4 A Few Words From Michel Tasch of FirstAlloys
6 Exciting News From NHQ
8 Digging Through The Archives
9 Metals Industry Update

TRUMP'S MINING BOOST

BY PAUL HARRIS



US President Donald Trump is increasing his support for the mining sector through a raft of executive orders to boost domestic production of critical minerals, including invoking the 1950 Defense Production Act to facilitate domestic mineral production.

The President began his administration in January with a clear statement of intent with the Unleashing American Energy executive order, giving a clear directive to US federal agencies to expedite permitting to secure domestic production of critical minerals.

His actions have seen state governors in mining states play their part, such as Idaho Governor Brad Little signing an executive order for the Strategic Permitting, Efficiency, and Economic Development Act (SPEED). This creates a Council comprised of Idaho state agency directors to streamline collaboration across state agencies and expedite the review of state permits for development projects.

Even Canada is getting in on the act, as Prime Minister Mark Carney announced a "one project, one review" policy to eliminate duplicate permitting requirements for infrastructure projects, including mine developments, and announced the creation of the First Mile Fund, a new capital fund to finance the construction of transmission and transportation networks linking extraction sites to existing infrastructure, which would benefit mining projects in remote locations, and reduce their capital costs.

Trump's most recent order, Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production, goes further and aims to boost domestic production of minerals, including uranium, copper, potash, and gold, as well as those identified by the chair of the National Energy Dominance Council (NEDC), which was NEDC was created in February with a mandate to boost US oil and gas production, lithium, copper and other minerals. Its chair is former Newmont executive David Copley, who became the first senior official to oversee federal mining policy since the Bureau of Mines was closed in 1996.

"The US was once the world's largest producer of lucrative minerals, but overbearing Federal regulation has eroded our nation's mineral production. Our national and economic security is now acutely threatened by our reliance upon hostile foreign powers' mineral production. It is imperative for our national security that the US take immediate action to facilitate domestic mineral production to the maximum possible extent," said the order.

Under the order, projects with a plan of operations and a pending permit application can be submitted to NEDC and may be prioritised for immediate approval. The head of each executive department and agency involved in the mineral production permit must provide the NEDC chair with a list of projects where permit applications have been submitted and identify priorities for immediate approval.

> Next Page

© 2025 SiC & More. All Rights Reserved.

> Continued from front page

Project developers of minerals across the Periodic Table have been quick to praise Trump's decisive action, and the share prices of many have increased substantially in recent weeks as renewed confidence comes to the sector.

"It is a very dynamic and fluid situation under the Trump administration. The Administration is putting great effort into addressing the US need to improve the production of critical minerals, including copper, to secure US supply chains. We are in a world where the US needs metals to support transportation, energy, and technology initiatives," Ivanhoe Electric chief executive Taylor Melvin told **SiC & More**.

Precious and base metals developers are also reviewing their geological databases for any trace of a critical mineral, which could help accelerate permitting and possibly provide access to federal funds.

While predating Trump, Perpetua Resources owes the permitting of its Stibnite gold project in Idaho to its antimony byproduct, a flame retardant that also has defense applications, which has seen the company receive federal tax credits under Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act and Defense Production Act (DPA) grants.

Trump's actions are a reaction to what he perceives as China's market stranglehold on many critical minerals, from rare earth elements, antimony, graphite and tungsten to lithium. China flexed its muscles in February with an announcement that it would restrict exports of tungsten, tellurium, bismuth, indium and molybdenum. This led defense organization NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to produce its own list of 12 minerals it deems critical to the production of advanced defense systems and equipment.

Tungsten stocks, like Almonty Industries are flying, and the company appointing General Gustave Perna to its board as CEO Lewis Black was spending so much time in Washington.

Trump's actions double down on other actions by the Biden administration, such as the December 2024 decision to impose a Section 301 import tariff of up to 25% on some tungsten products, which means the US Department of Defense cannot use tungsten from China, Russia or North Korea from 2026 onwards. "Biden put tariffs on to protect an industry that doesn't exist in the US. We have no idea who was calling for these tariffs, and it seems to be done to elicit a response, a warning shot across the bows," Black told **SiC & More.**

Copper

The copper price is popping, too, as Trump threatens to impose a specific 25% tariff on imports, although imports from Mexico and Canada are already subject to a 25% general tariff on imports from those countries.

