



Weekly Precious Metals News Articles: October 15, 2021

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Below is a cross section of relevant news article to the world of Precious Metals:

Markets, Supply & Demand, Investment, and Industrial Applications.

Printable PDF version attached. Enjoy-

Gold

- **EXCLUSIVE Banks prepare to scrap LME gold and silver contracts, sources say**
 - A group of banks that partnered with the London Metal Exchange (LME) to launch gold and silver futures in 2017 is preparing to abandon the project after hoped-for volumes did not materialise, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.
 - Such a move would end an attempt by the LME, which dominates industrial metals trading, to capture part of London's bullion market, which is the world's largest with gold worth some \$17 trillion changing hands last year.
 - The LME launched the contracts with partners including Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, who agreed to promote trade in them in return for 50% of revenues generated.
 - The project partners had hoped tightening regulation would push bullion trading in London away from over-the-counter deals between banks and brokers to exchanges, which regulators see as safer and more transparent.
<https://www.reuters.com/business/exclusive-banks-prepare-scrap-lme-gold-silver-contracts-sources-say-2021-10-13/>
- **Gold holds biggest gain since March on persistent high inflation**
 - Gold edged higher on a weaker dollar after its biggest advance in seven months as investors weighed concerns around stubbornly high inflation and the looming reduction in stimulus
<https://www.livemint.com/market/commodities/gold-holds-biggest-gain-since-march-on-persistent-high-inflation-11634213538537.html>
- **Indians are more interested in spending on jewelry this year compared to 2020, says jeweler**
 - Video interview: Ravi Kapoor of Kays Jewels says last year, festivities were halted due to Covid-19. But this year, with the pandemic being relatively under control, Kapoor says he expects more people in India to buy gold.
<https://www.cnbc.com/video/2021/10/14/indians-more-interested-in-spending-on-jewelry-this-year-kays-jewels.html>
- **Soaring energy prices raise concerns about US inflation, economy**
 - Factories and service providers require energy to boost production, but oil and natural-gas supplies are tight.
<https://www.foxbusiness.com/economy/soaring-energy-prices-raise-concerns-about-us-inflation-economy>
- **Gold prices post first gain in 4 sessions to settle at highest in nearly a week**

- “The IMF report has dented the outlook for the U.S. economy, and this has made gold trade attractive once again,” Naeem Aslam, chief market analyst at AvaTrade, told MarketWatch. However, “But the gains may be short lived as we really do not see any major buying pressure backing up the current move.”
<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/gold-prices-head-higher-aim-to-snap-3-session-skid-11634042288?siteid=msnheadlines>

Semiconductor Related Articles (impacting Precious Metals electronics):

- **IC Industry at Heart of Possible China Takeover of Taiwan**
 - *Matt: This is the biggest geopolitical risk of our times in my opinion.*
 - Just how important is the small island nation of 24 million people to the IC industry? Consider the following excerpts from IC Insights’ Global Wafer Capacity 2021-2025 report and the 2021 McClean Report:
 - Taiwan held the largest share of IC industry capacity of any country in the world.
 - Taiwan leading-edge IC capacity (63%), largest of any country in the world.
 - Taiwanese companies hold almost 90% of Taiwan’s total IC capacity.
 - Taiwan holds 22% of the world’s 300mm IC capacity
 - About 80% of Taiwan’s total IC capacity is dedicated to foundry production.

