



# Critical Minerals Innovation Forum

**November 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 2025 | London**

*This two-day business conference connects the full critical mineral value chain from mining, processing and refining to automotive, electronics and renewables. The focus throughout will be on the opportunity in sustainable sourcing to manage risk, build resilience and drive business value.*

## Co-sponsors



## Knowledge partner



For more information or to get involved, please contact Emilia Colman at [emilia.colman@innovationforum.co.uk](mailto:emilia.colman@innovationforum.co.uk)

## Speakers include:

1. Adriana Aurazo, VP, environmental and social affairs and sustainability, **Southern Peaks Mining**
2. Aidan Davy, co-chief operating officer, **ICMM**
3. Alice Lim, head of CEO office and corporate sustainability, **London Metal Exchange**
4. Amanda Pienaar, senior consultant, human rights, **Ulula**
5. Andrew Jacob, value chain sustainability, **BHP**
6. Anna Krutikov, head of sustainability, **Glencore**
7. Assheton Stewart Carter, CEO founder, **TDi Sustainability**
8. Carrie Claytor, manager, value chain sustainability, **Freeport-McMoRan**
9. Catherine Rushforth, head of human rights, **Airbus**
10. Catriona Bell, director, metals & mining transition finance, **Standard Chartered Bank**
11. Christian Spano, director, circularity, **Vale Base Metals**
12. Christoph Klein, manager, responsible sourcing of battery minerals- due diligence, **BASF**
13. Colin Church, chief executive officer, **Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining**
14. Daniella Savic, head of international ESG compliance, **Eurasian Resources Group**
15. Davidzo Muchawaya, regional lead for Africa, **Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance**
16. Jared Connors, director, regulatory and sustainability, **Assent**
17. Jan Klawitter, head of international policy, **Anglo American**
18. Jeroen Hoff, chief sustainability officer and head of health, safety, environment and quality, **ConnectBus**
19. Jessica Möttö, responsible value chain manager, **Boliden**
20. Jihye Choi, sustainability manager, **LG Energy Solution**
21. Joël Frijhoff, sustainability due diligence manager, **Ørsted**
22. Joel Watson, head of the international critical minerals team, **UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office**
23. Jonathan Dunn, head of climate, **Anglo American**
24. Kirsty Benham, founder, **Critical Minerals Association**
25. Libbi Lee, chief sustainability officer, SVP sustainable impact, **De Beers Group**
26. Louisa Casson, global project leader, **Greenpeace**
27. Marcin Piersak, executive director, **Alliance for Responsible Mining**
28. Megan Farrell, head of sustainability, **Central Asia Metals**
29. Megan Leahy-Wright, head of responsible sourcing advisory – minerals and metals, **SLR Consulting**
30. Melissa Karadana, purchasing practices programme lead, **Ethical Trading Initiative**
31. Mike Blakeney, head of government and public affairs, **Cobalt Institute**
32. Norman Mukwakwami, global head of responsible sourcing, **Trafigura**
33. Oliver Richards, head of critical minerals and mining, **UK Department of Business and Trade**
34. Phil Bloomer, executive director, **Business & Human Rights Resource Centre**
35. Raj Udayan Ray, managing director, metals & mining research, **BMO Capital Markets**
36. Reza Rahmaditio, critical minerals project lead, **World Resources Institute**
37. Sam Dick, co-director of campaigns, **Global Witness**
38. Simon Maclean, group manager, risk, **First Quantum Minerals**
39. Tim Van Pelt, global lead battery value chain & EV charging, **ING**
40. Vedrana Lemor, head of corporate sustainability, **Aurubis**

## Day 1 – Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November

8.30–9.00 *Arrival and light breakfast*

9.00–9.05 **Opening remarks by Ian Welsh, conference chair, Innovation Forum**

### 9.05–9.45 **Supply gaps, surging demand and political uncertainty: What does it all mean for critical minerals?**

Critical mineral supply chains are at a critical juncture. Demand for key minerals like lithium, cobalt, and rare earths is set to triple by 2030, and quadruple by 2040. However, supply gaps and geopolitical instability threaten to derail growth.

In this opening session, our expert panelists will explore what the future of critical minerals looks like. We'll assess:

- What does this volatility mean for companies across the value chain? Where are the greatest risks and how can these be mitigated?
- How businesses can navigate uncertainty while securing sustainable, long-term access to critical minerals.
- What steps can be taken to unlock the capital needed for project development, in the midst of mineral price fluctuations?
- Skills gap: How to mitigate the risk of skills shortage in our hour of need.

