



Boliden to acquire Lundin Mining’s European zinc and copper mines

Boliden [announced](#) that it is to acquire Lundin Mining’s Neves-Corvo mine in Portugal and Zinkgruvan mine in Sweden. The upfront cash consideration is US\$1.3 bn plus contingent payments of up to US\$150 million. Neves-Corvo is the larger mine, producing 108,812 tonnes of zinc and 33,823 tonnes of copper in 2023 compared to Zinkgruvan’s corresponding figures of 76,349 tonnes and 4,434 tonnes. The contingency payments are subject to, in the case of Neves-Corvo, average zinc and copper prices above USD 1.30/lb and USD 4.50/lb, respectively, over the next 3 years and, for Zinkgruvan, average zinc prices above USD 1.40/lb and a minimum mining production threshold over the next 2 years.

Following on from the planned [acquisition of Arcadium Lithium](#) announced in October, Rio Tinto [announced](#) that it has approved \$2.5 billion to expand the Rincon project in Argentina, which is the company’s first commercial scale lithium operation. Rincon will have a capacity of 60,000 tonnes of battery grade lithium carbonate per year, involving a 3,000 tonne starter plant and 57,000 tonne expansion plant. Rincon’s mine life is expected to be 40 years, and, subject to permitting, construction of the expanded plant will begin in mid-2025 with first production is expected in 2028 followed by a three-year ramp up to full capacity. Rincon is expected to be in the first quartile of the cost curve.

Last Energy, the US startup aiming to become the first mass-manufacturer of 20 MW nuclear microreactors, [announced](#) that the Export-Import Bank of the United States has issued a Letter of Intent confirming its willingness to diligence a \$103.7 million financing toward a microreactor planned near Bridgend in South Wales. Upon final commitment, it indicated that the Bank’s facility would cover Last Energy’s entire costs for a single power plant installation. In October, Last Energy announced plans to deploy four microreactors at the site near Bridgend that had previously housed the 120 MW coal-fired Llynfi Power Station.

Spot Platinum (XPT)/Palladium (XPD) ratio (five years to 13 December 2024)



Source: Bloomberg

Metal prices

Metal	Price USD (13 December)	Weekly change %	Year-to-date change %	Price vs 200 day moving average	Price vs 52 week high
Copper	8989	-0.6%	6.1%	96.2%	82.8%
Cobalt	22146	-0.6%	-24.1%	90.7%	75.5%
Nickel	15810	0.1%	-3.0%	92.9%	74.3%
Palladium	965	-0.2%	-15.1%	97.4%	79.0%
Platinum	927	-1.0%	-7.3%	95.9%	87.0%

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

Source: LME

Notes. All performance data to 13 December 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

16 Dec	JP: Machinery Orders; CN: House Price Index, Industrial Production, Retail Sales, Fixed Asset Investment YTD; JP, EU, DE, FR, UK, US: Manufacturing & Services PMIs IT: Inflation Rate; US: NY Empire State Manufacturing Index
17 Dec	DE: Ifo Business Climate; EU, DE: ZEW Economic Sentiment Index; EU, IT: Balance of Trade; CA: Inflation Rate; US: Retail Sales, Industrial Production
18 Dec	JP: Balance of Trade, Exports; UK: CBI Industrial Trends Orders; UK, EU: Inflation Rate US: Housing Starts, Current Account, Fed Interest Rate Decision, FOMC Economic Projections
19 Dec	JP, UK: Interest Rate Decisions; DE: Gfk Consumer Confidence; FR: Business Confidence US: GDP Growth Rate, Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Index, Net Long-term TIC Flows
20 Dec	JP: Inflation Rate; CN: Loan Prime Rate 1Y & 5Y; DE: PPI; IT: Business Confidence; UK: Retail Sales, CBI Distributive Trades; US: Core PCE Price Index, Michigan Consumer Sentiment Final

Further reading

Bloomberg	Climate Tech Funds See Cash Pile Rise to \$86 Billion as Investing Slows
Bloomberg	US Mulls Backing Brazilian Nickel Plant With Up to \$550 Million
Bloomberg	South32 Hopeful Trump Will Allow Access to Alaska Copper Region
Reuters	Bleak times for copper smelters as conversion fees slump
Reuters	Offshore wind in Sweden needs support, government body says
Reuters	China's CATL offers suppliers financial support to drive battery innovation

Metal Research Major Exchanges Total Copper Inventories (MT)



Data: as at 13 December 2024

Source: Bloomberg

Disclaimer

For professional clients and eligible counterparties only

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.