contained fluorine content), combined over all categories. At a production rate of ~70,000 tonnes of fluor spar per year, only ~15% of the total resource would be exhausted over the initial 25 year mine-life.

Both the production of REEs and fluor spar are currently dominated by China, placing Ashram in a unique position to potentially address the supply concerns of these two critical commodities. Both REEs and fluor spar are considered critical / strategic commodities by the U.S. Department of the Interior, the European Union, and Natural Resources Canada. Similar to the prevailing dynamics for rare earth elements, China was historically the largest exporter of fluor spar. However, over the last several years, China has become a net importer. This has caused significant price appreciation for fluor spar, and market interest from industry in new sources.

Fluor spar is an essential raw material to the steel, aluminum, and chemical industries in primarily two marketable products, acid spar grade and met spar grade. **Acid-spar (>97% CaF₂)**, accounting for roughly 60% of the market, is primarily

Acid-spar Sample Produced (>98% CaF₂)

In 2020, a 0.5 kg sample¹ of acid-spar (>98% CaF₂) was produced from Ashram and delivered to a major global commodities trader, per their request, which they then described as a "*commercially marketable product*"



Fluor spar flotation froth



Flotation test to produce acid-spar concentrate



¹ Acid-spar sample was produced using the "front-end" beneficiation process approach, which includes flotation, leaching and magnetic separation (see news release dated November 30th, 2020)



0.5 kg sample of >98% CaF₂ acid-spar delivered to global commodities trader

used to synthesise hydrofluoric acid (HF) and subsequent fluorochemicals, and in the production of aluminum metal to reduce process temperatures and energy consumption. It is also a key raw ingredient of materials used in enhancing the operational performance of lithium-ion batteries. **Met-spar (>60% CaF₂)**, accounting for roughly 40% of the global fluor spar market, is primarily used as a flux in the steel making process to lower the melting temperature, to reduce slag viscosity and remove impurities.

According to "[Fluor spar: Semiconductor chip disruptions persist](#)" (Roskill, March 31, 2021):

Ongoing shortages in semiconductor chip supplies continue to cause major delays in industrial activity worldwide, with automakers cutting down on production and electronic device manufacturers struggling to keep up with the post COVID-19 surge in demand for mobile phones, gaming consoles and other devices.

The crisis prompted U.S. President Joe Biden to sign an [executive order](#) last month to address the issue, after he pledged to seek US\$37Bn in funding for legislation to strengthen chip supply chains in the USA. Companies that have been affected include [Ford Motor Company](#), [General Motors](#), [Honda](#), [Nissan](#), [Renault](#), [Samsung](#), [Sony](#), [Tesla](#), [Toyota](#), [Visteon](#), [Volkswa-](#)

[gen](#) and [Volvo](#). The electric vehicle and internal combustion engine car industries, which both rely on "just-in-time" supply chains, have been negatively impacted particularly. Production of an estimated 1M vehicles will be delayed in Q1 2021.

Roskill View

High purity hydrogen fluoride (HF) is a key chemical used by the electronics industry in the manufacturing of semiconductors and printed circuit boards as it can selectively attack silica (SiO₂). It is employed in cleaning agents and etchants and is thus, an important feedstock in the production of devices and critical electronic systems in transport and infrastructure.

Semiconductor supply and demand is notoriously cyclical and has been the subject of geopolitical drama before. Electric vehicles contain as many as 3,500 semiconductor chips per vehicle and the latest supply shortages have drawn more attention to the fact that more than 70% of the world's chip manufacturing capacity is in Asia.

Whilst HF is manufactured in large volumes globally and is the starting point for essentially the entire fluorochemicals industry, the number of producers of electronic-grade HF and its derivatives is much more limited. [Roskill closely monitors world HF production and trade.](#)



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: NORTHERN QUÉBEC

On March 9, 2021, Midland Exploration Inc. (TSX.V: MD; market capitalization: \$61 million) [announced](#) the execution of “an important strategic alliance” with [SOQUEM Inc.](#), a subsidiary of [Investissement Québec](#) which public investment company was established in 1998 under an Act to favour investment in Québec by Québec-based and international companies. Both Midland and SOQUEM have agreed to “combine their efforts and their expertise to jointly explore the excellent potential for gold and strategic minerals in the vast and underexplored Labrador Trough [...] with the main purpose of making new world-class discoveries in a high-potential yet underexplored area of Québec”.

This new agreement calls for investments in exploration totalling up to \$5 million over a period of 4 years, with a firm commitment of \$3 million within the first 2 years of the agreement. The area of interest is located in Nunavik. Geologically, it covers the Labrador Trough, the Rachel-Laporte Zone, and the Kuujuaq Domain. The area of interest extends from Schefferville in the south up to approximately 100 km north of Kuujuaq.

CCE’s Ashram REE & Fluorspar Deposit is located about 130 km south of Kuujuaq and as such may benefit from any development in this mineral-rich region where increased exploration and development activities are expected.

Australian-based BHP Group is moving its exploration headquarters from Santiago, Chile, to Toronto, Canada “in the latest move by the world’s top miner to focus its growth pipeline on future-facing minerals”, [Bloomberg stated](#) on March 11, 2021:

The switch to Canada’s most populous city comes after BHP last August entered a partnership with Midland Exploration Inc. to undertake nickel exploration in the far north of Quebec province [and] BHP is also supporting Midland’s hunt for copper in the same region.