The copper spot price has jumped to $4.50/lb and futures over $5 in recent weeks, while a 55c/lb price arbitrage has opened between the Comex and London Metal Exchange prices as copper floods into the US upon consumer fears that the red metal may get more expensive and more difficult to obtain in the future. "Production is going to the US because its price is higher. The rest of the world has less copper, and prices are rising, but not as fast," Juan Ignacio Guzmán, chief executive of Chile's GEM Mining Consulting, told **SiC & More**.

Copper occupies an uncertain place in US critical minerals dialogue. It is on the list maintained by the US Department of Defense but not of the Department of Interior or the US Geological Survey, which meant copper projects were not eligible for funding under the US Inflation Reduction Act. However, copper developers view Trump's March 20 executive order that invoked the 1950 Defense Production Act as positive. "Yesterday's news is very important for the US mining industry. It is good to have the tailwind of US government support for mining," said Melvin.

Trump is particularly focusing on projects in Alaska and instructed federal agency heads to revoke, rescind or revise regulations inconsistent with resource development in the state. This places a moratorium on the rejection by the Biden administration of the right-of-way permit Trump granted in 2020 to Trilogy Metals' 211-mile Ambler Access

© 2025 SiC & More. All Rights Reserved.

> Continued from Page 2

Project, an industrial road from the Upper Kobuk mineral projects to the Dalton Highway.

Department of Interior Secretary Doug Burgum subsequently signed orders to include "steps to expedite the permitting and leasing of energy and natural resource projects in Alaska, including the rights-of-way and easements for roads that enable this development to occur.

"Recent actions taken by president Trump and Secretary Burgum signal a positive path forward for the Ambler road. This transportation corridor is crucial not only for providing access to the minerals that are vital to US national security and prosperity but also for much-needed economic growth and job creation in Alaska," said Trilogy Metals CEO Tony Giardini.

The pinch of salt to Trump's positive executive orders for budding US copper producers is that even with expedited permitting and federal funding, most projects will not be able to produce metal or minerals in the near term, subsequent administrations could revisit Trump's decisions, and lawyers could have a field day challenging the legality of everything.

"The US can add 50% to its copper production in five-to-six years, but this won't be enough to self-supply. Even with fast permits, the impact in the local industry will not be before 2030; the US will still require imports," said Guzmán.

Another Trump measure has garnered less attention in the broad media but will impact US mineral importers and exporters: a fine on Chinese-flagged or built ships in an attempt to stimulate US shipbuilding. This is already impacting US coal and agricultural exporters, as vessels likely to be subject to the increased cost are avoiding the U.S.

BFA, MgO & MORE

In ***SiC & More*** issue #105 we wrote that BFA and MgO prices were essentially in a holding pattern as the world watched from the sideline as two economic superpowers played "chicken" with tariffs.

In issue #105, a trader told ***SiC & More***, "Not much is expected to happen until we get some definitive word on tariffs. BFA is listed on the Annex II of the Executive order thus not currently subjected to the recent tariff increases outlined by President Trump. Second, as predicted by the above referenced trader, demand for BFA remains sluggish both in China and abroad although baseline pricing for both crude and sized BFA increased by $20-30 metric tons over the past few weeks. Although this trader is not a clairvoyant, he made a rather astute prediction.

First, as of April 9, Chinese BFA was hit with an additional 20% tariff that is added to the current tariff of 7 ½% bringing the total to 27 ½%. BFA is listed on the Annex II of the Executive order thus not currently subjected to the recent tariff increases outlined by President Trump. Second, as predicted by the above referenced trader, demand for BFA remains sluggish both in China and abroad although baseline pricing for both crude and sized BFA increased by $20-30 metric ton over the past few weeks.

Tariffs on Brazilian products, however, received only a 10% tariff from Trump 2.0. Although China dominates the world's Al203 production, Brazil is a powerhouse producer as well. Brazil is believed to have total furnace capacity of about 145,000 tons with estimated production of 128,000. The Curimbaba Group's ELFUSA leads the way in Brazil with about 96,000 tons of capacity and 85,000 tons of production of high-quality brown, white, and pink Al203 as well as other fused products.

