



Agnico Eagle takes stake in Canada Nickel

Agnico Eagle has [acquired](#) a 12% stake in Canada Nickel for approximately \$23,128,000. Canada Nickel's Crawford Nickel-Cobalt Sulphide Project is close to Agnico Eagle's gold operations in the Abitibi region of Ontario and Quebec. Canada Nickel is targeting the launch of mining at [Crawford](#) in late in 2027, with peak production of 48ktpa of nickel reached after 3.5 years. It is expecting to produce nickel with a carbon footprint 89% lower than industry average of 34 tonnes of CO₂ per tonne of nickel equivalent production.

Teck [provided](#) an update on 2023 copper production volumes at the Quebrada Blanca mine in Chile. Production at 56,200 tonnes fell below the 80,000 tonnes lower-bound guidance figure due to "reliability and consistency issues" in the fourth quarter, which have now been addressed. The mine, which includes Sumitomo Corporation and ENAMI as minority shareholders, is [set](#) to double Teck's annual copper equivalent annual production to 600,000 tonnes and put Teck into the first quartile on the copper cost curve.

SQM [announced](#) a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with Codelco for the operation and development of the Salar de Atacama for the period from 2025 to 2060. A new operating company, in which Codelco will have a 50% plus one share stake, will be established in 2025 to produce lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide on the properties that SQM currently leases from the Chilean Production Development Company (Corfo). From 2025 to 2030, Codelco will receive an economic benefit equivalent to 201,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate, thereafter economic benefits will be based on its share of ownership.

In separate lithium-related news from Chile, Pan Asia Metals, the ASX-listed battery and critical metals explorer and developer, has [entered](#) into binding Option Agreements to purchase 100% of the 1,200km² [Tama Atacama Lithium Brine Project](#), which is located on the Atacama Desert. The geological setting is similar to the brine deposits at the Salar de Atacama and surface assays for lithium are high, averaging 700ppm. Drilling is expected to [start](#) in a number of areas in late February or early March.

LME Cash Official Price Nickel (USD, 1 year to 5 January 2024)



Source: Bloomberg

Metal prices

Metal	Price USD (5 January)	Weekly change %	Year-to-date change %	Price vs 200 day moving average	Price vs 52 week high
Copper	8346.5	-1.5%	-1.5%	99.9%	88.5%
Cobalt	28219.2	-3.3%	-3.3%	86.8%	69.6%
Nickel	15705	-3.7%	-3.7%	78.5%	52.2%
Palladium	1040	-8.5%	-8.5%	82.2%	57.7%
Platinum	956	-4.4%	-4.4%	100.0%	84.8%

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

Notes. All performance data to 5 January 2024. 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

8 Jan	DE: Balance of Trade, Factory Orders; EU: Economic Sentiment, Retail Sales
9 Jan	UK: BRC Retail Sales Monitor; DE: Industrial Production; FR, CA, US: Balance of Trade EU: Unemployment Rate; US: RCM/TIPP Economic Optimism Index
10 Jan	FR: Industrial Production; DE: 10-Year Bund Auction
11 Jan	AU: Balance of Trade; IT: Industrial Production; US: Core Inflation Rate, Initial Jobless Claims JP: Current Account
12 Jan	CN: Inflation Rate; UK: GDP, Goods Trade Balance, Industrial Production; FR: Inflation Rate US: PPI, Core PPI

Further reading

Bloomberg	VW Sees Promising Test Results for Potential Breakthrough EV Battery
Bloomberg	Barrick Sounds Out First Quantum Holders on Possible Bid
Bloomberg	Flood of Used Batteries Could Supercharge China's Electric Car Market
Reuters	Orsted to proceed with mega Hornsea 3 North Sea wind farm project
Reuters	Equinor, BP cancel contract to sell offshore wind power to New York
Reuters	GM offers \$7,500 incentive for EVs losing US tax credit

Metal Research Major Exchanges Total Copper Inventories (MT)



Data: as at 5 January 2024

Source: Bloomberg

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