Ashram REE & Fluorspar Deposit

Attractive Jurisdiction

- Northern Quebec (Nunavik territory), Canada
 - ~130 km south of Kuujuaq, the administrative centre of Nunavik
- Territory is under treaty (IBNQA & NEQA)
 - Modern agreement with clear mechanisms in place for indigenous dialogue, consultation, and resource management

100% Ownership of Project

Advancing Infrastructure

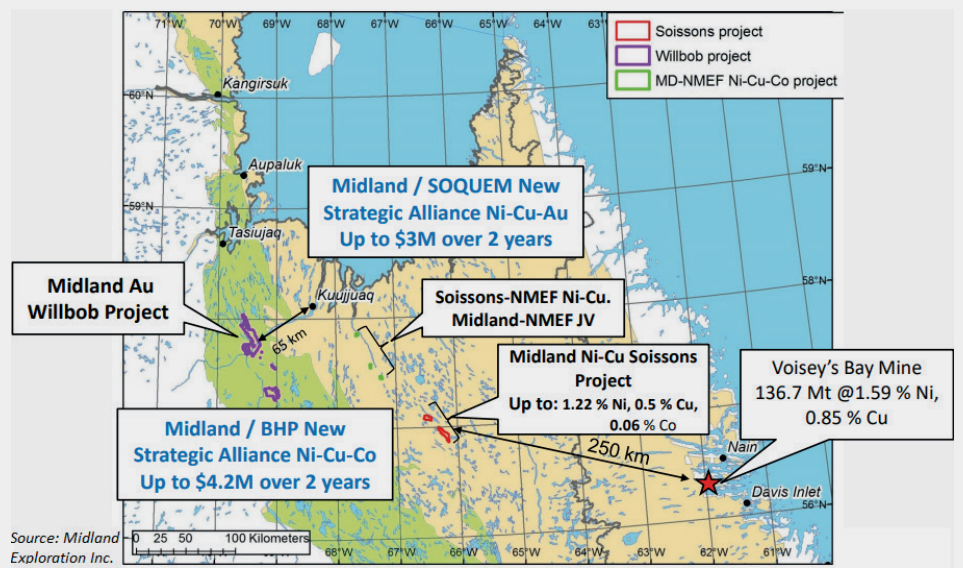
- Quebec government’s Société du Plan Nord mandated to promote investment in northern development
 - Energy & Mineral resource development
 - Transportation infrastructure & access

Investment of Ressources Québec

- Direct equity investment of \$1 M CAD on February 17, 2017



The government of Quebec, through Investissement Québec and the Société du Plan Nord, arranged financing and construction of the 245 kilometre long road for the Renard Diamond Project owned by Stornoway Diamond Corporation



“Nickel is fast becoming the ‘work horse’ of battery technology, playing an essential role in the world’s efforts to decarbonize,” BHP’s Chief Technical Officer Laura Tyler said in a speech to a mining conference in Toronto.

She forecast a “golden age” for exploration in the years ahead, where innovation and new technology would help to unlock resources of the future.

“To own the best assets in the best commodities, you have to look for them and develop them well ahead of time,” Tyler said. “To do so, we need to imagine what the world could look like in 50 or even 100 years from now.”

On April 5, 2021, CCE [announced to have](#) “also engaged the engineering firm CIMA+ to evaluate sites and design the marine infrastructure component for the PFS. CIMA+ has extensive experience in Quebec’s north and its operating conditions, having designed and constructed the marine facilities for several northern Inuit communities between 2005 and 2012. Specifically, CIMA+ designed and built the marine facility on the Koksoak River for the community of Kuujuaq, the nearest community to the deposit. The Company is evaluating sites along the Koksoak River for a small marine facility to enable the shipping of materials and concentrate to and from the proposed mine-site, respectively.”



Excerpts from “U.S. looking to Canada for minerals to build electric vehicles” (Reuters, March 18, 2021):

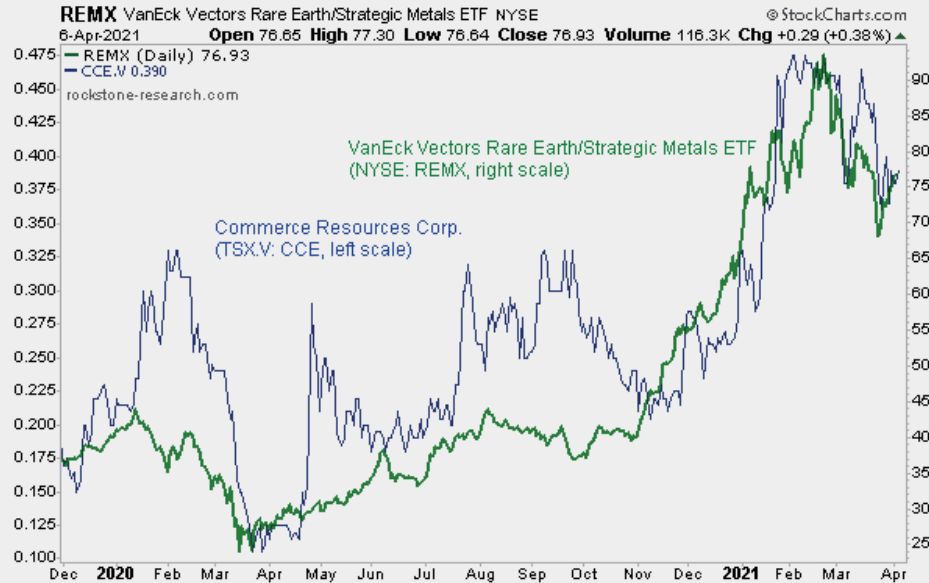
On Thursday, the U.S. Department of Commerce held a closed-door virtual meeting with miners and battery manufacturers to discuss ways to boost Canadian production of EV materials, according to documents seen by Reuters.

