



BENCHMARK SUMMIT 2026

FINANCING THE
ENERGY TRANSITION

London

BENCHMARK

Tuesday 20th October | 116 Pall Mall

9:00am	Registration & Networking
10:00am	Benchmark Workshop: Battery Demand & Commodities Update • Battery demand outlook • Sector-by-sector breakdown of key raw materials powering the clean energy transition • Zoe Zhang, Senior Analyst - EV & Battery, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence • Adam Webb, Head of Energy Raw Materials, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence • Daisy Jennings-Gray, Head of Prices, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence • Shruti Kashyap, Head of Consulting, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence
11:30am	Interactive Workshop Session: Natural Graphite's Role in Tier-1 Anode Supply • The overlooked anode: why graphite is the supply chain's weak link • Anodes in focus: the next battleground in battery raw materials • Breaking the graphite bottleneck: can the west scale anode supply? • Mark Thompson, Founder & Managing Director, Talga Group • Shruti Kashyap, Head of Consulting, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence
12:00pm	Networking Lunch
1:00 pm	Welcome & Opening Remarks • Adam Panayi, Chief Research Officer, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence
1:10pm	Keynote Presentation: Winning Before EVs: A Faster Path Through Profit-led Adoption • Jorge Diaz Schneider, CEO, ION Energy Systems
1:30pm	Fireside Chat: Unlocking the Smackover with DLE - America's Lithium Permian Opportunity • David Park, CEO, Standard Lithium • Moderated by Adam Webb, Head of Energy Raw Materials, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence
1:50pm	Keynote Presentation: The Texas Smackover: America's Lithium Leviathan • Jeremy Humphers, President and CFO, Galvanic Energy
2:00pm	Panel Discussion: Lithium Supply, Strategy & Innovation: The Next Phase of Global Growth An overview of the lithium market outlook, including supply growth, project development, and evolving market dynamics. • Moderated by Daisy Jennings-Gray, Head of Prices, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence • Ignacio Celorrio, Executive Vice President, Lithium Argentina • Francesco Gattiglio, Vice President External Affairs Europe, Albemarle • Steve Kesler, Non-Executive Chairman, CleanTech Lithium • Jeremy Humphers, President and CFO, Galvanic Energy
2:40pm	Keynote Presentation: Introducing Regional Power Pavilions: Can British industry remain competitive when one of its biggest costs is its least predictable? • Richard Taylor, Director, Pavilion Power
2:45pm	Networking Break



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3:15pm

Fireside Chat: The UK Critical Minerals Strategy

Exploring the UK government's role in supporting critical mineral supply chains

- Oliver Richards, Head of Critical Minerals and Mining (International), **UK Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade**
- Moderated by Daniel Fletcher-Manuel, Director - Indexing & Derivatives, **Benchmark Mineral Intelligence**

3:30pm

Panel Discussion: Investment Landscape & Financing Opportunities

Exploring funding trends, investment strategies, and financing solutions to support battery, EV, and critical minerals projects.

- Moderated by Daniel Fletcher-Manuel, Director - Indexing & Derivatives, **Benchmark Mineral Intelligence**
- Adam Matthews, Chief Responsible Investment Officer, **Church of England Pensions Board**
- Paulo Castellari, CEO, **Appian Capital Advisory**
- Pedro Valle-e-Azevedo, Executive Director, **Siemens Financial Services**
- Graham Lee, Head of Battery Passport, **Global Battery Alliance**

4:10pm

Fireside Chat: From Pilot Mountain to the Pentagon - Financing US Critical Minerals

- Oliver Friesen, CEO, **Guardian Metal Resources**
- Moderated by Luc Braun, Research Analyst, **Benchmark Mineral Intelligence**

4:25pm

Fireside Chat: Rare Earths - Investing in strategic assets and unlocking value

- Kurt Budge, CEO, **Leading Edge Materials**
- Moderated by George Ingall, Senior Analyst - Rare Earths & Battery Minerals, **Benchmark Mineral Intelligence**

4:40pm

Copper Keynote Presentation: Los Azules

- Michael Meding, Managing Director, **McEwen Copper**

4:55pm

Panel Discussion: Copper's Global Demand Outlook

- Moderated by Shruti Kashyap, Head of Consulting, **Benchmark Mineral Intelligence**
- Juan Ignacio Diaz, President & CEO, **International Copper Association**
- James Deckelman, CEO, **Deepsea Minerals**
- Baker Tilney, Co-founder and CFO, **Mariana Minerals**

5:35pm

Closing Remarks & Future Outlook

Key takeaways from the day and a forward-looking perspective on the role of critical minerals in the global energy transition.

- Adam Panayi, Chief Research Officer, **Benchmark Mineral Intelligence**

5:30pm

Networking Reception