*Speakers:*

- Aidan Davy, co-chief operating officer, **ICMM**
- Catriona Bell, director, metals and mining transition finance, **Standard Chartered Bank**
- Jan Klawitter, head of international policy, **Anglo American**

*Moderated by:* Ian Welsh, publishing director and conference chair, **Innovation Forum**

### 9.45–10.30 **Evolving legislation: How the policy environment will impact business operations and the supply of critical minerals by 2030**

With over 100 new critical minerals policies enacted in just the past couple of years (International Energy Agency) the legislative environment is moving fast. These policy interventions are largely designed to drive a greater supply that is more sustainable and resilient. But strategies and approaches differ significantly across geographies, a major challenge for global businesses.

In this session, we'll unpack how leading businesses are navigating a rapidly shifting regulatory landscape, whilst ensuring compliance is a baseline, not the finish line. Our expert panel will consider:

- An overview of the policy picture, the latest changes and what's expected to come next.
- How business can adapt to stay compliant now and keep ahead of the regulatory curve in the future.
- How enhanced traceability requirements are driving meaningful business action.
- How to ensure regulation drives the right outcomes and impact for the people and environments within the critical minerals supply chain

*Speakers:*

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- Jihye Choi, sustainability manager, **LG Energy Solution**
- Mike Blakeney, head of government and public affairs, **Cobalt Institute**
- Oliver Richards, head of critical minerals and mining, **UK Department of Business and Trade**

*Moderated by:* Ian Welsh, publishing director and conference chair, **Innovation Forum**

10.30-11.00 Networking break

### 11.00-11.45 **An outlook for environmental and human rights: Where do NGOs and activists want to see more progress?**

As the mining industry looks to raise its standards, NGOs and civil society remain critical voices in holding the sector accountable. At the same time, the mining industry's role in the energy transition is undeniable. Certain environmental trade-offs may be inevitable if supply is to keep up with demand. Is this nuance reflected in activist expectations and campaigning? Or is there a disconnect between ambition and idealism vs the reality on the ground?

This session explores what NGOs and campaigning groups consider to be meaningful progress in an industry with a complex and contested role in a low-carbon future.

- Where do activists' priorities lie? What are the biggest risks/sourcing threats?
- Examples that critical voices can cite as signs of progress and best practice.
- How brands and NGOs can create effective partnerships and align on what meaningful improvement looks like.
- What will it take to bridge the disconnect between expectations and realities on the ground?

*Speakers:*

- Louisa Casson, global project leader, **Greenpeace**
- Phil Bloomer, executive director, **Business and Human Rights Resource Centre**
- Sam Dick, co-director of campaigns, **Global Witness**

*Moderated by:* Ian Welsh, publishing director and conference chair, **Innovation Forum**

### 11.45-12.30 **Capitalising on commercial risk: How sustainable procurement can manage risk, drive resilience and deliver business value**

Procurement teams are uniquely positioned to influence upstream practices and are increasingly expected to do so. As supply chain scrutiny intensifies, sustainable procurement is no longer just a compliance exercise. It is a strategic function that can manage risk, enhance resilience, and deliver long-term business value.

This session explores practical pathways that procurement teams can take to shape a more secure and sustainable critical minerals supply chain.

- How procurement can move beyond box-ticking/compliance and toward meaningful supplier engagement on traceability, ethical sourcing and emissions reduction.
- Local content requirements: how to overcome challenges and source locally.
- How procurement can act as a lever to future-proof operations against supply shocks and geopolitical instability.

- Practical examples where a tangible ROI can be linked to responsible and sustainable procurement decisions.

**Speakers:**

- Andrew Jacob, manager, value chain sustainability, **BHP**
- Carrie Claytor, manager, value chain sustainability, **Freeport-McMoRan**
- Christoph Klein, manager, responsible sourcing of battery minerals- due diligence, **BASF**
- Norman Mukwakwami, global head of responsible sourcing, **Trafigura**

**Moderated by:** Bex Hall, founder, **Bex Hall Sustainability**

12.30-13.30 Lunch

**13.30-15.00. Breakout sessions**

At Innovation Forum, we take a unique, participatory learning approach to our breakout sessions. In our breakouts, both our expert panels and attendees contribute to the discussion. Through diverse learning formats, we foster an environment where everyone has a voice.