The move comes as demand for electrified transportation is set to surge over the next decade. Conservationists have strongly opposed several large U.S. mining projects, leading officials to look north of the border to Canada and its supply of 13 of the 35 minerals deemed critical for national defense by Washington.

The event comes after U.S. President Joe Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed last month to building an EV supply chain between the two countries. Since Biden’s election, three U.S. mining companies have invested in Canada, where mining accounts for 5% of the country’s gross domestic product, versus roughly 0.9% in the United States.

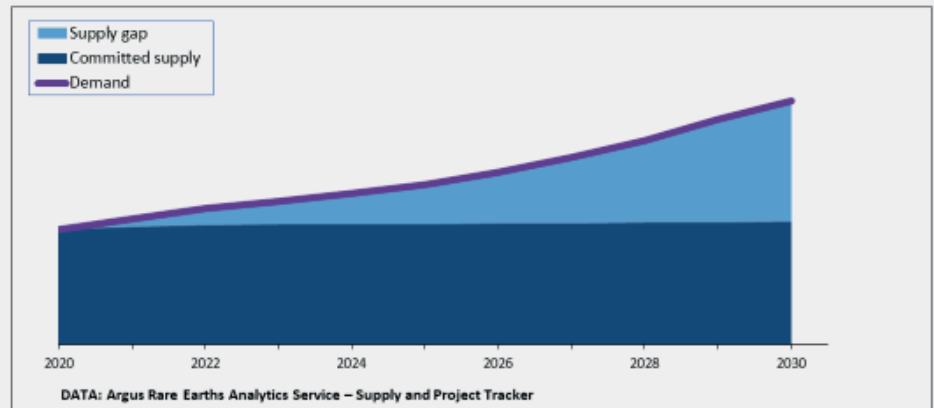
To be sure, the United States is also trying to boost domestic production of EV metals, which the Biden administration has said is critical. But Washington is increasingly viewing Canada as a kind of “51st State” for mineral supply purposes and plans to deepen financial and logistical partnerships with the country’s mining sector over time, according to a U.S. government source. Both countries are members of the Energy Resource Governance Initiative, a pact to share mining experience and resources.

Last week, privately-held USA Rare Earth invested in Search Minerals Inc’s rare earths project in [Labrador, NF] in eastern Canada. While USA Rare Earth already controls a rare earths deposit in Texas, executives said they wanted access to more of the minerals used to make electronics and weapons. “You can’t just rely on projects in the U.S. for supply,” said Pini Althaus, USA Rare Earth’s CEO. “You have to collaborate with Canada.”



Commerce Resources Corp.’s share price (blue, left scale, CAD) gained 260% since the March 2020 low while the VanEck Vectors Rare Earth/Strategic Metals ETF (green, right scale, USD) gained 200% in the same period. (Click chart or [here](#) for updated prices)

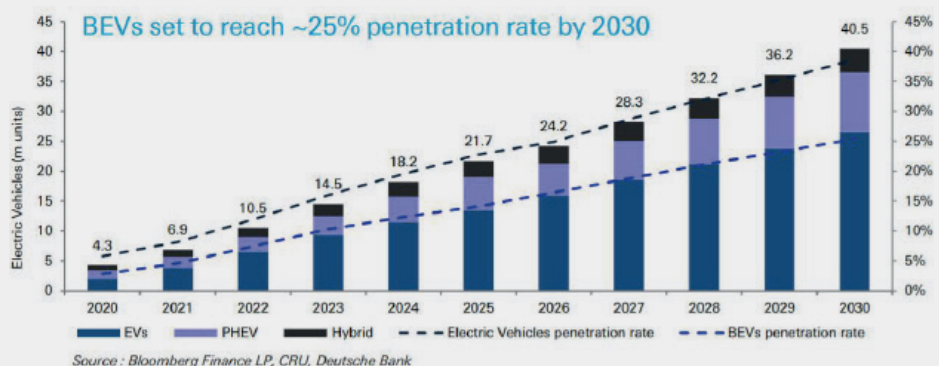
New rare earths projects will be needed to meet future demand



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“Analysis by Argus’ global rare earths team has quantified the emerging supply gap in the market, and we have assessed the projects which are best-placed to come onstream to meet future demand. Global demand for rare earths, and NdPr in particular, is set to grow strongly as governments around the world require these critical minerals to meet the commitments in their decarbonisation and renewable energy strategies. Current production capacity alone is unable to meet this future demand.” (Argus Rare Earths Analytics email note, February 23, 2021)





ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE AMID SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS

REEs are needed in many industries, e.g. each SSN-774 Virginia-class submarine requires ~4,173 kg (9,200 lbs) of rare earth materials, each DDG-51 Aegis destroyer requires ~2,359 kg (5,200 lbs) of these materials, and each F-35 Lightning II aircraft requires ~417 kg (920 lbs) of REEs, according to a [report](#) from the Congressional Research Service.

