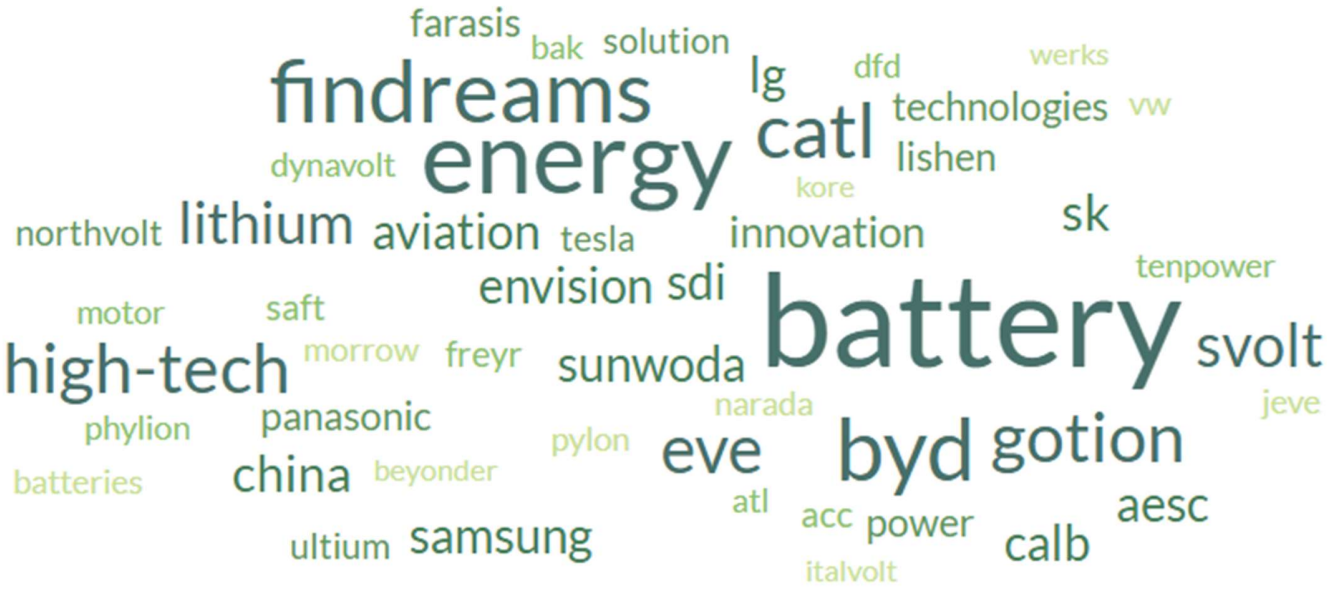


*The newsletter focuses on key areas significant to battery value chain*

Contents

## Raw materials

### 1. CATL Halts Production at Yichun Lithium Mine Amid Expired Permit; Lithium Markets React Strongly

CATL has suspended production at its Jianxiawo lithium mine in Yichun, Jiangxi, after its mining license expired on August 9, 2025. The company is expediting renewal procedures and insists the shutdown will have minimal impact on overall operations, though analysts suggest the stoppage could last at least three months. The mine produces about 65,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate equivalent annually, representing 3–6% of global supply, making the halt highly significant. Lithium futures on China's Guangzhou Futures Exchange hit the daily 8% limit, while spot prices climbed to their highest in months. Shares of lithium producers soared, with Chinese giants Ganfeng and Tianqi Lithium up around 20% and international players like Albemarle, SQM, and Pilbara Minerals jumping between 10–20%. Analysts see the move as aligning with China's broader push to curb overcapacity across industries. Lithium prices, still nearly 90% below their 2022 peaks, could find support from this supply disruption. The market is closely watching CATL's license renewal timeline, as a prolonged suspension could tighten global supply and fuel further price volatility.