Chinese MgO that was obviously hit with the 20% tariff, however, MgO is also on the Annex II list thus avoiding the recent runup in tariffs in the "tit for tat" exchange between the two powerhouse economies. Global demand for both fused and dead burned MgO is flat at best. Dead burned MgO imports into the U.S. in 2024 are estimated at 162,000 metric tons compared to 235,00 in 2023, 237,000 in 2022, and 268,000 in 2921. With the global metals business sluggish, which trickles down to refractory products, it's no surprise that base pricing is soft.

What to expect as we move forward? If the China / U.S. tariff war doesn't escalate and send the world into a recession, many believe the metals business will slowly recover at we progress into 2H 2025. The question from those in the middle of this tariff crisis ask is, how much carnage takes place over the next 30-plus days and can the metals and minerals business recover in 2025?

© 2025 SiC & More. All Rights Reserved.

A FEW WORDS FROM MICHEL TASCH OF FIRSTALLOYS



Pictured above is the BrainTrust of the First Alloys organization strategizing on sale and marketing.

In ***SiC & More***, like in almost every specialized industrial publication, three words occur frequently: "One trader said". When it comes to price and market expectations, these sources are often mentioned, but rarely defined leaving room for interpretation, imagination and fantasy. Indeed, since a trader is defined as a person who buys and sells, this reference ranges from the small corner shop to the large group with a ten-digit turnover. I do not even know if **FirstAlloys** qualifies as a trader or distributor, so here is who we are:

Since 2016**, FirstAlloys** has specialized in selling and distributing ferro-alloys and minerals on behalf of recognized producers to the foundry, steel, refractory, welding and metal-related industries. Although the company was founded in Luxembourg less than ten years ago, it can rely on its team's knowledge of raw materials, which covers more than 25 years of experience.

FirstAlloys' customer base is predominantly but not exclusively European, whereas its sourcing is global, with agencies in Brazil and China. Since its creation, silicon carbide has represented approximately a quarter of the company's activity. It has been part of the hard core of its product range, together with FeSi, FeSiMg, and, more recently, silicon metal.

Even though **FirstAlloys** is active in the refractory industry with various raw materials, the focus market for SiC remains metallurgy and iron foundries. The reason for this is historical to a certain extent. Still, it is mainly the result of a strong partnership with the well-established German manufacturer SR-Scholz Rohstoffe, which supplies high-quality briquettes for cupola furnaces. This synergetic combination of fines, grains, and briquettes enables us to offer silicon carbide in all possible forms to suit any iron or steel furnace. Fortunately, we also benefit from solid in-house technical expertise in doing this work.

Coming back to the activity of a company like ours, I would say that the job has changed a lot since the late 1990s. At that time, annual contracts were standard, prices were stable, and life was more manageable. Then came 2008, and we moved from annual to quarterly supply agreements to mitigate the risks and remain closer to the market movements – all good, but four negotiations per year instead of one for both the buyer and the seller is making it less predictable. Today, geopolitical, financial, climatic, customs and logistical hiccups have increased, so it is all about chaos management.

Our role in this environment is to absorb the shock between the producers, whether close or remote, and the end users. We offer first-class logistical and financing solutions, putting the customers' interest first by providing transparent supplies and quality products. Particularly today, the European iron foundry industry is struggling with excessive energy costs and significant order shrinkage; they must focus on their essential activities and rely on us to anticipate upstream market movements, secure their supplies, and provide the best advice, reliable service, and competitive prices.



Pictured above is a small representative of finished product stage in a First Alloys warehouse.

© 2025 SiC & More. All Rights Reserved.

BRAZIL

By Franciso Batista

SiC & More is fortunate to have "boots on the street" providing readers with a true perspective of what is occurring in what is one of the world's most important economies. Franciso Batista never disappoints as he reports from the streets of the world's ninth largest economy.

a) Energy: Just because nobody was expecting a change in rainfall pattern (as reported in issue #105 of ***SiC & More***) it happened! Rainfall volumes dropped dramatically in February and March in the South and Southeast of Brazil, home of 70% of the hydro-plant reservoirs. The consequence is the recovery of these reservoirs' levels stopped at an average of 60% when it was supposed to be around 85% at this time of the year. Since the rainy season is very close to the end there is no expectations of further recovery so prices for the balance of 2025 spiked to R$ 300+/MWh ($53+/MWh). Winter season is when the wind generation kicks-in which serves as cushion for further increases in forward prices but one could say that a dryer than expected winter might stress the system enough to bring prices to over R$ 450/MWh ($80/MWh).