A single [iPhone smartphone](#) contains 8 different REEs but when examining several varieties of smartphones, you can find 16 of the 17 REEs (the only one you will not find is promethium, which only really occurs in nuclear reactors and the sun.

A typical [Toyota Prius](#), for example, uses 25 kg (55 lbs) of REEs, compared to 1 kg (2.2 lbs) in a typical combustion-engine vehicle.

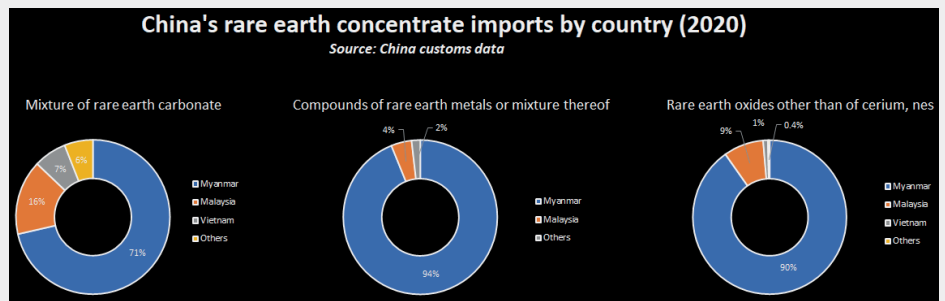
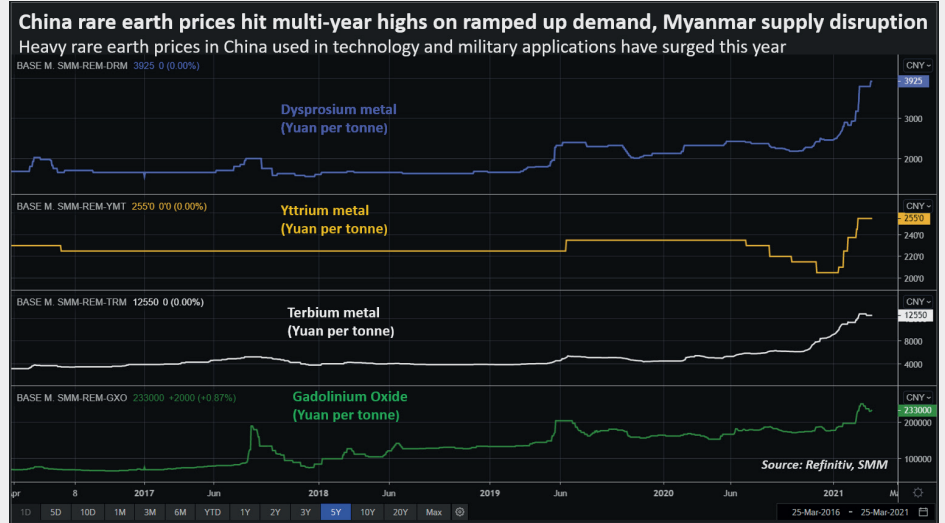
UBS [predicts](#) EV penetration will increase from 4% today (~3 million EVs/year) to 20% of the market by 2025, and 50% by 2030 (~46 million EVs/year). During that time, UBS expects global demand for REEs to triple from current demand levels if car makers are to hit its production targets.

According to [“UBS Rare Earth Forecasts Only Tell Half the Story”](#) (Adamas Intelligence, March 24, 2021):

Recently, investment bank UBS released a new report on the outlook for EV battery and motor materials following its teardown of the VW ID.3... Of particular interest to us at Adamas Intelligence were the bank's latest projections for supply, demand and prices of magnet rare earths (namely didymium, “NdPr”). In our humble opinion, the UBS analysis misses the mark.

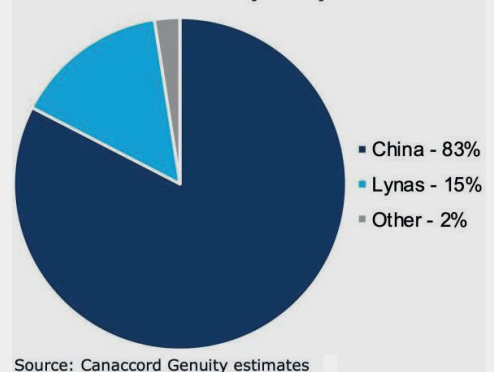
UBS conclusion: Didymium will see a “step change” in demand growth over the next decade, from approximately 30,000 tonnes per annum now to around a 100,000 tonnes per annum in 2030 with EVs making up 80% of the total.