### 2. Rock Tech Lithium Secures €250,000 German Grant to Boost Lithium Recovery Efficiency

Rock Tech Lithium has secured about €250,000 in funding from Germany's Federal Ministry for Research, Technology and Space to support its project "ELiSePro – Efficient Lithium Recovery Using Selective Processes." The initiative, based at Rock Tech's Guben converter in Brandenburg, aims to improve lithium yields and reduce losses, strengthening Germany's raw material independence. In collaboration with RWTH Aachen University, the project will test advanced ion-separation techniques such as nanofiltration, capacitive deionization, and lithium-ion sieves. Results will be evaluated for both technological and economic viability, with a view to direct industrial application at the converter. The outcomes are also intended for publication and potential patenting. This marks Rock Tech's third major public grant in recent months, following €800,000 from EIT RawMaterials and CAD 388,000 from Ontario's Critical Minerals Innovation Fund. The Guben converter has additionally been designated strategic under the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act. The new funding highlights Rock Tech's role in pioneering sustainable lithium recovery solutions while supporting Europe's battery supply security.
https://rocktechlithium.com/en/first-european-funding-after-getting-recognition-as-a-strategic-project-rock-tech-receives-funding-to-lead-lithium-refining-innovation-project-by-eit-rawmaterials-2/

### 3. CB&I Wins Major EPFC Contract for Thacker Pass Tanks

CB&I has been awarded a significant engineering, procurement, fabrication, and construction (EPFC) contract by Lithium Nevada LLC—Lithium Americas Corp.'s wholly owned subsidiary—for the installation of 36 flat-bottom atmospheric storage tanks at the Thacker Pass lithium project in northern Nevada. The contract, falling within CB&I's definition of "large," is valued between USD $50 million and $100 million. The tanks are designed to store critical process solutions, chemicals, and products used during lithium extraction and purification. Built using CB&I's proprietary field construction methods, they meet rigorous environmental, seismic, and safety standards. Executed under Bechtel's overall engineering, procurement, and construction management leadership, the project underscores Thacker Pass's role in fortifying U.S. domestic lithium supply chains and reducing reliance on foreign-critical minerals. CB&I's president and CEO emphasized the company's pride in supporting this project of national importance, noting the creation of well-paying construction and operational jobs. Lithium Americas highlighted CB&I's proven global infrastructure expertise and reliability as key to delivering this essential infrastructure component.
https://www.cbi.com/cbi-awarded-contract-by-lithium-nevada-llc-for-thacker-pass/

### 4. Revomet and CNGR Forge Joint Venture to Elevate Battery Recycling in Europe

Revomet GmbH, the battery-recycling subsidiary of Cronimet Group, has entered into a joint venture with CNGR Advanced Material Co. Ltd, under which CNGR will acquire a 25 percent stake in Revomet Bitterfeld GmbH once deal conditions are finalized. The collaboration will operate from the Bitterfeld-Wolfen facility, one of Europe's most advanced sites for battery scrap recycling, focusing on recovering high-purity nickel, cobalt, and lithium for reuse in manufacturing. Revomet brings cutting-edge recycling technologies and processing sites in Bitterfeld-Wolfen, Leipzig, and Karlsruhe, while CNGR contributes deep expertise in precursor cathode active material production and a strong global industry network. Cronimet, as Revomet's parent, adds decades of recycling experience, robust logistics, and European collection infrastructure. The agreement builds

on a Heads of Agreement signed in December 2023 and marks a landmark German-Chinese partnership in Europe's battery industry. Both companies emphasize that the joint venture sets a new benchmark for sustainable value creation across the battery supply chain. The initiative strengthens efforts to close the loop in battery materials, boosts circularity, and reduces reliance on virgin raw materials, reinforcing Europe's position in the global battery recycling landscape.
https://www.cronimet.de/de/assets/templates/cronimet/images/download/pressemitteilungen/pressemeldung-revomet-und-cngr-de.pdf