b) Macroeconomics: Brazil had a GPD growth of 3.4% in 2024 reaching R$ 11.7 trillion ($ 2.06 trillion). Although this represents good growth, Economists are relating it almost exclusively to the excessive federal spending that kept internal consumption at such a high level. This federal spending is responsible for the higher than expected federal deficit which is still pushing inflation upwards. The FX rate has been fluctuating around R$ 5.75 which represents a drop from R$ 5.95 reported in issue #105. The recent decrease in the FX rate is attributed to the new Central Bank administration, which has maintained the previous administration's policy of combating inflation through higher interest rates. The Central Bank has recently (Jan/25) increased the interest rate by 100 basis points to 14.25% with another 100bps increase expected for May/25. In the long run though the FX will also be impacted by future Trump's tariffs over Brazilian goods and by the real fiscal deficit performance.

FOCUS projections are now:

- Interest Rates: Dec/25: 15.00%; Dec/26: 12.50%

FX Rate: Dec/25: R$ 5.92; Dec/26: R$ 6.00

c) Commodities: Trump's administration has announced tariffs over Steel and Aluminum produced in Brazil. It is expected tariffs over Ethanol and Proteins as well. While Steel and Aluminum will certainly be impacted there is no major concern over soft commodities as relocating these products to other markets does not seem to be a problem here. Brazil is still on hold to set tariffs over imported goods from US, China, and other countries depending on the impacts of Trump's tariffs over Brazil's finances. Finished products such as auto-parts, machinery and airplanes (currently being exported to the US) are a completely different story and will certainly be highly impacted by the tariffs.

d) Politics: Lula's decline continues. His administration and his leadership are arguably the weakest the country has had in decades. Political decisions are being made almost entirely by the congress which has overpowered itself. Even cabinet members are being named by the congress. High inflation, especially associated with food costs, are slowly imploding Lula's approval rate which reached a new record low of 41% (with 56% of disapproval). Brazil has major elections in 2026 and, as of now, polls indicate that Lula would lose against almost any opponent. This scenario is very concerning because a populist politician like Lula with nothing to lose can easily jeopardize even more the country's economics by overspending in reckless populist policies, increasing the fiscal deficit and turning inflation into an uncontrollable factor for the next administration.

© 2025 SiC & More. All Rights Reserved.

EXCITING NEWS FROM NHQ: NEW HE QIAO SHAREHOLDER COMPANY



NHQ Lab

SiC & More has been advocating the many attributes of NHQ since the company first broke ground for Vi etnam's first SiC furnace plant in 2012. In fact, in the summer of 2019, **SiC & More** issue #78 reported, "Considering the company's consistent quality, its ad vantages in many aspects including tariff, location, labor and government policy, to name a few, it is reasonable to expect that NHQ will play an increasingly important role in the global industry."

Since the commissioning of its first furnace in 2013, NHQ has proven to be a well-managed enterprise with consistent product quality and service. The company was quickly certified with ISO9001;2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001:2007, and registered in REACH. Its internal laboratory can perform precise and varied inspection under different standards including GB (China), SN (Commercial inspection of China), JIS (Japan), and FEPA (Europe), while the third-party in spection results from SGS certifies the high quality of its products in long term.

In issue #102 of **SiC & More** during the spring of 2024, Daniel Charles closed the interview with, "Looking for ward, assuming that energy is available at competitive levels, Vietnam is in the driver's seat when it comes to being one of the world's leading producers of SiC. Envi ronmental, energy, and political issues in other countries make the landscape all that much more attractive for Vietnam and NHQ. This will be fun to watch unfold over the next 2-3 years."

As **SiC & More** expected, as the world embarked on a New Year in 2025, progress at NHQ soared to new heights. With the completion of increased capacity for the 2nd production line in late 2024, NHQ's furnace ca pacity had increased to as much as 80,000 metric tons per year. With recovery of 60% for #1 grade products, NHQ is one of the most efficient operators of large fur naces in the SiC universe.

In the spring of 2024, Charles also alluded to the cost of energy and environmental issues. The cost of energy has dropped since issue #102 and that can be attributed to a more rational use of electricity and improved man agement of peak power costs. Regarding environmental, NHQ installed a desulfurization tower and commis sioned the same in 2024. The new technology has SiO2 drawn by an exhaust pipeline to the desulfurization tow er where NaOH solution is used to absorb SO2 in the flue gas, generating Na2SO3 and Na2SO4. As far as we can tell, the NHQ desulfurization process puts the company in the forefront of gas collection and treatment category.

