



## Volkswagen Group announces strategic partnership with Patriot Battery Metals

PowerCo SE, Volkswagen Group’s battery company, and Patriot Battery Metals [announced](#) a strategic partnership with Volkswagen Group investing US\$48 million to acquire 9.9 per cent stake in Patriot. This is the first investment for PowerCo and Volkswagen in the lithium supply chain and includes a binding offtake commitment for the supply of 100,000 tonnes of spodumene concentrate per year for a period of 10 years as soon as Patriot’s [Shaakichiuwaanaan Project](#) starts production. The offtake will be a key milestone in ramping-up PowerCo’s cell production activities in Europe and North America. The strategic partnership also includes provision for ongoing support for the development of the Shaakichiuwaanaan Project, which is the eighth largest lithium pegmatite resource in the world.

Bloomberg [reported](#) that Indonesia is considering cuts to nickel mining quotas in an effort to boost the price of the metal, which has been on a downward trajectory over the second half of the year on the back of weak demand in China and a slowdown in EV demand growth. According to sources, Indonesia’s Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry is looking to lower the amount of nickel ore allowed to be mined in 2025 to 150 Mt, which compares to a figure of 272 Mt this year. Discussions are reportedly ongoing and any cuts are likely to prove contentious as they will hit tax revenues and have implications for investment in the sector.

In lithium-related news, Bloomberg [reported](#) that Enami’s chief executive, Ivan Mlynarz, had indicated in an interview that Chilean authorities will grant it an operating license to develop the Altoandinos lithium project in the Atacama region by year-end. Eramet has shortlisted Rio Tinto, BYD, Eramet and Posco Holdings as potential developers, and CHGR Advanced Material and LG Energy Solution are in line to provide financing in exchange for a share of production. A decision on partners is scheduled for April or May. Altoandinos is projected to produce 20,000 tonnes a year by 2032 and triple that by 2037.

## Spot LME Cash Official Price Nickel (USD, 1 year to 20 December 2024)



Source: Bloomberg

**Metal prices**

Metal	Price USD (20 December)	Weekly change %	Year-to-date change %	Price vs 200 day moving average	Price vs 52 week high
Copper	8793	-2.2%	3.7%	94.0%	81.0%
Cobalt	22126	-0.1%	-24.2%	91.1%	75.7%
Nickel	14965	-5.3%	-8.2%	88.2%	70.3%
Palladium	921	-4.6%	-18.9%	93.1%	75.4%
Platinum	930	0.3%	-7.0%	96.1%	87.3%

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

Source: LME

Notes. All performance data to 20 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**

23 Dec	UK: Current Account; ES, UK: GDP Growth Rate; CA: GDP, BoC Summary of Deliberations US: Chicago Fed National Activity Index, CB Consumer Confidence
24 Dec	AU, JP: Central Bank Monetary Policy Meeting Minutes US: Durable Goods Orders, New Home Sales
26 Dec	JP: Housing Starts; US: Initial Jobless Claims
27 Dec	JP: Unemployment Rate, BoJ Summary of Opinions, Industrial Production, Retail Sales US: Goods Trade Balance, Wholesale Inventories, S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price

**Further reading**

Bloomberg	<a href="#">Green Hydrogen Goes From Hyped to Humbled on Eye-Popping Costs</a>
Bloomberg	<a href="#">Wind Farm Near Martha's Vineyard Wins Biden Approval</a>
Bloomberg	<a href="#">Glencore in Talks to Sell Its Philippine Copper Smelting Unit</a>
Reuters	<a href="#">Critical metals will be a key battleground in US-China trade war</a>
Reuters	<a href="#">Mercuria sets up jointly-owned metals trading unit with Zambia's IDC</a>
Reuters	<a href="#">US data-center power use could nearly triple by 2028, DOE-backed report says</a>

**Metal Research Major Exchanges Total Copper Inventories (MT)**



Data: as at 20 December 2024

Source: Bloomberg

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