### 5. Graphite Market Poised for Explosive Growth Over the Next Decade

Global demand for battery-grade graphite is forecast to rise by nearly 600 percent over the next ten years, fueled by the accelerating energy transition and rapid adoption of electric vehicles. Analysts point to growing geographic diversification in mine supply, aimed at reducing reliance on a few dominant producers. However, this diversification does not extend to processing capacity, which remains heavily concentrated in China—expected to control around 80 percent of refined battery-grade graphite through 2035. Trade tensions are intensifying, with U.S. tariffs on Chinese synthetic graphite anodes climbing as high as 160 percent, creating potential supply chain pressures. The U.S., which relies almost entirely on imports for graphite, faces significant vulnerability if supply disruptions occur. Experts warn that such disruptions could trigger a five- to tenfold spike in prices, pushing battery pack costs up by 20 to 50 percent. This, in turn, could slow electric vehicle adoption and impact broader clean energy goals. Drawing from parallels in the rare earth market, a sudden shock in graphite could derail key parts of the clean energy transition.
https://investingnews.com/daily/resource-investing/battery-metals-investing/graphite-investing/graphite-forecast/

## EV's and Batteries

### 6. Leapmotor Expands into Battery-Pack Supply for Commercial Vehicles

Leapmotor, backed by Stellantis, is now supplying self-developed battery packs to commercial vehicle manufacturers—emulating BYD's vertically integrated model. Its subsidiary Lingxiao Energy oversees the design and assembly of these packs, which utilize cells sourced from CATL and other battery suppliers. The company has already secured orders from more than five new-energy commercial vehicle clients and is actively pursuing further partnerships, with Xeazon among the firms in advanced negotiations. CEO Zhu Jiangming announced in July that Leapmotor plans to broaden its in-house development beyond core systems like battery, motor, and controls, to include all high-value components where feasible. Targeting the commercial vehicle segment allows Leapmotor to avoid competitive conflicts inherent in supplying passenger-car rivals, while capitalizing on a market that remains under 20% electrified. Electrification in commercial vehicles surged over 126% year-on-year in H1 2024—so Leapmotor's entrance aligns with strong growth trends and enhances its vertical integration strategy.

https://carnewschina.com/2025/08/07/stellantis-backed-leapmotor-is-following-byds-lead-expanding-into-battery-pack-supply-for-other-manufacturers/

### 7. EU Greenlights Mitsubishi-Bosch JV for EV Battery-Related Services

The European Commission has approved a 50:50 joint venture between Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan and Germany's Robert Bosch GmbH to provide services related to electric vehicle batteries. The new entity, Bosch MC Battery Service Innovations GmbH, will be headquartered in Germany. Regulators determined the JV poses no competition concerns given its limited current market share, and approval was granted under a simplified EU Merger Regulation review. The joint venture will focus on developing and supplying Battery-as-a-Service solutions and consulting, targeting leasing providers, battery swapping operators, fleet managers, energy storage operators, and insurers. Bosch will contribute its Battery-in-the-Cloud monitoring platform to optimize battery performance and lifecycle through data-driven services. Mitsubishi brings its global business reach and expertise in energy and mobility solutions. The partnership aligns with EU ambitions to strengthen the EV ecosystem and accelerate decarbonization. Analysts view the swift approval as a signal of the Commission's willingness to ease regulatory processes for strategic clean-tech ventures. Operational details and rollout timelines are yet to be announced, but the JV is expected to strengthen battery infrastructure and circularity across Europe.

https://www.eunews.it/en/2025/08/13/eu-approves-mitsubishi-bosch-jv-for-ev-battery-related-services/

### 8. CATL Commits $6 Billion to Power Indonesia's Battery-Powered Grid Future

Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Ltd. (CATL) is embarking on a colossal $6 billion investment across Indonesia to build an integrated battery ecosystem—covering the full pack lifecycle from mining to recycling—anchored at its sprawling Karawang facility. This Southeast Asia–leading initiative spans approximately 4,942 acres and is expected to generate over 40,000 direct and indirect jobs. The ambitious project includes a renewable energy circular system designed for ultra-low energy consumption and high-value material regeneration. CATL projects the facility will support annual production of 142,000 tons of nickel, 30,000 tons of cathode materials, and 20,000 tons of processed recycled battery packs while recovering more than 95% of essential metals. Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto underscored the venture's significance for the country's sustainable energy transition, especially amid a surge in electric vehicle uptake. The initiative positions Indonesia to emerge as a global battery industry contender and signals a bold expansion of CATL's influence in the green energy space.