NHQ has also improved the crushing line's dust collec tion system and the control and discharge of waste wa ter. All these improvements are meant to meet, or ex ceed, Vietnam's ever-improving national environmental protection laws and regulations.

Although market share dropped in the EU due to ship ping costs brought on by the Red Sea crisis, continued incremental growth in Japan, India and South Korea have proven to keep the company on pace with both short and long-term sales objectives.

SiC enthusiasts from across the globe embrace seeing this sort of progress in the production of SiC. Advancement at the furnace plant level proves to be just as cru cial as end-use market developments and application engineering. Kudos to NHQ's ownership, management, and workforce.



SiC awaiting the jaw crusher at NHQ Processing Station in Vietnam

© 2025 SiC & More. All Rights Reserved.

SiC NO LONGER FLAT & BORING



Where do we even begin to write about the somewhat convoluted circumstances surrounding the supply and price of SiC products? As one gentleman said, "I know the beginning of this bewildering tale, but I cannot begin to tell you the end of the story."

The industry seemed to quickly rationalize the Trump Tariffs of 20% on Chinese SiC but the trailing news and tariff "tit for tat" with China has virtually everyone across the globe concerned about SiC supply, pricing, supply displacement, etc.

As it stands on April 9 is that the "tit for tat" tariff war between the U.S. and China resulted in China countering Trump's increase to 104% with their own 84% tariff blitz starting on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. Where does this end?

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt says, "When America is punched, (Trump) punches back harder". On the other side of the table, China's Ministry of Commerce writes, "If the U.S insists on further escalating its economic and trade restrictions, China has the firm will and abundant means to take necessary countermeasures and fight to the end." This doesn't sound like two parties negotiating in good faith.

To keep this as simple as possible, there is a 20% tariff on all goods imported into the U.S. and, despite all the "tit for tat" tariff bombardment including the elimination of the de minimis exemption for low-value shipments from China, SiC is listed on Annex II of the Executive Order thus is not subjected to the recent tariff crossfire between Presidents Xi Jinping and Trump. In short, SiC is being tariffed with 20%.

When the smoke finally clears on how this will affect those companies importing SiC, the next step is to determine when this affects the end-use markets and by what percentage. As a processor said, "This is not going to be pleasant since we have old inventory mixed with tariffed material and other tariffed import inputs from other countries. It gives me a headache when I try to wrap my head around the details."

A trader friend commented, "If this sounds messy, take solace in knowing that virtually every business on this planet is being affected by the tariff war at some level." ***SiC & More*** will soon launch its reformatted blog, which will lead to consistent notifications of subject matter related to price, supply and demand, and upstream and downstream developments.

PRESS RELEASE

SurfacePrep

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SurfacePrep Announces Strategic Acquisition of Panadyne

Byron Center, MI – SurfacePrep, a leading provider of surface enhancement and specialty material solutions, is excited to announce the acquisition of Panadyne, a leading distributor of abrasives and specialty ceramic materials. This strategic move will significantly enhance SurfacePrep's product offerings and broaden its reach in the specialty materials industry.

Founded in 2003 and based near Philadelphia, PA, Panadyne Inc has established itself as a trusted supplier of high-quality materials such as silicon carbide, boron carbide, calcined alumina, and industrial diamond. Their expertise and extensive global network ensure they deliver high quality powders and abrasives to the technical ceramics, coatings, and surface finishing sectors.

"We are excited to join forces with SurfacePrep," said Chuck Uplinger, President of Panadyne. "Our combined expertise and resources will allow us to better serve our customers and continue to innovate in the specialty abrasives industry."

The acquisition of Panadyne underscores SurfacePrep's dedication to growth and excellence by joining the GNPGraystar Specialty Materials Group. Together, the companies will offer an expanded range of solutions, ensuring customers receive the best possible products tailored to their needs.

"We are thrilled to welcome Panadyne into the SurfacePrep family," said Allen Drake, Vice President of GNPGraystar. "This acquisition highlights our commitment to providing high quality specialty abrasive and ceramic solutions. By combining our strengths, we can offer an even more comprehensive range of products and services to our customers."
For more information about the acquisition and its impact on SurfacePrep's operations, please contact:

Aaron Wimmer
Director of Marketing
marketing@surfaceprep.com

SurfacePrep PANADYNE

© 2025 SiC & More. All Rights Reserved.

