



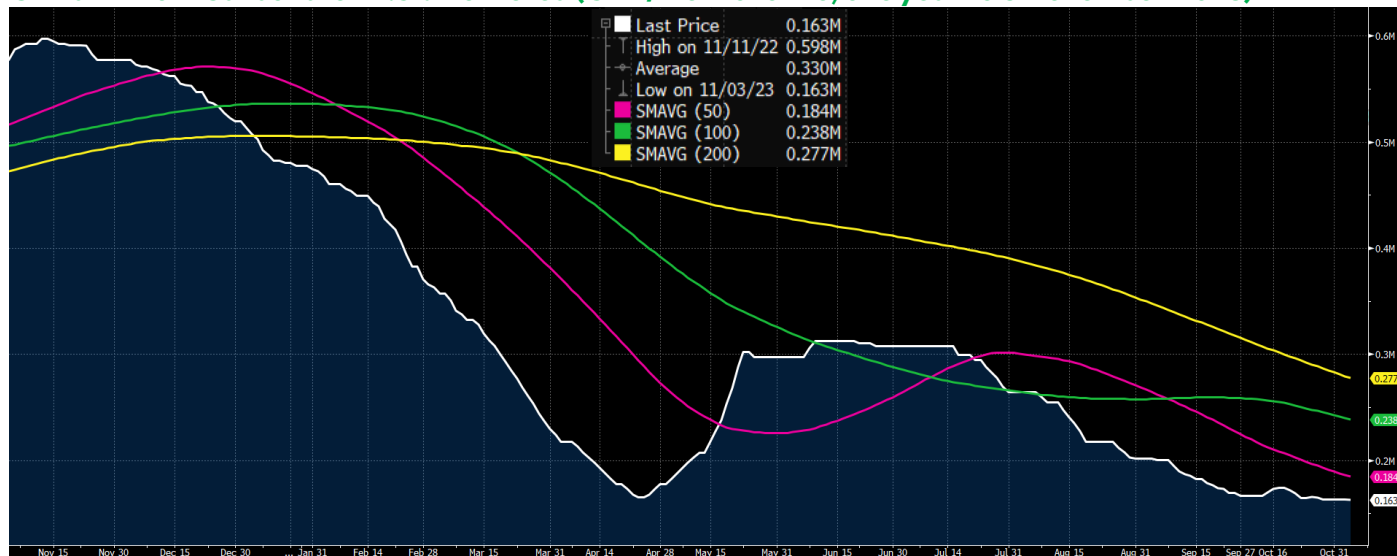
Mounting challenges for First Quantum in Panama

The week saw significant moves in the share price of First Quantum Minerals, the operator of the Cobre Panama copper mine, as the National Assembly of Panama held sessions concerning bills relating both to the revised contract for the operation of the copper mine, [enacted](#) into law in October, and a moratorium on the granting of new mining concessions. In addition to ongoing environmental concerns, certain lawmakers and protestors believe that the contract is overly generous and there may have been corruption. In a statement, First Quantum [emphasised](#) that it is "committed to the principles of integrity and transparency in its dealings with governments around the world." The Cobre mine, which accounts for 1% of global copper production, remains operational. According to [Reuters](#), local experts see the matter being resolved in the country's top court because any legislative move to void the contract would likely lead to international arbitration.

After Hancock Prospecting, another Australian miner, Minerals Resources, has been building a position in Azure Minerals. In an ASX announcement on 3 November, it [indicated](#) that it has built up a 12.3% holding, spending more than A\$210 million to acquire shares since mid October. The bulk of the shares are held through Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd. Mineral Resources has a number of lithium interests in Australia including the Wodgina lithium operation, a JV with Albemarle, at which Mineral Resources is responsible for all mining operations and the 750,000 tonnes per annum spodumene plant. Mineral Resources has yet to comment on its interest in Azure Minerals, but the intent, given its record of working with Hancock Prospecting in Western Australia, would seem to be clear.

SSE Renewables [announced](#) that it has taken a Final Investment Decision (FID) to proceed with the construction of a 320MW / 640MWh battery energy storage system (BESS) projects in Monk Fyston, Yorkshire. The batteries at the project, which is located next to a National Grid substation, will be able to run for up to two hours at a time. A 150MW BESS site in the former SSE coal-power station at Fiddler's Ferry has also been consented with construction potentially beginning next year subject to reaching a FID.

China Lithium Carbonate 99.5% Delivered (CNY/metric tonne, one year to 3 November 2023)



Source: Bloomberg

Metal prices

Metal	Price USD (3 November)	Weekly change %	Year-to-date change %	Price vs 200 day moving average	Price vs 52 week high
Gold	1994.45	0.6%	10.0%	103.2%	97.4%
Silver	22.64	-0.5%	-5.4%	97.4%	87.0%
Palladium	1110	-2.5%	-37.5%	81.5%	53.3%
Platinum	931	3.1%	-9.7%	96.4%	82.5%
Cobalt	34943.3	3.7%	-19.1%	104.7%	68.1%
Copper	8070.5	1.3%	-3.8%	95.1%	85.5%
Nickel	17810	-1.1%	-41.5%	81.0%	57.1%

Bloomberg codes: GOLDLNPM, SLVRLND, PLDMLNPM, PLTMLNPM, BYW1, LOCADY, LONIDY

Notes. All performance data to 3 November 2023. Past performance is not an indicator of future performance and the value of an investment may fall as well as rise. Investors take on currency risk when taking unhedged exposure to commodities.