### 9. BlueOval SK Begins Commercial Production of EV Batteries in Kentucky

BlueOval SK, the 50:50 joint venture between SK On and Ford, has officially started commercial production of electric vehicle batteries at its Kentucky 1 plant in Glendale. The first completed battery pack, destined for Ford's F-150 Lightning pickup, rolled off the assembly line, marking a major milestone for the venture. The facility will also produce batteries for Ford's E-Transit electric van. CEO Michael Adams highlighted the achievement as a strengthening of BlueOval SK's role in the EV battery sector. The project, launched in 2022 with a planned $11.4 billion investment, includes two plants in Kentucky and one in Tennessee. Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear described it as the state's largest-ever economic investment, positioning Kentucky as a hub for EV innovation. Although the rollout faced delays due to slower-than-expected EV adoption, the plant now plays a critical role in supporting Ford's electrification strategy. The milestone reflects renewed momentum in U.S. battery manufacturing and efforts to secure domestic supply chains. BlueOval SK also hinted at exploring business opportunities beyond Ford, reinforcing its ambition to grow within the global EV battery market.

https://www.blueovalsk.com/s/BlueOval-SK-Launches-Battery-Production-at-First-Kentucky-Plant.pdf

### 10. Ecobat to Divest Germany & Austria Recycling Operations to Clarios

Ecobat, a global leader in battery recycling, has signed a binding agreement to sell its battery recycling and specialty lead operations in Germany and Austria to Clarios, a leading provider of advanced energy storage solutions. The deal covers Ecobat's facilities in Freiberg and Braubach in Germany, as well as its Arnoldstein site in Austria. According to CEO Tom Slabe, this divestiture, alongside earlier exits from France, Italy, and battery distribution, will allow Ecobat to sharpen its focus on core recycling operations and its rapidly growing lithium-ion battery business. Clarios is expected to ensure continuity, maintaining strong relationships with employees, customers, and suppliers across the region. The company also brings the scale and strategic expertise needed to strengthen these operations. Ecobat is being advised by Rothschild & Co on financial matters, with White & Case providing legal counsel. The transaction is projected to close by early 2026, pending necessary regulatory approvals. This move reflects Ecobat's broader strategy to concentrate on global leadership in sustainable battery recycling and next-generation lithium-ion processing.

https://ecobat.com/2025/08/ecobat-announces-sale-of-germany-austria-operations-to-clarios/

### 11. Porsche to Shut Down Battery Cellforce Subsidiary, Reports Say

Germany's automaker Porsche is reportedly planning to shut down the majority of operations at its battery cell subsidiary, Cellforce Group, located in Kirchentellinsfurt. According to Der Spiegel, the move will result in the layoff of approximately 200 out of the 286 employees at the high-performance cell production facility. At best, only a small research and development unit is expected to remain on-site. Porsche has declined to comment on the reports, but a mass layoff has already been reported to the Reutlingen employment agency. Cellforce was originally established as a joint venture with CustomCells in 2021 but was taken over completely by Porsche in 2023. The decision underscores a sharp reversal in strategy following earlier ambitions to scale up battery cell production under the "Made in Europe" initiative. Employees have been summoned to a town hall meeting scheduled for August 25, where senior Porsche executive Michael Steiner is expected to address the situation. The shutdown highlights growing challenges in pursuing in-house battery manufacturing amid technical and economic pressures.

https://www.euronews.com/business/2025/08/21/germanys-porsche-is-closing-battery-subsidiary-cellforce-reports-say