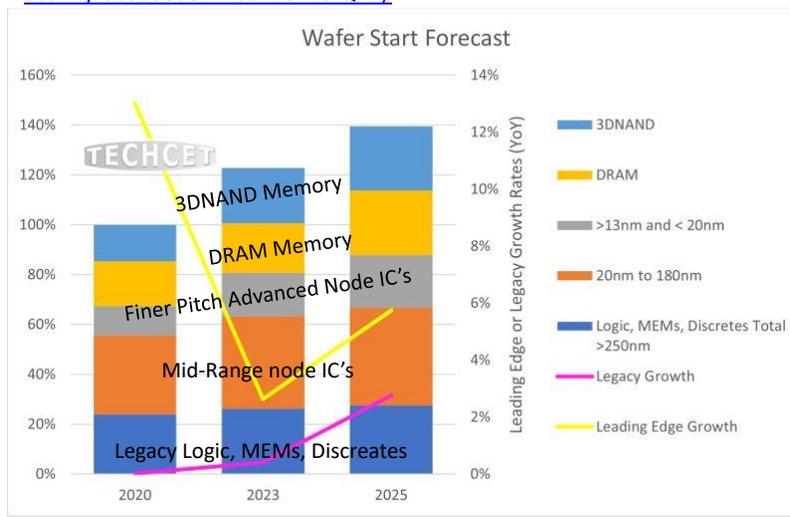
<https://www.icinsights.com/news/bulletins/IC-Industry-At-Heart-Of-Possible-China-Takeover-Of-Taiwan/>
- **Japan's wooing of TSMC pays off with \$7bn chip plant**
 - TSMC looks to build the \$7 billion plant in western Japan's Kumamoto Prefecture in collaboration with Sony Group and other partners. This partnership took a large step forward in 2019 when the University of Tokyo formed an alliance with TSMC.
 - The two sides built a cooperative framework for developing leading-edge semiconductors that will be used for artificial intelligence. TSMC offered its prototyping service, and the University of Tokyo tapped the company's platform for designing chips. The pair exchanged technician’s expert in cutting-edge areas of materials science, physics and chemistry.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Tech/Semiconductors/Japan-s-wooing-of-TSMC-pays-off-with-7bn-chip-plant>
- **PC Shipments Ride Supply Roller Coaster**
 - Anyone shopping for a home appliance inevitably realizes their preferred brand is likely out of stock, forcing consumers to settle for what they can find, where and when they can find it.
 - Ongoing supply chain disruptions are preventing PC makers, for example, from meeting steady demand for notebooks, desktops and workstations. While the sector has registered a 9% CAGR since the onset of the pandemic, computer vendors remain unable to meet demand expected to spike again during the holidays.

<https://www.eetimes.com/pc-shipments-ride-supply-roller-coaster/#>
- **Rising Fortunes For ICs In Health Care**
 - Semiconductors are increasingly finding their way into a variety of medical devices, after years of slow growth and largely consumer electronics types of applications.
 - Nearly every major chipmaker has a toehold in health care these days, and many are starting to look beyond wearable such as the Apple Watch to devices that can be relied on for accuracy and reliability. Unlike in the past, these chips also are being developed at relatively advanced processes, several generations behind the leading edge so that the processes have matured sufficiently.

<https://semiengineering.com/rising-fortunes-for-ics-in-health-care/>
- **Apple set to slash iPhone production**

- CHIP CRUNCH: Apple's woes show that even the king of the technology world is not immune from global shortages made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic
<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/biz/archives/2021/10/14/2003766062>
- **America's defense grade FPGA chips rely on a single-source subcontractor**
 - Defense-grade FPGA chips are used in electronic control systems to keep warfighters flying in order to defend the Free World. It is little known outside of the small circle of major chip makers, who are responsible for providing defense grade Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGA), that said ruggedized FPGA with solder columns are assembled by a tiny monopoly subcontractor with the approval of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). The potential for a catastrophe is real should this single-source subcontractor fail to deliver.
<https://www.topline.tv/MEPTEC3.html>
- **Techcet LinkedIn Posting: Chip Demand Riding High but for How Long? Materials Capacity Constraints on the rise with possible correction in 2023**
 - Leading-edge device wafer starts are growing in excess of 12% in 2021. Wafer suppliers and other process materials companies are challenged to meet demand from chip fabricators worldwide. Complaints are heard from lead-time increases in nearly every material market segment, including wafers, targets, wet chemicals, and equipment consumables, among others. Lead-times of equipment consumables are at an all-time high, increasing 50% to 100% in most cases; some delivery lead-times are exceeding 9 months as opposed to 1-2 months on Ceramics and Silicon Parts.
https://www.linkedin.com/posts/techcet-group-llc_semiconductorindustry-waferstart-chipdemand-activity-6853386622730428416-QJYr/



Silver

- **Silver Price Forecast – Silver Markets Recover After Initial Selloff**
 - Silver markets have pulled back a bit during the course of the trading session on Friday but then turned around to show signs of life again by the end of the day.
<https://www.fxempire.com/forecasts/article/silver-price-forecast-silver-markets-recover-after-initial-selloff-2-788690>
- **Silver Price Forecast – Silver Markets Go Parabolic**
 - Silver markets have rallied significantly during the trading session on Wednesday to reach above the shooting star from last week. That is a very bullish sign honestly, and it is likely to send this market looking towards the 50 day EMA. That of course is a significant indicator that a lot of people pay attention to, so breaking above that would send silver much higher in my estimation. That being said,

pay close attention to the \$24 level, it has been a major resistance barrier. Clearing that makes this market more “buy-and-hold.”