Our take: Current global didymium oxide demand is approximately 65,000 tonnes per annum, double that estimated by UBS, and will increase to more than



“Prices for ingredients of rare earth magnets, used in wind turbines and electric vehicles, have been on a tear since the fourth quarter of 2020. The surge was driven by booming demand and concerns that dominant producer China would seek to limit rare earths exports and tighten control of a strategic industry. The rally has extended into this year, with terbium oxide and dysprosium oxide, used as magnet inputs, gaining 36% and 58% each, to touch levels this month unseen since 2012, Asian Metal data shows. “The current magnet rare earth price levels in China have baked in a high probability that Myanmar supplies could be disrupted,” said Ryan Castilloux, managing director of consultancy Adamas Intelligence. But this has not happened yet, he added. About half of China’s feedstock of heavy rare earths comes from Myanmar, and the coup unleashed fears of a supply cutoff even though the mines are in northern areas controlled by autonomous militias that face no clear threat. While China’s rare earth imports held firm in January and February, a March 21 report in the state-backed Global Times newspaper said material could not be shipped, but did not delve into the problem further. Downstream, a source at a Chinese maker of auto parts based in eastern Zhejiang province told Reuters this week a shortage of rare earths supply was hitting the company’s deliveries to multinational clients, though it does not rely on imports and attributed the squeeze to tighter domestic controls. There is no significant shortage of feedstock from Myanmar now, but any stoppage would be “pretty catastrophic” for China, said David Merriman, a manager at consultancy Roskill.” (Source: [“China rare earths extend surge on worries over Myanmar supply, inspection threat”](#), Reuters, March 26, 2021)

NdPr market share (2019)





140,000 tonnes per annum by 2030, of which passenger EVs, commercial EVs and other e-mobility types will collectively make up just 25-30% of total demand, considering vehicle traction motors, micromotors, sensors and loudspeakers...

UBS conclusion: Current global didymium supply of around 38,000 tonnes will rise to nearly 60,000 tonnes by 2030.

Our take: As with demand, current global didymium oxide supply (primary + secondary) is also approximately 65,000 tonnes per annum, of which the majority comes from primary production in China, Australia, the U.S., and Myanmar coupled with often-overlooked but abundant secondary supplies from magnet swarf and scrap in China and Japan.

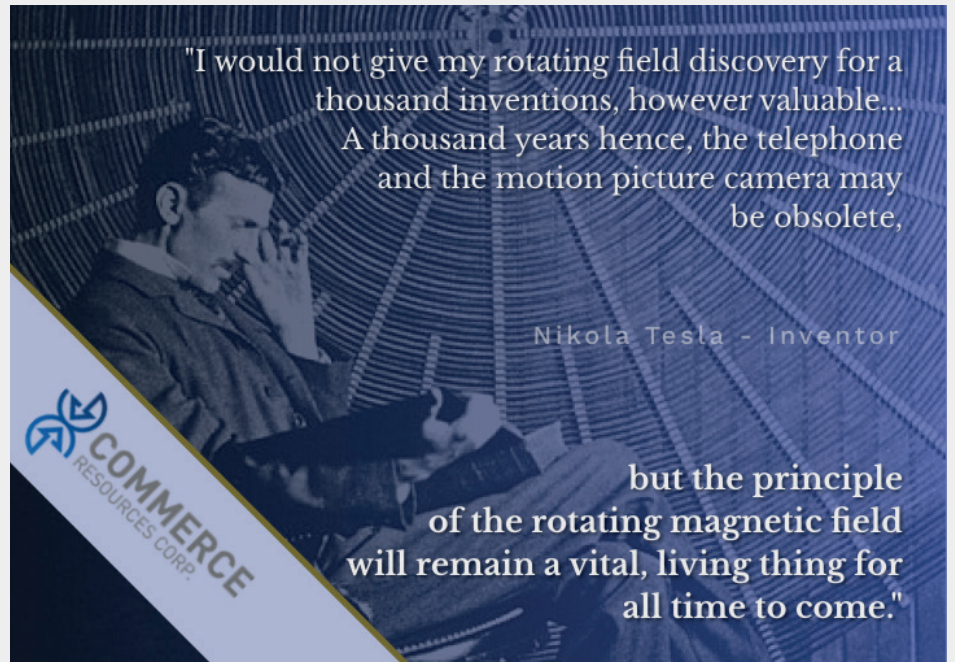
By 2030, Adamas Intelligence [forecasts](#) that total global didymium oxide supply will rise to 125,000 tonnes per annum (more than double the projection of UBS) and the market will face a deficit of 16,000 tonnes per annum (versus nearly 45,000 tonnes projected by UBS).

UBS conclusion: NdPr price forecasted to peak at \$100 per kilogram in 2024 to reflect the “looming deficit and rising supply anxiety,” before returning to \$70 per kilogram by 2027.

Our take: The price of didymium (“Nd-Pr”) metal has already surged past UBS’ arbitrary “peak” of \$100 per kilogram, although we suspect that throughout their analysis, when referring to supply, demand and prices of “NdPr” the team is actually referring to NdPr oxide, which any market follower will point out is a starkly different product.

All things considered, we are thrilled to see more investment banks and research firms dipping toes into the opaque abyss that is the global rare earth market but would caution investors and industry followers to carry out their own due diligence using multiple sources given the rising tide of misinformation washing over the market.