## Salt and Electrolyte

### 12. POSCO Future M Seals MOU with CNGR to Strengthen LFP Cathode Material Business

POSCO Future M, the battery materials subsidiary of POSCO Holdings, has signed a memorandum of understanding with China's CNGR Advanced Material and its Korean arm, FINO, to expand into the lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cathode materials market. The agreement focuses on developing production capacity and joint marketing for LFP, especially targeting the fast-growing energy storage systems sector. The collaboration will operate through C&P Advanced Technology, a joint venture formed in 2024 in which CNGR holds 51 percent, FINO 29 percent, and POSCO Future M 20 percent. This move diversifies POSCO Future M's portfolio beyond its high-nickel NCMA and NCA cathode products to include lithium-manganese-rich and LFP offerings. LFP batteries, known for safety, long life, and cost-effectiveness, are already dominant in energy storage, with the International Energy Agency reporting that 80 percent of global ESS installations used LFP chemistry in 2023. By entering this market, POSCO Future M aims to align with shifting industry demand, strengthen its competitiveness, and expand its global footprint. While production timelines have not yet been disclosed, large-scale output is expected to follow in the coming years under the joint venture.

https://newsroom.posco.com/en/posco-future-m-pursues-the-lfp-cathode-material-business-for-ess/

## LFP-ESS and Start ups

### 13. Arevon Marks Full Commercial Operation of Major Solar-Plus-Storage Project

Arevon Energy has announced the full commercial operation of its $2 billion Eland Solar-plus-Storage Project near Mojave, California. The facility delivers 758 MWdc of solar power alongside 300 MW/1,200 MWh of battery storage, enough to power more than 266,000 homes annually and cover about 7 percent of Los Angeles's electricity needs. Eland 1 began generating power in late 2024, with Eland 2 now online, bringing the project's total to 1.36 million solar panels and 172 locally manufactured lithium-iron-phosphate battery units. These batteries, produced in California, provide added grid stability during peak demand and extreme heat events while maintaining strong safety records with no fire incidents. Construction of the project supported around 1,000 jobs and is expected to generate over $36 million in tax revenues for local schools, services, and infrastructure. The ribbon-cutting event was attended by Los Angeles city leaders and state officials, highlighting its importance for California's clean energy strategy. The project represents a significant milestone toward the state's goal of 100 percent renewable energy by 2035, pushing Los Angeles closer to a 60 percent renewable share.

https://arevonenergy.com/news/releases/arevon-reaches-full-operations-at-its-2-billion-eland-solar-plus-storage-project-in-california/

### 14. Trina Storage Delivers Egypt's First Utility-Scale Solar-Plus-Storage BESS in Record Time

Trina Storage, the energy storage arm of Trina Solar, has completed Egypt's first utility-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)—a 300 MWh facility linked to AMEA Power's existing 500 MW Abd-yos Solar PV Plant in Aswan—within just two months, beating its scheduled commercial operation date. The project leverages Trina's in-house Elementa 2 platform, delivering a fully integrated solution from LFP battery cells and DC compartments to national grid connection, tailored for Egypt's harsh desert and grid conditions. This milestone enhances grid stability, enabling solar energy to be dispatched beyond sunset and alleviating peak load pressures. Trina emphasizes the rapid delivery as a new regional benchmark for swift and locally adapted storage deployment. AMEA Power lauds the achievement for strengthening Egypt's electricity resilience and advancing its renewable energy ambitions. The project underscores the viability of fast, large-scale energy storage solutions in boosting energy security across the Middle East and North Africa.

https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/companies-news/trina-storage-completes-abydos-bess-project-in-egypt-within-two-months-jgmkv9rl