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/silver-price-forecast-silver-markets-160904168.html>

Precious Metals Mining:

- **Tharisa achieves record quarterly output**
 - PGMs and chrome concentrate producer Tharisa reports that its Tharisa mine, in the North West, achieved its highest production ever during the quarter ended September 30.
 - PGM output for the quarter increased to 43 700 oz of platinum, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, iridium, osmium and gold (6E), compared with the 39 000 oz of 6E produced in the June quarter. Output was also higher than the 40 500 oz of 6E produced in the September 2020 quarter.
<https://www.miningweekly.com/article/tharisa-achieves-record-quarterly-output-2021-10-12>
- **Is South Africa at the core of our sustainable energy future?**
<https://www.miningreview.com/energy/is-south-africa-at-the-core-of-our-sustainable-energy-future/>
- **Barrick's gold output rises nearly 5% sequentially on Argentine mine boost | Reuters**
 - Miner Barrick Gold Corp, on Thursday reported a nearly 5% rise in third-quarter gold production from the previous three months, as output jumped at its Veladero mine in Argentina.
 - Barrick, the world's second-largest gold miner by reserves, also reiterated its annual output forecast, saying that fourth-quarter production was set to be the strongest of the year.
<https://www.reuters.com/business/barrick-third-quarter-gold-output-rises-nearly-5-sequentially-2021-10-14/>
- **Hecla Mining Q3 Silver Production Declines; Gold Production In Line - Quick Facts | Nasdaq**
 - Hecla Mining Company (HL) reported silver production of 2.7 million ounces for the third quarter, down 24% year-on-year due to lower grades at Greens Creek based on mine sequencing, partially offset by Lucky Friday production. Gold production was 42,206 ounces, in line with prior year.
<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/hecla-mining-q3-silver-production-declines-gold-production-in-line-quick-facts-2021-10-12>

E-Waste & Precious Metals Recycle Related:

- **SolarRecycle website launches**
 - Recycling incentives are poorly aligned at present, but this dynamic appear to be shifting. For example, analysts at NREL have modeled a current average recycling cost of \$28 per module, repairs at \$65 per module World’s E-Waste Heavier than China’s Great Wall |, and landfilling at only \$1.38 per module.
 - Solar panel recycler Cascade Eco Minerals (CEM) told pv magazine that the market has pushed recycling costs down as more panels reach the end of their serviceable lives. It said that the current rate is about \$0.35 per pound. That mean a typical 72-cell module weighing 50 pounds would cost roughly \$17.50 to recycle. The company said much of this cost reduction has occurred in the last 12 to 18 months, and rising economies of scale should continue to shrink costs.
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2021/10/13/solarrecycle-website-launches/>
- **Top 5 Growth Opportunities in the Global E-waste Recycling Market**
 - Of the 53.5 MMT of E-waste generated in 2020, 78.0% remains uncollected and undocumented, raising concerns on human and environmental safety. In addition to factors such as improved standard of living, rise in disposable income, urbanization and industrialization, development and access to low-cost products, coupled with shorter product lifecycles, are factors contributing to mounting E-waste volumes. As we move towards a new era of digitalization and IIoT with increased dependency on electronic devices and connectivity, stakeholders across the value chain should focus mainly on reusing and recovering resources as well as ensure environmental safety.
<https://menafn.com/1102969231/Top-5-Growth-Opportunities-in-the-Global-E-waste-Recycling-Market>