DIGGING THROUGH THE ARCHIVES- SiC IN REFRACTORIES

No doubt, it's an adventure to locate old documents in your library and the process can often be enlightening. This is the first segment regarding refractories from the dusty but irreplaceable archives of ***SiC & More***. The following excerpt does not bear the name of the author.

Advantages of SiC as a Refractory:

A) Abrasion Resistance:

The abrasion resistance of SiC refractory is excellent in impinging, scrubbing, and slurry service. The material often outperforms rubber and hard metal liners by factors ranging from 3:1 to 30:1 depending on service conditions. A high-performance factor can be expected when acidic slurries are handled. Applications such as nozzles, pump components, hydro cyclone liners, and pulverized coal combustion equipment liners are just a few of the applications in which SiC refractory excels.

B) Thermal Shock Resistance:

The thermal shock resistance of the SiC refractory is excellent because of its combined hot strength, low thermal expansion and high thermal conductivity (equal to that of stainless steel). Cast SiC parts can withstand repeated rapid cycles through large temperature differentials without developing cracks or losing strength.

C) Chemical Resistance:

- The chemical resistance of cast SiC refractory is superior to that of most other refractories and metals, particularly with respect to strong acids.

- Chemical resistance makes cast SiC refractory ideal for coal ash slags, most molten salts and halogens at elevated temperatures. However, oxidizing agents such as iron and lead oxide, cyanide salts, molten borax, and other strong bases, may react adversely and affect cast SiC shapes. Most non-ferrous metals do not wet this material and there are very few common industrial environments in which it cannot be used.

D) Strength:

Strength at room and elevated temperatures is exceptional. It retains its room temperature strength to 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit (1650C). As a result, SiC parts can be designed for high temperature service where common refractories and metals cannot function.

E) Design Flexibility:

- Cast SiC refractory is as easy to work with as metal castings. Dimensions are accurate, detail is precise, and complex shapes can be designed without difficulty.

- For specific applications, cast SiC can be cast with wall dimensions as thin as ¼ inch.

- Generally, cast SiC shapes are used as produced. The material is much too hard to be machined conventionally.

- Part geometry usually duplicates metal counterparts exactly. Some allowances may have to be made in cast SiC parts in highly stressed areas because of lack of ductility.

- Threads are easily produced. Generally, NPT threads are used, although others can be formed.

- Assemblies are often held together by mechanical methods to accommodate stresses from large thermal changes or for other pertinent reasons.

- Individual parts can be made to 48" (1200mm) in length, 40" (1016mm) in diameter, and from ¼" (6mm) to 3/8" (10mm) in wall thickness. Some parts can be made with wall thickness of up to 3" (76mm) depending on part configuration. Larger parts can be made by bonding separate pieces.

© 2025 SiC & More. All Rights Reserved.

METALS INDUSTRY UPDATE

Aluminum Oxide Production

A colleague of ***SiC & More*** forecasted global 2025 aluminum oxide production of 1.2 million metric tons.

Wolfspeed

On March 6, Wolfspeed announced it would layoff of another 180 people and would lower its planned cap ex by $150 million to $200 million in the next fiscal year. On March 27, Wolfspeed announced they had appointed Robert Feurle as CEO. Wolfspeed has high debt and demand for its silicon carbide wafers and chips has suffered as its key end-use market of EV's has slowed down. Wolfspeed also awaits a decision from the federal government regarding $750 million in CHIPS Act funding approved by the prior administration.

Iron Ore

Spot iron ore prices for the week prior ended at about $102 m/t. It's possible that anti-dumping duties on China could lead to further steel production cuts, which could also lower the price of iron ore.

Syrah Resources

Lucid Motors recently announced that they had signed a binding agreement with Syrah Resources to purchase about 7,000 metric tons per year of natural graphite from Syrah's new state-of-the-art Louisiana facility over a three-year period commencing in 2026. Lucid will use the graphite in its electric vehicle battery cells. Syrah also signed a raw material agreement with Tesla in 2021.

U.S. Light Vehicle Sales

Sales of new light vehicles were 15.85 million units for 2024. March 2025 sales hit 17.8 million units, which is a healthy increase from February's 15.7 million. Q1 2025 averaged 16.5 million units.