### 15. Stor-Energy Proposes Massive 3,530 MWh of Battery Storage Across Australia

Stor-Energy, a Sydney-based developer, has filed plans under Australia's federal environmental review process to deliver long-duration battery energy storage systems (BESS) at three separate locations in New South Wales and Queensland. The proposal includes a 150 MW / 730 MWh project in NSW, alongside two neighboring installations at Columboola in southern Queensland: the Columboola West site, sized at 400 MW / 1,600 MWh, and Columboola East at 150 MW / 1,200 MWh. In total, these projects represent up to 3,530 MWh of storage capacity. If approved, they could significantly boost grid flexibility and support integration of renewables across two states. The applications are currently undergoing assessment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2025/08/13/stor-energy-lodges-plans-for-up-to-3530-mwh-of-storage-at-three-sites/

### 16. Trina Storage Ships First 1.2 GWh Tranche for Chile BESS Project

Trina Storage has dispatched the first 1.2 GWh batch of its self-developed, containerized Elementa 2 lithium-iron-phosphate Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to a major project in Chile. Engineered for deployment in Chile's challenging environments—such as the arid Atacama Desert—the Elementa 2 "Desert Solution" ensures robust performance, lower maintenance costs, and fast response to grid fluctuations. This milestone marks Trina's largest overseas standalone energy storage deployment to date. The shipment validates the company's full-lifecycle, vertically integrated solution capabilities, underscoring its strength in engineering, manufacturing, and quality control. It also reinforces Trina Storage's global service network, enabling localized logistics, after-sales support, and compliance with regional standards. The move is a strategic step for supporting Latin America's clean energy transformation and cementing Trina's leadership in gigawatt-scale energy storage solutions.

https://www.batteriesinternational.com/2025/08/15/trina-ships-first-1-2gwh-tranche-for-chile-bess-project/

### 17. Two New Projects Add 1.35 GW of Solar-Battery Capacity to California Grid

Arevon Energy has launched two major solar-plus-storage projects in California, adding 1.35 GW of new capacity with a combined investment of about USD 2.6 billion. The first, the Nighthawk Energy Storage Project near San Diego, will deliver 300 MW/1,200 MWh of lithium-iron-phosphate battery storage at a cost of roughly USD 600 million. Rosendin Electric is serving as EPC contractor, with operations scheduled to begin next year through the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar substation. Meanwhile, Arevon has completed the massive Eland Solar-plus-Storage Project near Los Angeles, featuring 758 MW of solar power and 300 MW/1,200 MWh of storage. Built at a cost of around USD 2 billion, Eland is now one of the largest solar-plus-storage facilities in the United States. Both projects will strengthen California's grid by storing renewable power during off-peak periods and releasing it during high demand, improving reliability and resilience. For Nighthawk, Arevon has introduced advanced safety protocols in collaboration with the Poway Fire Department and engineering experts, following past fire incidents in the industry. Together, these projects advance California's clean energy transition and expand its renewable infrastructure at scale.

https://www.enr.com/articles/61204-two-new-projects-add-135-gw-of-solar-battery-capacity-to-california-grid

### 18. Base Power Aims for $4 Billion Valuation Following $200M Series B

Base Power, a home battery startup founded in 2023 by Zach Dell and Justin Lopas, is targeting a $4 billion valuation after closing a $200 million Series B funding round backed by Andreessen Horowitz (a16z), Lightspeed, and others. Headquartered in Austin, the company provides lithium-iron-phosphate home batteries of 20–30 kWh with minimal upfront cost, offering customers backup power and lower electricity rates through a one-time installation fee and monthly subscription. The batteries are aggregated into a virtual power plant, allowing Base Power to trade energy by charging when prices are low and discharging when prices peak. Since launching in May 2024, installations have grown rapidly from one per week to 20 per day across more than 70 municipalities in Texas, with over 10 MWh deployed in a single summer month. To support scaling, the company is building a factory near Austin to manufacture its own batteries and aims to reach 100 MWh of deployed capacity by mid-2025. Partnerships with Lennar for new homes and Bandera Electric Cooperative for regulated markets are broadening its reach. With discussions underway to raise up to $1 billion, Base Power is positioning itself as a leading vertically integrated, software-driven energy storage provider.

https://techstartups.com/2025/08/22/home-battery-startup-base-power-targets-4b-valuation-after-200m-series-b-backed-by-a16z-and-lightspeed/