- **World's E-Waste Heavier than China's Great Wall**
 - This year's mountain of waste electronic and electrical equipment is expected to total about 57.4 million mt, a weight greater than that of the Great Wall of China, Earth's heaviest built object.
<https://ens-newswire.com/worlds-e-waste-heavier-than-chinas-great-wall/>
- **Recently signed (California) recycling-labeling law impacts electronics**
 - Under the bill's requirements, products not collected through curbside programs need to achieve specific recycling rates before manufacturers can communicate recyclability to consumers. Products in this category, which includes all electronics, need to meet a 60% recycling rate to be considered "recyclable."
 - Legislated e-scrap programs cover certain display devices in California, and the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) has data on collection figures for those covered devices. But for other electronics, such as mobile phones, laptops and numerous other device types, the state generally doesn't maintain collection data.
https://resource-recycling.com/e-scrap/2021/10/14/recently-signed-recycling-labeling-law-impacts-electronics/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=internal&utm_campaign=Oct+14+ESN

Platinum

- **WPIC: Quantifying the impact of semiconductor constraints**
 - Uncertainty regarding the global semiconductor shortage increases downside risk for automotive demand for all PGMs. However, our analysis suggests that automaker efforts to protect higher margin product lines protects platinum demand more than palladium.
https://www.sbma.org.sg/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/WPIC_Platinum_Perspectives_September_2021-Quantifying-the-impact-of-semiconductor-constraints.pdf
- **Market recognising higher likelihood of platinum deficit than surplus in years ahead – WPIC**
 - Right now, the market is recognising the higher likelihood of platinum being in deficit rather than in surplus in the mid-term years ahead, said World Platinum Investment Council (WPIC) research director Trevor Raymond on Thursday.
 - Raymond expects pent-up consumer demand for vehicles to reduce any surplus, along with the substitution of platinum for palladium, which he describes as being "very material".
<https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/market-recognising-higher-likelihood-of-platinum-deficit-than-surplus-in-years-ahead-wpic-2021-10-14>
- **WPIC: Platinum & Glass - Sustained strong growth in platinum demand from glass industry capacity expansion in 2021**
 - The latest full year forecast for 2021 anticipates 69% growth in demand for platinum from the glass industry, rising to 658 koz from 391 koz in the previous year. As a proportion of overall industrial demand for platinum, glass is set to contribute 9% in 2021, compared to 6% in 2020.
 - Matt: Not stated in this analysis is the fact that Rhodium loadings have drop dramatically, being replaced with increasing oxides to create the bonding Rh previously provided. Instead of 74:26 Pt:Rh ratio's the glass market is now at a 98:2 or less Pt:Rh ratio. Some of this volume increase in Platinum glass demand is simply the same volume of materials requirements with a different ratio.
https://platinuminvestment.com/files/sixtysecs/WPIC_60seconds_Platinum_and_glass_13102021.pdf

Fuel Cells/Hydrogen Economy Related Articles:

- **HyPoint and BASF to create fuel cell membrane for far more powerful system**
 - The companies are taking aim at a hydrogen system with 50 percent more power than current models.
https://www.hydrogenfuelnews.com/fuel-cell-membrane-hypoint/8548725/?mc_cid=20ceaded5d&mc_eid=70c1246d58