USGS Ferrosilicon 2020-2023

According to an USGS report, the following sources represented imports of ferrosilicon into the U.S.: Russia 37%, Brazil 14%, Canada 13%, Malaysia 9%, and others 27%.

LG Buys GM Share of Lansing MI Facility

LG Energy Solution Ltd plans to buy out its partner's share, General Motors Company, in their EV battery J-V in Lansing, Michigan for $2 billion. The J-V is known as Ultium Cells Plants and owns facilities in Lordstown, Ohio and Spring Hill, Tennessee. GM will retain its share of those plants.

EU Steel Capacity

According to Steel Industry: Global Trends, during 2025, the EU will idle 9 million tons of steel capacity. This is caused by a combination of negative factors including high energy costs, weak demand for steel and financial issues of some of the companies. Experts predict that the situation on the steel market will remain unstable at least until the end of 2025.

China's Largest FeSi Producer

Erdos, China's largest producer of FeSi, will shut down 16 electric furnaces due to falling profits. Erdos is in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region and represents 60% of China's total ferrosilicon productive capacity for both domestic and export purposes.

Hyundai Steel Co.

Hyundai plans to build a $5.8 billion steel mill in Louisiana dedicated to auto supply. This news release follows a previous announcement that Hyundai they the Korean company would invest $21 billion in the U.S. The mill is expected to produce as much as 2.7 million metric tons of steel per year.

U.S. Machine Shops

During January 2025, U.S. machine shops and other manufacturing businesses ordered $199.9 million worth of cutting tools, which is a 9.2% rise from cutting tool orders in December 2024. Cutting tools are consid-



© 2025 SiC & More. All Rights Reserved.

SiC MORSELS

Global SiC Consumption: Depending on the source, it appears as if total consumption of SiC could be close to 1.1 million tons in 2025 with China leading the way with about 400,000 tons. In 1980, a report estimated apparent consumption of SiC at about 584,000 net tons while in 1990 the estimate was 620,000 n/t.

SiC Market Prices: Processors of SiC in both North America and EU confirmed prices have been increasing since January 2025 in all markets including abrasive and refractory grain. Although prices on both back and green micro have been increasing the percentages are very small.

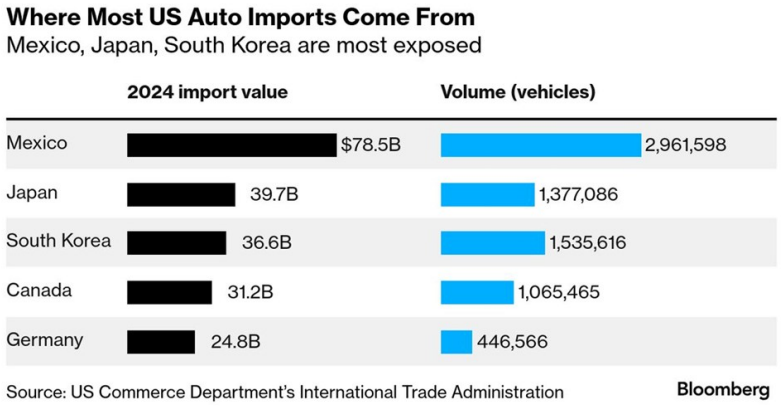
SiCBras: Finally, some information flowed out of Brazil's SiCBras. Furnace capacity as reported in issue #105 was believed to be 15,000 m/t per year but news from SiCBras leads us to believe they can produce beyond that total. As with several other global producers of SiC concerned about emissions, SiCBras finds it difficult to source low sulfur petroleum coke.

