



Vedanta Resources to take back control of Konkola copper mine

Bloomberg [reported](#) that Vedanta Resources has indicated that it is weeks away from taking back control of the Konkola copper mine in Zambia. To do so, it will pay \$250 million to settle accrued debts since the mine was put into provisional liquidation in 2019. Vedanta has agreed to spend about \$1.3 billion on the asset, which is capable of producing more than 300,000 tonnes of metal a year. The company is looking to sell a minority stake in Konkola to finance the development. Output from Konkola’s plant, which also processes ore from third-party supplies, fell to less than 40,000 tonnes of copper in 2023. The operation of the Konkola Deep mine is not without challenges: mining is only possible by the daily pumping of water to the surface equivalent to the content of [180 Olympic-sized swimming pools](#) (2,500,000 litres per pool).

Following on from companies such as Ørsted and Portugal’s EDP that have cut their growth plans, Norway’s Statkraft [announced](#) that it was trimming plans to build new wind and solar plants against the backdrop of challenging market conditions caused by lower energy prices and higher costs. Specifically, its annual development rate for solar, onshore wind and battery storage will now be 2–2.5 GW from 2026 onwards versus the previous target of 2.5–3 GW from 2025 and 4 GW from 2030). Its target for the development of offshore wind in Northern Europe is now 6–8 GW by 2040 compared to 10 GW previously.

Eramet and BASF have [decided](#) against a joint \$2.6 billion investment in a nickel-cobalt refining complex at Weda Bay in Indonesia. BASF explained that, since the inception of the project in 2020, “the global nickel market has changed significantly. In particular, the supply options have evolved and with that BASF’s availability of battery grade nickel. Consequently, BASF no longer sees the need to make such a substantial investment to ensure a resilient metals supply for its battery materials business.” Separately, Reuters [reported](#) that Freeport Indonesia has launched its \$3.7 billion copper smelter in Gresik, East Java, whose output will reach around 650,000 tonnes of copper cathode and 50 to 60 tonnes of gold at full capacity.

LME Cash Official Price Nickel (USD, 1 year to 28 June 2024)



Source: Bloomberg

Metal prices

Metal	Price USD (28 June)	Weekly change %	Year-to-date change %	Price vs 200 day moving average	Price vs 52 week high
Copper	9476.5	-0.9%	11.8%	108.4%	87.3%
Cobalt	25397.3	-0.1%	-13.0%	87.8%	70.2%
Nickel	16960	0.1%	4.0%	96.8%	75.9%
Palladium	972	-1.9%	-14.4%	94.5%	73.4%
Platinum	1012	1.4%	1.2%	108.5%	95.0%

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

Source: LME

Notes. All performance data to 28 June 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

1 July	AU, CN, JP, EU, DE, ES, FR, IT, UK, US: Manufacturing PMIs; DE: Inflation Rate
2 July	AU: RBA Meeting Minutes; EU: Inflation Rate; CA: Manufacturing PMI US: Fed Chair Powell Speech, JOLTS Job Openings; RCM/TIPP Economic Optimism Index
3 July	AU, CN, JP, EU, DE, ES, FR, IT, UK, US: Services PMIs; JP: Tankan Large Manufacturers Index CA, US: Balance of Trade; US: ADP Employment Change, Factory Orders, FOMC Minutes
4 July	AU: Balance of Trade; DE: Factory Orders; EU: ECB Monetary Policy Meeting Accounts
5 July	DE: Industrial Production; EU, IT: Retail Sales; CA: Ivey PMI; US: Non Farm Payrolls

Further reading

Bloomberg	China's Norin to Buy Trafigura-Backed Congo Cobalt Miner
Bloomberg	The London Metal Exchange Is Taking a Hong Kong Consolation Prize
Bloomberg	China's Copper Stockpiles Shrink Again in Hint at Demand Upturn
Bloomberg	One in Five Public EV Chargers in the US Don't Work, Study Finds
Reuters	Miner M&A spotlight may shift to Teck and Freeport
Reuters	Lilac Solutions releases lithium extraction data amid rising competition
Reuters	California drives US battery storage growth in power systems
Reuters	Disputed Sigma Lithium land has 'probable' reserves, study shows

Metal Research Major Exchanges Total Copper Inventories (MT)



Data: as at 28 June 2024

Source: Bloomberg

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