- **Tesla unveils new structural battery pack with 4680 cells in Gigafactory Berlin tour - Electrek**
 - Matt: They look like 4,680 D-sized batteries encased in the floorboards of your Tesla.. Must see for those in the LiB production or recycle space. Take a look at the image inside. <https://electrek.co/2021/10/10/tesla-unveils-new-structural-battery-pack-with-4680-cells-gigafactory-berlin/>
- **Hyundai North America joins Shell Hydrogen's Project Neptune to grow hydrogen refueling infrastructure in California**
 - Project Neptune seeks the construction of 48 additional and two upgraded hydrogen refueling stations across the state beginning in 2021. <https://www.greencarcongress.com/2021/10/20211009-neptune.html>
- **Hyundai Mobis investing \$1.1B in 2 new hydrogen fuel cell system plants in Korea**
 - Hyundai Mobis will invest US\$1.1 billion (KRW 1.3 trillion) in two new fuel cell plants in Korea to accelerate the hydrogen economy and to secure broader global market dominance. The new plants will start mass production in the second half of 2023. When fully operational, the facilities are expected to produce 100,000 hydrogen fuel cells every year. <https://www.greencarcongress.com/2021/10/20211009-mobis.html>
- **Hydrogen can play key role in US decarbonization**
 - A Q&A with Berkeley Lab scientists on how hydrogen can help achieve net-zero emissions
 - DOE/LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY <https://techxplore.com/news/2021-10-hydrogen-key-role-decarbonization.html>
- **Macron says France to have mini nuclear reactor, green hydrogen plants by 2030 | Reuters**
 - "We must be a leader in green hydrogen by 2030," Macron said in a speech.
 - Macron said that Europe will never have enough renewable energy capacity to produce sufficient green hydrogen for mobility, and that France's nuclear plants are a major asset for producing green hydrogen via electrolysis. <https://www.reuters.com/business/sustainable-business/macron-says-france-have-mini-nuclear-reactor-green-hydrogen-plants-by-2030-2021-10-12/>
- **Anglo American to build 'green hydrogen valley' in South Africa**
 - The company has identified three hubs that will play a fundamental role in integrating hydrogen into South Africa's economy and establishing the country as a "strategically important centre for green hydrogen".
 - These include Johannesburg, extending to Rustenburg and Pretoria; Durban and nearby Richards Bay; and Limpopo province centred around Anglo American's Mogalakwena platinum group metals (PGM) mine.
 - These hubs will host nine pilots to launch the 'hydrogen valley' project and test green H₂ potential to power the mining, construction, transportation and other industrial sectors. <https://www.miningmagazine.com/processing/news/1419323/anglo-american-to-build-green-hydrogen-valley-in-south-africa>
- **Nuclear hydrogen to receive \$20 million from US Department of Energy**
 - The United States Department of Energy (DOE) has announced that it will be pouring \$20 million in funding into a nuclear hydrogen project intended to demonstrate technology that will cleanly produce H₂ from this form of power.
 - The DOE is looking at nuclear hydrogen as a way to produce H₂ using a form of electricity that does not produce carbon emissions. This will also represent a meaningful product for nuclear plants to produce aside from electricity. <https://www.hydrogenfuelnews.com/nuclear-hydrogen-doe-funding/8548697/>
- **Nikola making plans for hydrogen fueling infrastructure**

- Nikola Motor is forging partnerships to develop and install hydrogen fueling infrastructure in North America. The aspiring manufacturer of fuel cell trucks has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with OPAL Fuels. Nikola also announced a strategic collaboration with TC Energy aiming to install 'Hydrogen Hubs'.
<https://www.electrive.com/2021/10/10/nikola-making-plans-for-hydrogen-fueling-infrastructure/>
- **Hydrogen Fuel Cell Day News Toyota Mirai Goes 845 Miles Zero Emissions**
 - The 2021 Toyota Mirai has officially set the GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS title for the longest distance by a hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle without refueling. The Mirai achieved an unprecedented 845 miles driven on a single, five-minute complete fill of hydrogen during a roundtrip tour of Southern California as it set the record. Recently selected by Ward's Automotive as a 10Best Engine & Propulsion Systems winner, the Toyota Mirai's record sets a new distance milestone for zero emission vehicles.
<https://www.autoconnectedcar.com/2021/10/hydrogen-fuel-cell-day-news-toyota-mirai-goes-845-miles-zero-emissions/>

Palladium

- **Nornickel slashes forecast for palladium market deficit**
 - Nornickel, supplier of around 44% of the global palladium needs, currently expects a deficit of 0.2 million-0.3 million ounces in 2021 and 0.3 million ounces in 2022, said Anton Berlin, Nornickel's head of sales. The company previously forecast a global deficit of 0.9 million ounces in 2021 and 0.7 million ounces in 2022 after it cut its own production forecast due to flooding at two of its mines.
<https://www.mining.com/web/nornickel-slashes-forecast-for-palladium-market-deficit/>
- **Palladium Prices See Technical Rebound as Dollar Continues Rally**
 - Monday's trading session saw the dollar gain strengthen as investors expect the Federal Reserve to follow through with its stimulus tapering measures. As a CNBC report noted, "Palladium advanced 1.6% to \$2,110.93 per ounce, with analysts attributing the bounce to short-covering after recent declines, while platinum was last down 1.8%, to \$1,008.17, after hitting a 2-month peak earlier."
<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/palladium-prices-see-technical-rebound-as-dollar-continues-rally-2021-10-12>