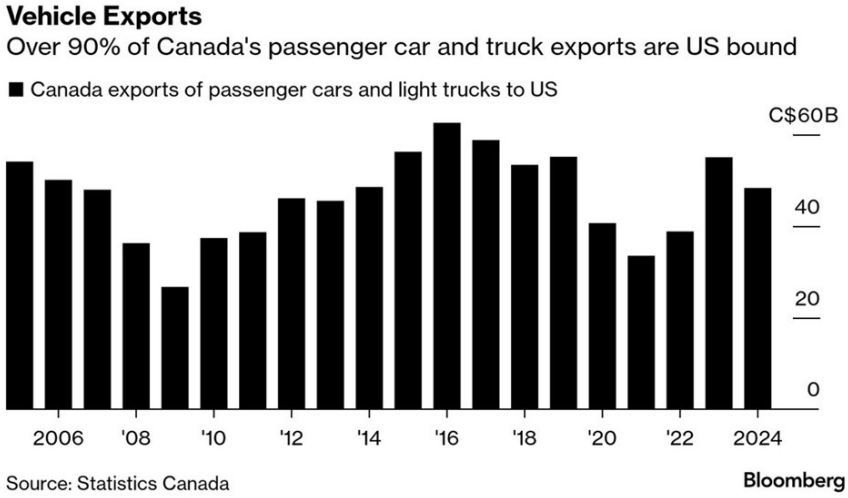
Venezuela: Rumors continue to circulate regarding the SiC furnace plants located in Puerto Ordaz. The two furnace plants were once capable of producing 20,000 m/t and 24,000 m/t per year. Although doing business in Venezuela has proven to be difficult over the last few decades, the two plants in Puerto Ordaz were once reasonably well run and produced above average SiC crude.

NHQ – Vietnam: ***SiC & More*** is running a feature on NHQ in this issue. Readers will enjoy reading about the impressive improvements realized at Vietnam's only SiC producing facility.

Yellow SiC: As mentioned in issue #105, numerous inquiries to Yellow SiC have resulted in zero response. If any of you ***SiC & More*** readers have information, including recent press releases, about the renewable hydrogen via direct unassisted photocatalysis being developed by Yellow SiC, please share with Kormac Kennedy, Paul Harris, or Daniel Charles.

China Gas Control Efforts: In previous issues, **SiC & More** has mentioned efforts that were taking place at China's SiC furnace plants to control off-gasses from the "cooking" operation. During the "cooking" process, about 1.4 tons of gas is produced for every ton of SiC. As previously mentioned, a number of furnace plants in China have installed large metal covers with exhaust systems that efficiently channel the waste gas to a desulfurization tower and denitrification system for treatment. Watch in future issues for a further explanation of the important improvements being made to protect the environment





© 2025 SiC & More. All Rights Reserved.

HAVE WE CREATED A MONSTER?

Officially, for the third time in SiC & More's nearly 25-year history, we are publishing photos from a subscriber with this one highlighting a spring visit to the thriving "Music City" of Nashville, Tennessee. The last feature (issue 105) didn't generate as much feedback as the one on Napa Valley in issue 104, however, we decided to keep this segment rolling for a few more issues.



Cigar and bourbon bar in downtown Nashville



Downtown Nashville

Our very own Marissa Decklin did a bit of research on what we consider 10 little known Nashville facts:

*** Nashville was named after Revolutionary War hero Francis Nash.**
*** Nashville has the largest Kurdish population in the United States.**
*** Andrew Jackson's former home is now a museum in Nashville.**
*** The Grand Ole Opry is the longest-running radio broadcast.**
*** The Batman Building is the tallest building in Tennessee.**
*** Hot chicken was invented in Nashville.**
*** Another nickname for Nashville is Athens of the South**
*** Nashville averages 4.2" of snow each year.**
*** Nashville was founded on Christmas day in 1779.**
*** Saber-toothed tiger fossils were found downtown.**

Silicon Carbide & More
Publisher: Kormac Kennedy Editor: Marissa Decklin. Copyright information: Copyright © 2018 by Silicon Carbide & More Inc. All rights reserved. Information contained in Silicon Carbide & More may not be redistributed, reproduced or put into an information retrieval system without prior written permission. *Silicon Carbide & More* is published five-eight times per year. Subscriptions: US$375 per year for a single user; US$475 per year for a multiple-user company subscription. For more information call +57 321 720 1537 or email kormackennedy@aol.com. Silicon Carbide & More, PO Box 503, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138-0503. Information contained in *Silicon Carbide & More* has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable but due to the possibility of error by *Silicon Carbide & More*, or others, *Silicon Carbide & More* does not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy or results obtained from the use of such information.

SiC Feedback & News line
Our staff is dedicated to seeking out the information you need to stay on the leading edge of silicon carbide and related businesses. Please email industry news, press releases or details of other events of note to us at the address below. If there are specific supply issues or topics that you would like to see discussed in future issues of *Silicon Carbide & More,* please email your ideas to us at:
kormackennedy@aol.com

www.siliconcarbideandmore.com

© 2025 SiC & More. All Rights Reserved.