More Information: [Rare Earth Magnet Market Outlook to 2030](#) (Adamas Intelligence, August 2021)



According to [“Rare earths: Myanmar crisis set to disrupt rare earth supply availability”](#) (Roskill, March 29, 2021):

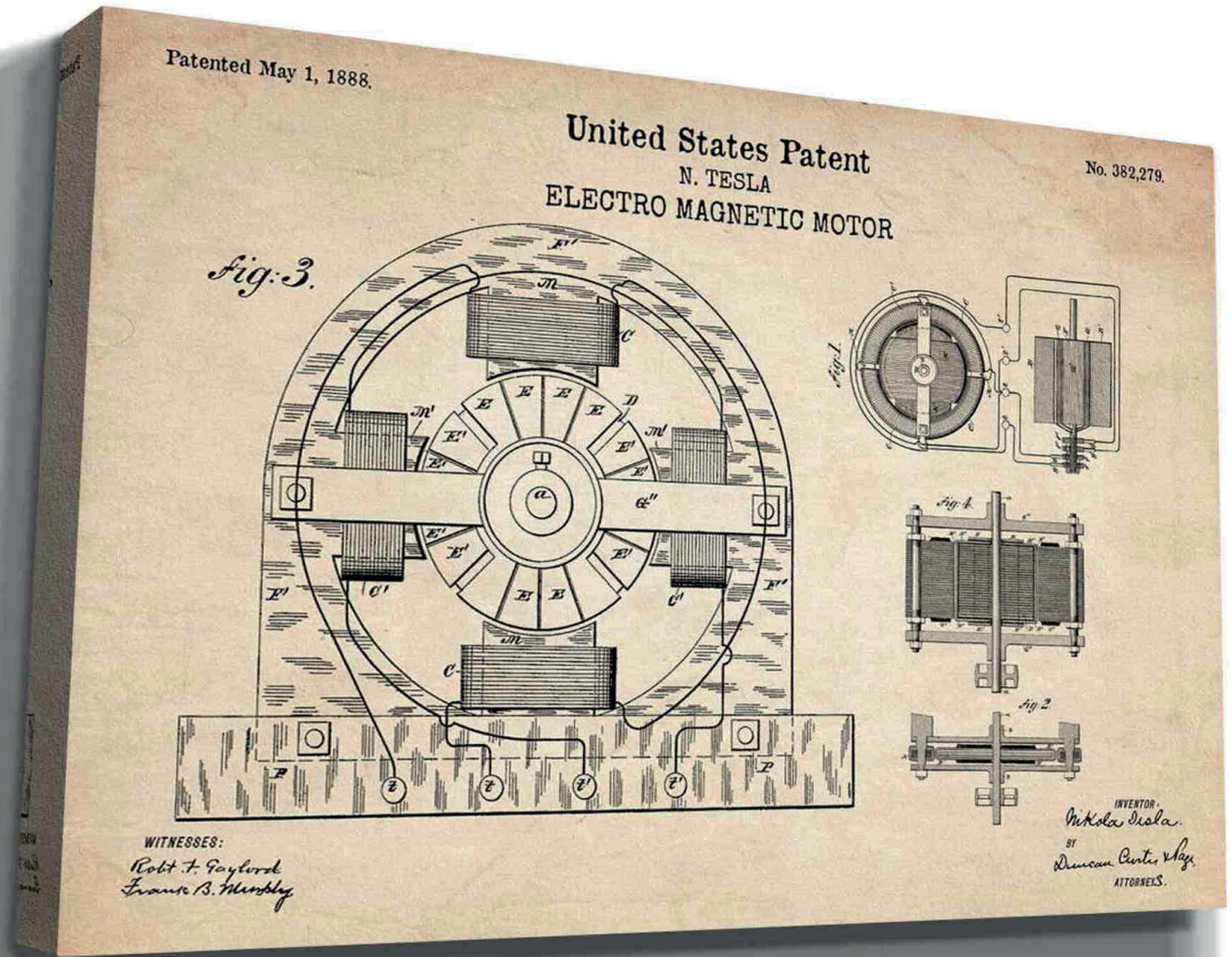
The conflict in Myanmar has escalated significantly in recent weeks... Disruption to the supply of rare earth ores, concentrates and semi-processed products between Myanmar and China has the potential to create significant supply chain issues for processors in southern China. As [reported by Roskill on 25 March](#), all ionic adsorption clay (IAC) mining operations, including those who had operated throughout in 2020, asked to be suspended in late February, and there are no signs of any re-start yet. The proposed introduction of ammonia-free in-situ leaching technology at various IAC projects in China has not materialised over continued concerns regarding pollutants, recovery rate and social impacts.

This means that there are very few operational alternatives to Myanmar-derived production of HREEs such as dysprosium and terbium, with viable sources either only in pilot scale production or producing mixed HREE products as a by-product of Nd-Pr. In 2020, Myanmar accounted for 39% of global HREE mine production, with China itself the only other major producer of HREE mined products at 48% of global supply. In

comparison, the next largest producer of HREE mined products was [Lynas Corporation](#) at roughly 5.5% global supply. There are reported to be stockpiles of refined HREEs, including dysprosium and terbium compounds, held by both private and public inventories, which could be drawn down in China, though without primary production these inventories would soon become depleted.

As a result of the growing uncertainty and tight supply availability in China, prices for dysprosium and terbium are expected to be supported at higher levels, following the strong price performance observed during 2020 and Q1 2021. This will result in better economic performance for many projects under development and further incentivise investment in capacity. Investors should be weary, however, that the payability of certain rare earth products will be unaffected by higher Dy and Tb prices, particularly those with dominant light rare earth (LREE) content. Though with the potential for significant supply deficits to form for many HREEs if Myanmar production is heavily disrupted for an extended period, even LREE products may see increased payability for certain HREEs.