PGM Minor Metals (Rhodium, Iridium, Ruthenium, Osmium)

- **Iridium/Platinum Catalyst: Technip Energies Awarded India's Largest PEM Based Hydrogen Project by NTPC**
 - Technip Energies (PARIS:TE) has been awarded an Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Commissioning (EPCC) contract by NTPC for its Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) Based Hydrogen Generation Plant project at Vindhyachal, Madhya Pradesh, India.
 - The EPCC contract covers the delivery of a 5 MW Hydrogen Generation Plant using Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) Electrolysis technology at a Super Thermal Power station. This project is suited for a large scale green hydrogen production facility as power to Electrolyzer can be replaced with renewable electricity in the future.
<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/technip-energies-awarded-india-largest-050000039.html>
- **Monash/Hokkaido team produces diesel blend fuel via CO2 hydrogenation in methanol over new catalyst - Green Car Congress**
 - Researchers from Monash University and Hokkaido University have developed a method to produce dimethoxymethane, a diesel blend fuel currently of great research interest, via CO2hydrogenation in methanol over a novel ruthenium-based catalyst. DMM thus produced could be used as a fuel in a conceptual circular carbon cycle when produced using direct-air-capture CO2 and green hydrogen.
<https://www.greencarcongress.com/2021/10/20211008-monash.html>

Clean Energy General News (New Section)

- **Group seeks mining rules and support for recycling**
 - A coalition of Native American tribes and environmental activists are petitioning the federal government for stricter regulations on metals mining and more support for e-scrap recycling.
 - The group sent a petition in September to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), which regulates mining activities. The petition asks the department to draft and pass new regulations on hardrock mining on public lands to protect the environment and human health.
 - Matt: More Not In My Back Yard (NIMBA) regulatory hurdles increasing mining timelines.
https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2021/10/12/group-seeks-mining-rules-and-support-for-recycling/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=internal&utm_campaign=Oct+12+RR
- **Australia urged to add value to critical minerals bonanza**
 - Australia must go beyond exporting raw critical minerals and focus on adding more value if it wants to capitalise on potential identified by the International Monetary Fund this week, says the proponent of a domestic battery materials refinery.
 - The IMF identified Australia as one of four nations that could enjoy an extra 1 per cent growth in gross domestic product building on critical mineral exports if the world achieved net zero emissions by 2050.
<https://www.afr.com/companies/mining/australia-urged-to-add-value-to-critical-minerals-bonanza-20211013-p58zo8>
- **Kamoa-Kakula's (DRC) Phase 2 expansion, doubling production to over 400,000 tonnes of copper per year, ahead of schedule and now on track to begin full operations in Q2 2022**
<https://ivanhoemines.com/news/2021/kamoa-kakulas-phase-2-expansion-doubling-production-to-over-400-000-tonnes-of-copper-per-year-ahead-of-schedule-and-now-on/>
- **Two Norway wind farms lose licence in landmark ruling over indigenous rights**
 - Norway's supreme court stripped two wind farms of their operating licences on Monday in a case that could boost the legal rights of the country's indigenous Sami people.
 - Reindeer herders in Norway argue the sight and sound of wind turbines frighten animals grazing nearby and thus jeopardise age-old traditions, and that land should not be expropriated for such projects. 151 wind turbines should be dismantled.
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/two-norway-wind-farms-lose-licence-in-landmark-ruling-over-indigenous-rights/ar-AAPntWF?ocid=BingNewsSearch>
- **IEA: Greater global effort is needed to reach net zero**
 - Ahead of the COP26 conference beginning in Glasgow later this month, the International Energy Agency this week published its World Energy Outlook report for 2021. While it expects rapid growth in renewable energy, the report finds that, on top of currently stated policies, annual energy transition-related investments would need to reach US\$4 trillion annually by 2030.
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2021/10/13/iea-greater-global-effort-is-needed-to-reach-net-zero/>
- **Energy transition to benefit nickel, copper prices in long-term**
 - The energy transition is set to benefit nickel and copper in the long-term, with the demand-side to be boosted by rising electric vehicle sales and related battery demand, panel participants at the LME Week Seminar held Oct. 11.
<https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/energy-transition-to-benefit-nickel-copper-prices-in-long-term/>
- **Cement Makers Commit to Large Emissions Reductions by 2030 – Mother Jones**
 - Cement makers around the world have pledged to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by up to a quarter this decade and reach net zero by 2050, in a move they said would make a major difference to the prospects for the Cop26 climate summit.