### 19. Samsung and LG Compete to Acquire Hitachi's Japanese Home Appliance Unit

Hitachi is reportedly considering selling its domestic home appliance business, which produces washing machines, refrigerators, and air conditioners, as part of its strategy to focus more on social infrastructure and digital sectors. The deal could be valued at around 100 billion yen, or roughly 680 million US dollars. Samsung Electronics has expressed strong interest, eyeing this as an opportunity to re-enter Japan's home appliance market after an 18-year absence. LG Electronics is also seen as a serious contender, looking to strengthen its position in Japan while facing rising competition from Chinese manufacturers. The sale reflects a broader regional strategy to counterbalance China's growing dominance in the appliance industry. For Hitachi, the divestment would streamline its operations, although it may still consider retaining the unit to maintain its brand presence with Japanese consumers. Negotiations are ongoing, and while no final decision has been reached, industry watchers expect this move to reshape Japan's competitive home appliance landscape.

## Anode Active Materials

### 20. U.S. Tariffs on Chinese Graphite Open Door for India's Epsilon

The United States has imposed a 93.5% anti-dumping tariff on graphite anode materials from China, creating a major opening for India's Epsilon Advanced Materials to expand in the U.S. battery supply chain. Epsilon is in advanced talks with Japanese and South Korean battery producers operating in the U.S. and expects to finalize contracts within the next 60–80 days. To seize the opportunity, the company plans a $650 million, 30,000-tonne graphite anode plant in North Carolina, targeted for operation by mid-2027, pending permits and confirmed orders. In parallel, Epsilon is building a larger $1.1 billion facility in Karnataka, India, though demand there has been slowed by cheap Chinese imports. Managing Director Vikram Handa highlighted the urgency of diversifying supply chains away from Chinese dominance. The U.S. market currently requires about 500,000 tonnes of anode material annually, more than 90 percent of which has historically been imported from China. With the new tariffs, Epsilon is strategically positioned to capture a significant share of this growing market.

https://www.reuters.com/business/autos-transportation/us-tariffs-chinese-graphite-spark-opportunity-indias-epsilon-2025-08-20/

### 21. NextSource Secures Graphite Supply Deal with Mitsubishi

NextSource Materials has signed a multi-year offtake agreement with Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation (MCC) to supply approximately 9,000 metric tons per year of intermediate anode active material (AAM), aimed at supporting North American EV battery production. Under the deal, NextSource will produce the material at its Battery Anode Facility (BAF) planned in the UAE, where processing of its high-quality SuperFlake graphite from Madagascar's Molo mine will take place. Mitsubishi will refine the intermediate product at its facility in Japan and supply finished AAM to OEM battery manufacturers in North America. Initial shipments are expected following strict qualification processes in 2026, with full-scale production ramping up in 2027. This agreement marks a significant step in NextSource's vertical integration strategy—aiming to become one of the few China-independent graphite suppliers by managing mining, processing, and supply. The deal also aligns with recent U.S. trade policy, including combined tariffs on Chinese graphite imports that now total around 160%, creating a compelling incentive for diversified supply chains. Technical and economic studies are underway to finalize BAF and mine expansion plans, with discussions ongoing with financial partners to support these investments.

https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/nextsource-pens-graphite-deal-mitsubishi-us-tightens-grip-sector

### 22. Focus Graphite Ships Battery-Grade Samples to U.S. Offtake Prospects

Focus Graphite Advanced Materials has shipped two high-purity graphite samples to prospective offtake partners in the U.S., marking a significant milestone in its commercialization strategy. Developed in collaboration with American Energy Technologies Company (AETC), the samples include (1) a spherical coated natural graphite (CSPG) anode material with over 99.95% purity (D50 ~23.9 µm), and (2) non-spherical graphite fines optimized as a conductive cathode additive for LFP batteries, featuring a particle size (D50 ~3.4 µm) and high surface area (15.8 $m^2/g$). These tailored materials are designed to

meet—and in some cases exceed—industry specs for lithium-ion batteries. The move positions Focus Graphite to become a strategic North American supplier in high-growth segments like renewable energy storage. CEO Dean Hanisch emphasized that providing such industry-grade materials enhances the company's visibility with customers prioritizing local supply chains. This step reflects Focus Graphite's advancement toward integrating into the battery materials ecosystem and advancing its Lac Knife project toward commercial deployment.

