



BHP looking to expand Olympic Dam copper smelter and refinery

BHP [reported](#) that the South Australian Government has announced the commencement of an application and assessment process for its planned smelter and refinery expansion at Olympic Dam. This comes on the heels of its [FY24 full year results](#), in which BHP outlined a phased strategy to increase production in South Australia from 322 kt in the last financial year to 500 kt of refined copper cathode by the early 2030s and potentially up to 650 kt by the mid-2030s in a second phase. A final investment decision on phase one of the smelter and refinery expansion is currently scheduled in the first half of FY27.

Lithium Americas [announced](#) that General Motors has delayed the second tranche of investment, worth \$330 million, in the miner until the end of the year. GM announced an investment in Lithium Americas of \$650 million, in two tranches, in January 2023 to help develop the Thacker Pass lithium mining project, the largest known lithium deposit in North America. The investment conditions for GM’s second tranche include the successful execution of a \$2.26 billion loan agreement with the US Energy Department. Lithium Americas is [targeting](#) nameplate capacity of 40,000 tpa of lithium carbonate in Thacker Pass Phase 1 with the first year of production and commissioning occurring in 2027-28.

San Antonio-based CPS Energy, the largest municipally-owned electric and natural gas utility in the US, [announced](#) that it has entered into two storage capacity agreements with [Eolian](#) for a total of 350 MW of battery energy storage, which follow on from a 50 MW agreement signed with Eolian in 2023. The battery energy storage projects, called “Ferdinand” and “Padua 2”, have respective storage capacity of 200 MW and 150 MW. Both projects are expected to come online in the first half of 2026.

Copper relative to Aluminium (LME Cash Official Prices in USD, 5 years to 30 August 2024)



Source: Bloomberg

Metal prices

Metal	Price USD (30 August)	Weekly change %	Year-to-date change %	Price vs 200 day moving average	Price vs 52 week high
Copper	9215	1.6%	8.7%	102.4%	84.9%
Cobalt	23479	0.0%	-19.6%	86.7%	67.2%
Nickel	16820	2.5%	3.2%	98.5%	79.1%
Palladium	980	4.0%	-13.7%	99.9%	75.9%
Platinum	940	-0.8%	-6.0%	99.3%	88.3%

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

Source: LME

Notes. All performance data to 30 August 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

2 Sept	AU, CN, JP, EU, DE, ES, FR, IT, UK: Manufacturing PMIs; IT: GDP Growth Rate
3 Sept	CA, US: Manufacturing PMIs; US: RCM/TIPP Economic Optimism Index
4 Sept	AU, CN, JP, EU, DE, ES, FR, IT, UK: Services & Composite PMIs; CA, US: Balance of Trade; CA: BoC Interest Rate Decision; US: JOLTs Job Openings, Factory Orders
5 Sept	AU: Balance of Trade; DE: Factory Orders; UK: S&P Global Construction PMI; EU: Retail Sales US: ADP Employment Change, S&P Global Services & Composite PMIs, ISM Services PMI
6 Sept	DE, FR: Balance of Trade, Industrial Production; EU: GDP Growth Rate; CA: Ivey PMI; CA, US: Unemployment Rate, Participation Rate; US: Non Farm Payrolls

Further reading

Bloomberg	Lithium Startups Bet on High Demand in Battery-Powered Future
Bloomberg	Jiangxi Copper Sees No Respite From Ore Shortage That's Hit Fees
Bloomberg	Zambia Plans State Firm to Own 30% of Critical Minerals Mines
Reuters	Argentina official says lithium, copper to drive metal exports to \$10 billion by 2027
Reuters	Global solar generation overtakes wind for longest ever stretch
Reuters	Impala chief sees no new platinum mines built in South Africa amid EV threat
Reuters	Wary of Trump, US minerals projects rush to close government loans

Metal Research Major Exchanges Total Copper Inventories (MT)



Data: as at 30 August 2024

Source: Bloomberg

Disclaimer

For professional clients and eligible counterparties only

NTree International Limited (“NTree”) is an appointed representative of Messels Ltd. which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. This document does not constitute an offer to buy or sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any company.

NTree Deutschland GmbH, Germany, is a 100% subsidiary of NTree International Ltd. and acts as a tied agent for the account and under the liability of AHP Capital Management GmbH, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. As a tied agent of AHP, NTree Deutschland GmbH is allowed to provide investment brokerage and investment solicitation in regard to financial instruments in Germany and it is intended expand these activities gradually into other EU and EFTA member states. NTree International Ltd. does not provide financial services in the European Union.

NTree manages and distributes the Elementum Metal Securities range of physically-backed metal Exchange Traded Commodities (“ETC” or “ETC Securities”). This document is prepared by NTree for Elementum Metal Securities.

This document is not intended for distribution to any other country where such distribution or use would be contrary to local law or regulation. Specifically, this document is not intended for general distribution in the United States or Canada. Investing in financial markets involves a substantial degree of risk. Nothing described herein is intended to imply that an investment is “safe”, “conservative”, “risk free” or “risk averse”.

This document is intended for information purposes only and does not consider the specific investment objective, financial situation or particular needs of any potential investor and is intended only for those investors who are capable of understanding the risk of loss of all or a substantial part of their monies. Potential investors in the UK are reminded that they will not benefit from the UK investors compensation scheme.

Nothing contained herein constitutes investment, legal, tax or other advice nor is to be relied upon in making an investment or other decision. No recommendation is made positive or otherwise, regarding individual securities or investments mentioned herein. Any summary list of risk factors does not purport to be a complete enumeration or explanation of the risks involved in an investment in short and leveraged products. Prospective clients must consult with their own legal, tax and financial advisers before deciding to invest.

This document contains the opinions of the author and such opinions are subject to change without notice. The source of data is NTree unless otherwise stated. No guarantee is made to the accuracy of the information provided which has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. This document and the information contained herein is intended only for the use of persons (or entities they represent) to whom it has been provided.

This document is marketing material. Before investing an investor should read the Prospectus and KID available at <https://www.elementummetals.com>

Risk Factors

Investment in the ETC Securities will involve a significant degree of risk. Investors may lose the value of their entire investment or part of it. Each prospective purchaser of, or investor in, ETC Securities should be familiar with instruments having characteristics similar to the ETC Securities and should fully understand the terms of the ETC Securities and the nature and extent of its exposure to risk of loss.

Performance and capital loss: Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. The value of an investment may go down as well as up and can result in losses, up to and including a total loss of the amount initially invested.

Generic risks: Investments in ETCs involve numerous risks including, but not limited to, metal market risks, foreign exchange risks, interest rate risks, and liquidity risks.