*\* In the Other Room and Debate room there are no speakers - we'll ask everyone in the room to participate and to contribute their thoughts, experiences, and mistakes. Pre-registration is essential, and spaces are limited.*

<b>Breakouts</b>	<b>Debate room</b>	<b>Other room</b>
<p>CSDDD: Human rights risk mapping, monitoring and effective due diligence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeroen Hoff, chief sustainability officer, <b>ConnectBus</b></li> <li>• Melissa Karadana, purchasing practices programme lead, <b>Ethical Trading Initiative</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Moderated by:</i> Mark Hodge, vice president, <b>Shift</b></p>	<p><b><i>This house believes...</i></b> Consolidating critical mineral standards is a threat to sustainability.</p> <p><i>Moderated by:</i> Ian Welsh, publishing director and conference chair, <b>Innovation Forum</b></p>	<p>From mine to market: Is there an accountability gap in critical mineral supply chains?</p> <p><i>Moderated by:</i> Hanna Halmari, head of conferences, <b>Innovation Forum</b></p>
<p>Building trust and voice: Engaging with communities and workers in the critical minerals supply chain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Davidzo Muchawaya, regional lead Africa, <b>IRMA</b></li> <li>• Adriana Aurazo, VP of environmental, social and sustainability affairs, <b>Southern Peaks Mining</b></li> <li>• Amanda Pienaar, senior consultant, human rights, <b>Ulula</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Moderated by:</i> Ian Welsh, publishing director and conference chair, <b>Innovation Forum</b></p>	<p><b><i>This house believes...</i></b> Traceability is a pipe dream.</p> <p><i>Moderated by:</i> Hanna Halmari, head of conferences, <b>Innovation Forum</b></p>	<p>Supply first, ESG later: Is geopolitical uncertainty just an excuse for inaction?</p> <p><i>Moderated by:</i> Tanya Richard, COO and head of stakeholder engagement and sustainability communications, <b>Innovation Forum</b></p>

15.00-15.30 Networking break

**15.45-16.35 Supply chain realities: sustainability challenges in cobalt and nickel production**

*Two in-depth 25-minute case studies spotlighting sustainability in key producer countries.*

Cobalt sourcing in the DRC - How to navigate high dependency, geopolitical uncertainty and human rights risk

- Jared Connors, director, regulatory and sustainability, **Assent**

Nickel sourcing in Indonesia- An in-depth look at the myths vs the realities

- Alice Lim, head of CEO office and corporate sustainability, **London Metal Exchange**
- Reza Rahmaditio, critical minerals project lead, **World Resources Institute**

**16.35-17.20 Traceability, transparency and trust: What is needed to deliver real systemic change?**

Critical mineral supply chains remain opaque, often obscuring environmental harm and, human rights risks. Traceability is not only a moral imperative, but a strategic advantage. It enables businesses to manage risk, meet rising regulatory demands, secure access to key markets, and build trust with consumers, investors, and civil society.

This session explores the changes needed bring transparency to complex and fragmented supply chains, and how to overcome the biggest roadblocks to doing so.

- The role of technology in enabling traceability, and why it's not enough on its own.
- How to overcome traceability challenges such as data gaps, lack of standardization, informal/artisanal mining.
- What level of traceability is necessary, and what's practical across different tiers of the supply chain?
- Why traceability does not equal transparency and how to build credibility through clear disclosure.
- How to align traceability efforts with global standards and regulatory frameworks.

*Speakers:*

- Anna Krutikov, head of sustainability, **Glencore**
- Daniella Savic, head of ESG compliance, **Eurasian Resources Group**
- Libbi Lee, chief sustainability officer, **De Beers Group**

*Moderated by:* Fanny Fremont, executive director, **Responsible MICA Initiative**

## Day 2 – 6<sup>th</sup> November:

8.00-9.00 *Arrival and light breakfast*

### 9.00-9.30 **A roadmap to circularity: How to increase capacity and uptake in recycled materials to move from pilots to real scale**

*Speakers:*

- Kirsty Benham, founder, **Critical Minerals Association**
- Christian Spano, director of circularity, **Vale Base Metals**

*Moderated by:* Ian Welsh, publishing director and conference chair, **Innovation Forum**

### 9.30-10.00 **Net zero metals: What does a credible roadmap look like amidst surging demand?**

The question of how the mining industry can balance the growing demand for energy transition minerals, while significantly reducing emissions is one that perplexes the industry. To build the sustainable transport, cities and energy infrastructure of the future, we need an estimated 3 billion tonnes of metal (ICMM). Paradoxically, to meet Net Zero by 2050, the mining industry must cut emissions by 90% (Carbon Trust). Can the sector realistically ramp up production while cutting carbon? And if so, what would this actually look like?