More Information: [Rare Earths: Outlook to 2030](#) (Roskill, January 2021)



“Nikola Tesla’s patent for the electro magnetic motor, the basis for today’s alternating current power systems.” (“Rotating Field Revelation, 1882”, Tesla Science Center; [Image](#)). Click [here](#) to see an animation of the electro magnetic motor.

According to [Tesla Science Center](#):

Tesla’s breakthrough moment was a walk in the park (literally) that changed history. Tesla was 26 years old and living in Budapest, where he had been struggling for months to devise a system for generating electricity using rotating magnetic fields.

The effort affected his health and Tesla became ill from mental and physical exhaustion. During his recovery, he went for a walk in a Budapest park with good friend Anthony Szigety and experienced a sudden epiphany. Here is Tesla’s own account of the moment in which he envisions the solution for an alternating current system to generate electricity.

“One afternoon, which is ever present in my recollection, I was enjoying a walk with my friend in the City Park and reciting poetry. At that age I knew entire books by heart, word for word. One of these was Goethe’s ‘Faust.’ The sun was just setting and reminded me of the glorious passage:

*The glow retreats, done is the day of toil;
It yonder hastes, new fields of life exploring;
Ah, that no wing can lift me from the soil
Upon its track to follow, follow soaring!
A glorious dream! though now the glories fade.*

*Alas! the wings that lift the mind no aid
Of wings to lift the body can bequeath me.*

As I uttered these inspiring words the idea

came like a flash of lightning and in an instant the truth was revealed. I drew with a stick on the sand the diagrams shown six years later in my address before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and my companion understood them perfectly. The images I saw were wonderfully sharp and clear and had the solidity of metal and stone, so much so that I told him: ‘See my motor here; watch me reverse it.’ I cannot begin to describe my emotions. Pygmalion seeing his statue come to life could not have been more deeply moved. A thousand secrets of nature which I might have stumbled upon accidentally I would have given for that one which I had wrested from her against all odds and at the peril of my existence.’





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“The 31 critical minerals on Canada’s list are used to develop clean technologies, from solar panels to EV batteries. They’re all essential to lowering emissions, increasing our competitiveness, and strengthening our energy security. Canada’s list signals to investors where Canada will focus and where Canada will lead. Critical minerals will get us to net-zero.” (Seamus O’Regan Jr., Canada’s Minister of Natural Resources)

“Our expertise in mineral exploration, our vast resources, potential for further discoveries, and leadership in sustainable practices means Canada is in an excellent position to become the global “supplier of choice” for the critical minerals that will drive the transition towards a low-carbon future.” (Felix Lee, President of Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada)

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Statements in this report that are forward looking include that Commerce, or any other company or market will perform as expected; that exploration has or will discover a mineable deposit; that Commerce's property is attractive due to mineralization identified to date indicating monazite mineralization; that there are similarities to commercially viable projects or monazite- and carbonate-related deposits; that all roads lead to Ashram, eventually; that REE prices will continue to appreciate; that the US and Canada will be successful in building an EV supply chain between both countries; that demand for electrified transportation is set to surge over the next decade; that Washington is increasingly viewing Canada as a kind of '51st State' for mineral supply purposes and plans to deepen financial and logistical partnerships with the country's mining sector over time; that a supply gap will be emerging over the next few years and as such new REE projects are needed to meet future demand; that Ashram's primary commodities of interest are magnetite-REEs as well as fluorspar being a highly attractive by-product target at limited extra cost; that Commerce will continue to advance its metallurgical programs and that the PFS will be completed as expected; that the SRC will set up the country's first REE processing facility with an annual capacity of 3,000 tonnes of REE-bearing monazite material, slated to be operational in late 2022; that Energy Fuels Inc. will enter the REE market already this year, by processing annually 2,500 tonnes of monazite with its permitted White Mesa Mill in Utah, and that this quantity contains approximately 8% of current U.S. REE demand, and as such much more monazite-feedstock is needed to make a meaningful impact in reducing U.S. dependence on Chinese sources; that Energy Fuels will continue to be looking for at least 15,000 tonnes of annual monazite feedstock as that quantity contains around 50% of current U.S. REE demand and would only require <2% of White Mesa Mill's annual throughput capacity; that monazite deposits will continue to be in the spotlight; that by 2030, rare earth magnet applications are forecast to account for ~40% of total demand, raising potential for a tight supply-demand balance for key magnetic rare earth elements, providing opportunity for new production capacity to be financed, constructed and commissioned; that Appia is planning a 2021 drill program and has started bench-scale monazite processing and metallurgical testing at the SRC; that as SRC's facility is scheduled to be operational in 2022, a quicker feedstock source might be needed; that Energy Fuels and Neo Performance Materials will launch a new "U.S.-European REE Production Initiative", expected to produce value-added REE products from monazite sands; that Energy Fuels plans to process the monazite sands into a mixed REE carbonate at its 100% owned White Mesa Mill in Utah and sell this product as feed material for Neo's value-added separated REE production plant in Estonia; that Energy Fuels "has a goal to process 15,000+ tons of monazite and other sources of ore per year for the recovery of REEs and uranium"; that Commerce expects to recover a fluorspar by-product (met-spar and acid-spar) from the tailings of the primary REE recovery circuit; that the recovery of fluorspar was not incorporated into the Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) for the Project, completed in 2012; however, it is now anticipated to provide a significant secondary revenue stream in the PFS; that as the fluorspar concentrate would be produced from the tailings of the REE concentrate, Commerce would be generating value from its tailings (i.e. typically waste), and therefore incorporating a circular economy component to the project; that at a production rate of ~70,000 tonnes of fluorspar per year, only ~15% of the total resource would be exhausted over the initial 25 year mine-life; that both the production of REEs and fluorspar are currently dominated by China, placing Ashram in a unique position to potentially address the supply concerns of these two critical commodities; that ongoing shortages in semiconductor chip supplies continue to cause major delays in industrial activity worldwide; that production of an estimated 1M vehicles will be delayed in Q1 2021; that Midland and SOQUEM will combine their efforts and their expertise to jointly explore the excellent potential for gold and strategic minerals in the vast and underexplored Labrador Trough, with the main purpose of making new world-class discoveries in a high-potential yet underexplored area of Quebec; that this new agreement calls for investments in exploration totalling up to \$5 million over a period of 4 years, with a firm commitment of \$3 million within the first 2 years of the agreement; that Commerce's Ashram REE & Fluorspar Deposit may benefit from any development in this mineral-rich region where increased exploration and development activities are expected; that BHP is supporting Midland's hunt for copper in the same region; that a "golden age" for exploration is forecasted in the years ahead, where innovation and new technology would help to unlock resources of the future; that global demand for rare earths, and NdPr in particular, is set to grow strongly as governments around the world require these critical minerals to meet the commitments in their decarbonisation and renewable energy strategies, and that current production capacity alone is unable to meet this future demand; that EV penetration will increase from 4% today (~3 million EVs/year) to 20% of the market by 2025, and 50% by 2030 (~46 million EVs/year), and that during