- The industry is responsible for about 7% to 8% of global carbon dioxide emissions, the equivalent of more than any individual country except China and the US. Cutting emissions from cement production is difficult, because the chemical processes used to make it and concrete release CO₂.
<https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2021/10/cement-makers-commit-to-large-emissions-reductions-by-2030/>

BEV / LiB Battery Market News

- **EV battery maker CATL plans \$5-billion China recycling facility**
 - Contemporary Amperex Technology Co Ltd plans to build a battery material recycling facility in the central Chinese province of Hubei with an investment of up to 32 billion yuan (\$4.96 billion), the electric-vehicle battery maker said on Tuesday.
<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/ev-battery-maker-catl-plans-5-billion-china-recycling-facility-2021-10-12/>
- **Europe's carmakers face raw material bottleneck for EV batteries**
 - Major carmakers like Volkswagen, Daimler and Stellantis have been racing to secure battery cell supplies in Europe, but may face a bigger challenge as they seek to go electric - finding enough battery raw materials.
 - Failure to obtain adequate supplies of lithium, nickel, manganese or cobalt could slow the shift to electric vehicles (EVs), make those vehicles more expensive and threaten carmakers' profit margins.
 - "There is a serious question as to whether supply can keep up with demand across the battery supply chain," says Daniel Harrison, an auto analyst at Ultima Media.
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/europes-carmakers-face-raw-material-bottleneck-for-ev-batteries/ar-AAPsFz4?ocid=uxbndlbing&pfr=1>
- **Tesla inks multi-year nickel supply deal with Prony**
 - Tesla has inked a multi-year nickel supply deal with New Caledonia's Prony Resources, which guarantees the US carmaker about 42,000 mt of the metal needed to produce the batteries that power its EVs. Prony, which bought the loss-making nickel and cobalt operations in the French territory from Vale earlier this year, said it's targeting production of 44,000 mt of nickel by 2024. That's about double the expected 2021 output.
<https://www.mining.com/tesla-inks-multi-year-nickel-supply-deal-with-prony/>
- **Lithium Stocks Are Jumping as California Says RIP to Gas Lawn Mowers**
 - Lithium stock investors owe thanks to California Gov. Gavin Newsom. Last weekend, the Democratic governor signed into law a ban on the sale of new lawn mowers and other off-road equipment with small gas-powered engines, to take effect as early as 2024. This law should increase demand for lithium, as we'll explore in a moment.
https://www.fool.com/investing/2021/10/14/lithium-stocks-california-ban-gas-lawn-mowers/?source=eptmsmlnk0000001&utm_source=msnrss&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=article
- **Nickel shortage spells trouble for EVs**
 - The auto industry's move to electric cars could encounter hiccups caused by a shortage of nickel — one of the most widely used minerals for EV batteries — as soon as 2026, according to research from consultancy Rystad Energy.
 - Discussions about electric vehicles' appetite for raw materials have tended to overlook nickel, focusing more on the supply challenges and societal impacts of cobalt and lithium.
 - Yet according to Rystad's timelines, nickel could be one of the first battery minerals to experience shortages. By 2024, global demand for nickel will have risen from 2.5 million tons to 3.4 million tons, surpassing supplies, the group said.
<https://www.eenews.net/articles/nickel-shortage-spells-trouble-for-evs-report/>
- **Nickel could soon be a US critical mineral – and this expert says we'll need to find another 1.5mt, quickly**

- Driven by the global push towards electric vehicles (EV) and the movement towards high-nickel cathode, Blackstone Minerals managing director Scott Williamson said at Australia's Nickel Conference in Perth last week that as an industry, explorers "need to find, discover and develop 1.5 million tonnes of nickel to feed the demand that is coming."
<https://stockhead.com.au/resources/nickel-could-soon-be-a-us-critical-mineral-and-this-expert-says-well-need-to-find-another-1-5mt-quickly/>

Regards –