- How miners can develop credible net zero strategies that reflect both climate goals and the realities of rising demand.
- The role of science-based targets in engaging the value chain in emissions reductions and maintaining accountability.
- What does progress look like in the short, medium, and long term, and how should companies phase their efforts accordingly?
- How can clearer definitions, standards, and certifications help turn “net zero metals” from a marketing term into a measurable goal?
- The practical steps companies can take to improve visibility and impact of Scope 3 emissions.

*Speakers:*

- Joel Watson, head of the international critical minerals team at International Energy Unit, **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office**
- Jonathan Dunn, head of climate, **Anglo American**
- Vedrana Lemor, head of corporate sustainability, **Aurubis**

*Moderated by:* Reinhardt Arp, manager, net zero transition advisory, **The Carbon Trust**

10.00-10.30 *Networking break*

### 10.30-11.10 **Supplier engagement: How to align actors across the value chain through incentives**

*Speakers:*

- Jessica Möttö, responsible value chain manager, **Boliden**

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[emilia.colman@innovationforum.co.uk](mailto:emilia.colman@innovationforum.co.uk)

- Joël Frijhoff, sustainability due diligence manager, **Orsted**
- Megan Leahy-Wright, head of responsible sourcing advisory, minerals and metals, **SLR Consulting**

*Moderated by:* Ian Welsh, publishing director and conference chair, **Innovation Forum**

### 11.10-11.50 **Collaborating for impact: How consumer brands are raising the bar on supply chain due diligence**

The need for end-to-end visibility has never been more urgent for downstream businesses. Yet a fragmented supply chain means that there is still a lack of reliable insight into upstream risks. This poses the question- how can companies make credible claims on sustainability or compliance when they can't see past tier one? This session explores how brands and OEMs can work with refiners, processors, and smelters to close these gaps.

- Address due diligence blind spots within the manufacturing segment of the supply chain
- Facilitate upstream/downstream knowledge sharing to ensure products are built on responsible sourcing
- Unlock business value: How enhanced due diligence can improve brand reputation, market access and regulatory alignment.
- What further resources are needed to support enterprises aiming to raise the bar on critical minerals supply chain due diligence?
- Evaluate the tools and technologies that are delivering traceability in practice.

*Speakers:*

- Catherine Rushforth, head of human rights, **Airbus**

### 11.50-12.30 **Funding supply gaps: How to leverage public-private finance**

Significant investment is required to meet the predicted surge in critical minerals demand. It is estimated that this could amount to nearly \$1.7 trillion in the next 15 years (Reuters), a sum which traditional commodity financing alone will not cover.

This session explores how a more agile, blended approach to finance can help bridge the supply gap.

- Address the alternative funding needs for different minerals to reflect market fundamentals and challenges
- How exotic instruments can create a win-win scenario for both mineral producers and financial actors.
- What are the opportunities and challenges that come from leveraging concessional capital?
- What measures can be taken to de-risk investment?

*Speakers:*

- Raj Udayan Ray, managing director, metals and mining research, BMO
- Tim Van Pelt, global lead battery value chain and EV charging, ING

*Moderated by:* Ian Welsh, publishing director and conference chair, **Innovation Forum**

12.30-13.30 Lunch



### 13.30-15.10 **Roundtables**

*These roundtable discussions are focused workshops for deeper engagement and learning. The sessions aim to drive innovation and collaborative problem-solving across industries, addressing a range of sustainability challenges head-on. We'll run 2 x 50-min rounds of the below sessions.*

**A.** Deep sea mining: What do we really know about the potential, the trade-offs and the impact?

*Moderated by:* Assheton Stewart Carter, CEO founder, **TDi Sustainability**

**B.** Artisanal mining: What is a pragmatic approach to informal supply?

*Moderated by:* Marcin Piersak, executive director, **Alliance for Responsible Mining**

**C.** Just transition: How to ensure producer countries really benefit from their own resources

*Moderated by:* Catriona Bell, director, metals and mining transition finance, **Standard Chartered Bank**

**D.** Carbon pricing, border adjustments and what it all means for critical minerals

*Moderated by:* Colin Church, CEO, **Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining**

**E.** Nature and biodiversity: What are the right metrics and KPIs to monitor performance?

*Moderated by:* Sebastain Dunnett, programme officer (nature economy), **UNEP**

**F.** Reporting requirements: Are investors and business aligned on material risks and disclosure?

*Moderated by:* Megan Farrell, head of sustainability, **Central Asia Metals**

### 15.10-15.40- **Forward looking predictions: The critical minerals supply chain in 2030**