that time, global demand for REEs is expected to triple from current demand levels if car makers are to hit its production targets; that didymium will see a "step change" in demand growth over the next decade, and that will increase to more than 140,000 tonnes per annum by 2030, of which passenger EVs, commercial EVs and other e-mobility types will collectively make up just 25-30% of total demand; that current global didymium supply will rise and the market will face a deficit; that the Myanmar crisis set to disrupt rare earth supply availability; that without primary production these inventories would soon become depleted; that prices for dysprosium and terbium are expected to be supported at higher levels, and that this will result in better economic performance for many projects under development and further incentivise investment in capacity; that the payability of certain rare earth products will be unaffected by higher Dy and Tb prices, particularly those with dominant light rare earth (LREE) content, and that though with the potential for significant supply deficits to form for many HREEs if Myanmar production is heavily disrupted for an extended period, even LREE products may see increased payability for certain HREEs; that there is a high probability that Myanmar supplies could be disrupted; that any stoppage would be "pretty catastrophic" for China. Such statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results or events to differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Risks and uncertainties include: The receipt of all necessary approvals for commercial mining; the ability to find sufficient mineralization to mine; uncertainty of future production, uncertain capital expenditures and other costs; financing and additional capital requirements for exploration, development and construction of a mine may not be available at reasonable cost or at all; mineral grades and quantities on the projects may not be as high as expected; samples found to date and historical drilling may not be indicative of any further potential on the properties; that mineralization encountered with drilling will be uneconomic; that the targeted prospects can not be reached; substitute minerals may be found to work effectively in place of fluorspar for many industries; the receipt in a timely fashion of further permitting; legislative, political, social or economic developments in the jurisdictions in which Saville and Commerce carry on business may hinder progress; there may be no agreement with neighbors, partners or government on developing infrastructure; operating or technical difficulties or cost increases in connection with mining or development activities; the ability to keep key employees and operations financed; what appear at first to be similarities with operating mines and projects may not be substantially similar; share prices of these companies may fall as a result of many factors, including those listed here and others listed in the companies' and other mining exploration company disclosure; and the resource prices available when the resource is mined may not be sufficient to mine economically. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking information. Rockstone and the author of this report do not undertake any obligation to update any statements made in this report except as required by law.

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Author Profile & Contact

Stephan Bogner (Dipl. Kfm., FH)
Rockstone Research
8260 Stein am Rhein, Switzerland
Phone: +41 44 5862323
Email: sb@rockstone-research.com



Stephan Bogner studied Economics, with specialization in Finance & Asset Management, Production & Operations, and Entrepreneurship & International Law, at the

International School of Management (Dortmund, Germany), the European Business School (London, UK) and the University of Queensland (Brisbane, Australia). Under Prof. Dr. Hans J. Bocker, Stephan completed his diploma thesis ("Gold In A Macroeconomic Context With Special Consideration Of The Price Formation Process") in 2002. A year later, he marketed and translated into German Ferdinand Lips' bestseller "Gold Wars". After working in Dubai's commodity markets for 5 years, he now lives in Switzerland and is the CEO of [Elementum International AG](#) specialized in the storage of gold and silver bullion in a high-security vaulting facility within the St. Gotthard Mountain in central Switzerland.

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