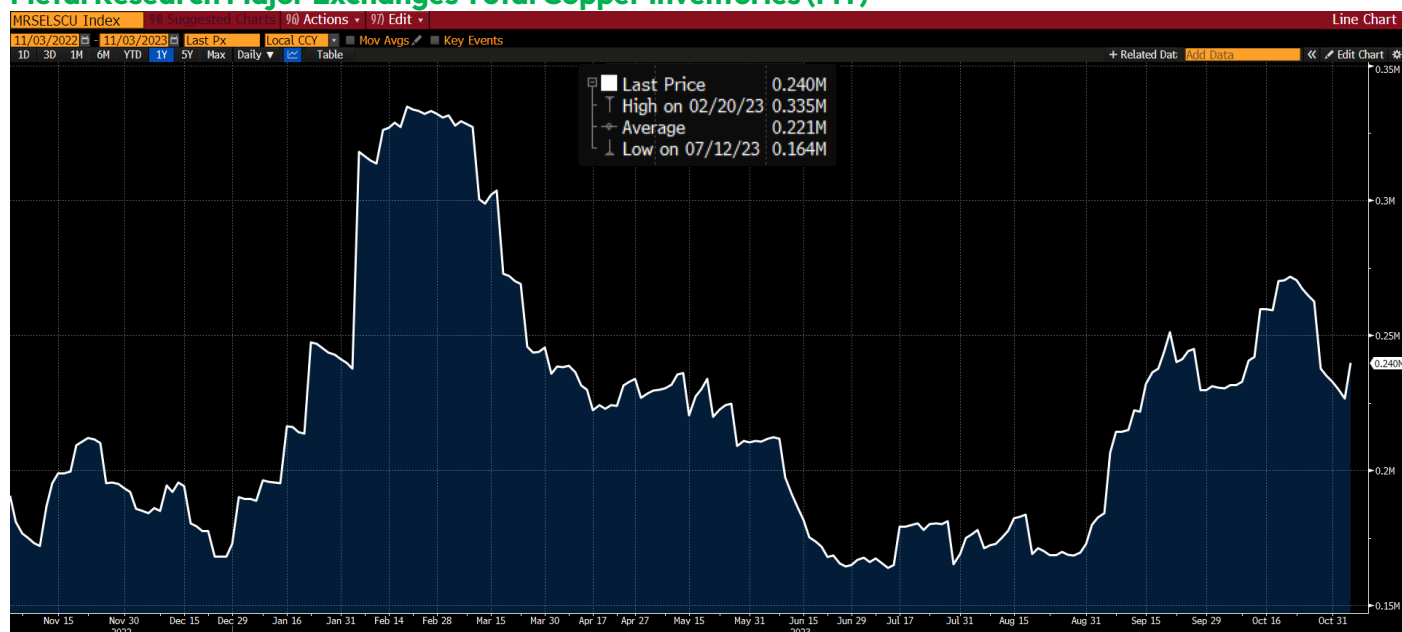
The week ahead

6 Nov	JP: BoJ Monetary Policy Minutes; JP, EU: Services PMI; UK: S&P Global CIPS Construction PMI US: Fed Cook Speech, 3 and 6 Month Bill Auctions
7 Nov	CN, US: Balance of Trade; AU: RBA Interest Rate Decision; DE: Industrial Production US: IBD/TIPP Economic Optimism, Fed Barr, Jeffrey, Waller, Williams, Logan Speeches
8 Nov	JP: Reuters Tankan Index; EU, IT: Retail Sales; DE: Inflation Rate, 10 Year Bund Auction US: Fed Chair Powell Speech, plus Cook, Barr, Jefferson, Williams Speeches
9 Nov	JP: BoJ Summary of Opinions, BoJ Gov Ueda Speech; CN: Inflation Rate, PPI US: Fed Chair Powell Speech, plus Bostic, Barkin Speeches
10 Nov	AU: RBA Statement on Monetary Policy; UK: GDP Growth Rate, Industrial Production; EU: ECB President Lagarde Speech; US: Fed Logan, Bostic Speeches, Michigan Consumer Sentiment

Further reading

Bloomberg	Why Wind Power Industry Is Stumbling and What Can be Done
Bloomberg	These Electric Vehicle Chargers Will Come to You
Bloomberg	China's Grip on Africa's Minerals Sparks a US Response
Reuters	Mining faces gulf between ambition and reality on energy transition, China
Reuters	Lithium producers stay bullish on EVs despite growing headwinds

Metal Research Major Exchanges Total Copper Inventories (MT)



Data: as at 3 November 2023

Source: Bloomberg

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