https://chargedevs.com/newswire/focus-graphite-ships-battery-grade-samples-to-prospective-us-offtake-partners/

### 23. Louisiana Emerges as a Strategic Hub for Critical Battery Materials

Louisiana is rapidly establishing itself as a U.S. hub for processing critical battery materials such as rare earths, graphite, and electrolyte components. The state already hosts one operational facility, with seven more in development, supported by more than $1 billion in federal and state grants, loans, and tax incentives since 2022. A key project is Ucore North America's rare earth plant at Alexandria's England Airpark, scheduled to start processing by mid-2026 and scale from 3,000 to 12,000 tons annually by 2027. In Vidalia, Syrah Technologies has begun operating the nation's only graphite refining facility capable of producing the 99.5% purity required for batteries, with expansion underway to meet rising demand. The state is also attracting major investments in electrolyte production: UBE Corp. is building a $491 million plant for carbonate solvents, Koura Global is retrofitting a site to produce lithium hexafluorophosphate, Honeywell is expanding into lithium bis(fluorosulfonyl)imide, and Element 25 is developing a manganese sulfate refining facility. Together, these projects mark first-of-their-kind initiatives in the U.S., positioning Louisiana as a cornerstone of the nation's battery materials supply chain.

https://neworleanscitybusiness.com/blog/2025/08/18/louisiana-critical-minerals-battery-production-2025/

### 24. Malawi's Kasiya Project Poised to Disrupt Global Graphite Supply Chain

Local miners in Malawi are strategically positioning themselves to capitalize on shifting dynamics in the global graphite industry. China currently controls approximately 75% of global graphite production and over 97% of anode material processing, raising concerns about supply chain vulnerabilities. In response, Sovereign Metals' Kasiya project emerges as a competitive alternative, with its recent test results demonstrating top-tier graphite quality and cost-efficiency. The U.S. Commerce Department's imposition of a 93.5% anti-dumping tariff on Chinese graphite—creating a de facto 160% barrier—has fundamentally altered the economics for battery manufacturers seeking secure, non-Chinese sources. If fully developed, Kasiya has the potential to become the world's largest and most affordable source of natural flake graphite. Managing Director Frank Eagar highlighted its strategic importance, pointing to the project's scale, long mine life, and technical excellence. This positions Malawi as a growing player in the global push to diversify critical mineral supply chains and strengthen energy security.

https://mwnation.com/local-miners-target-global-supply-chain-shift/

### 25. Graphite One Grants Long-Term Incentive Awards for 2025

Graphite One Inc. has approved a long-term incentive package under its Omnibus Plan for 2025, granting 410,000 stock options, 3,024,730 restricted share units (RSUs), and 2,441,716 performance share units (PSUs) to employees, officers, directors, and consultants. The stock options are priced at $0.81 per share, matching the closing price on August 22, and will vest in three equal tranches with an expiration date of April 14, 2030. RSUs granted to management follow a similar three-stage vesting schedule, while those granted to directors vest half after one year and the rest by September 30, 2026. The PSUs are structured to convert into common shares on April 13, 2028, provided that specific performance goals are met. With these awards, the company now has approximately 161.5 million common shares outstanding, in addition to 12.2 million options, 8.06 million RSUs, and 5.64 million PSUs issued under the plan. The initiative is designed to align incentives for leadership and staff with Graphite One's long-term growth strategy and performance objectives.

https://www.juniorminingnetwork.com/junior-miner-news/press-releases/515-tsx-venture/gph/185978-graphite-one-announces-grant-of-long-term-incentive-awards.html