

Battery Metals Market Signals

Bull

- US Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) released a tender notice to procure battery-grade lithium carbonate under a five-year fixed-price contract for replenishing the US National Defense Stockpile (NDS). This marks the first large-scale procurement of lithium for national strategic defence reserves.
- Customs platform system failures in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) risk disrupting cobalt exports, with up to 20,000 tonnes of cobalt cargo at risk of missing scheduled shipments.
- Youngy Energy Technology (Guangzhou) Co., Ltd. (Youngy Energy) officially signed a 3 GWh lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cell supply agreement with Indian energy storage integrator Lineage Power Systems Pvt Ltd on June 28th.
- Nearly 20 global analogue and power semiconductor manufacturers have rolled out a new round of price hikes, with several rounds of stepped price adjustments implemented throughout 2026. The aggressive buildout of AI data centres will drive rising consumption of copper, aluminium, lithium and other industrial metals. Meanwhile, market share is set to further concentrate among leading chip players with integrated IDM capabilities across the full value chain.
- Samsung Group announced a domestic investment plan worth around \$1.71 trillion, covering semiconductors, HBM, AI hyperscale data centers, power batteries and advanced robotics; over \$1.31 trillion will be invested in its Pyeongtaek and Yongin semiconductor hubs to expand AI chip capacity. SK Group will spend over \$64.7 billion on domestic industrial construction annually for the next decade, with a total of roughly \$1.42 trillion allocated to AI data center infrastructure and semiconductor capacity expansion.

Bear

- Novandino Litio, the joint venture between SQM and state copper miner Codelco, has formally filed the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) application for its flagship Salar Futuro lithium project. The project is designed to extend lithium production operations at Chile's Salar de Atacama through to 2060. It targets lifting annual lithium output from the current level of roughly 270,000 tonnes LCE to a peak capacity of 470,000 tonnes lithium carbonate equivalent (LCE).
- EValution Energy LLC has kicked off construction of its solar-powered cobalt processing facility. The combined contained cobalt volume from sulfate and metal products is projected to cover roughly 40% of total US cobalt demand by 2027–2029, a milestone in reducing US reliance on overseas refined cobalt supply.

- Zhongkuang Resources issued a public notice stating that due to a temporary mismatch between the inbound shipment schedule for self-mined spodumene concentrate and plant production scheduling, maintenance shutdowns have been scheduled for its wholly-owned subsidiary Jiangxi Zhongkuang Lithium Industry's high-purity lithium salt production lines.
- Morgan Stanley analysts forecast a dramatic surge in sodium-ion battery penetration across total global battery installations: the segment will capture around 2% market share in 2027, jump to 20% by 2030, and further climb to 37% in 2035. At full scale, manufacturing costs are 30%–40% lower than lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cells.

Other

- As of the week ending Jul 3rd, the weekly trading volume of lithium carbonate on the Guangzhou Futures Exchange was 1,659,138 tonnes, down 1.63% on the week. The open interest was 564,965 tonnes, down 5.86% on the week.
- The registered warehouse warrants of lithium carbonate on the Guangzhou Futures Exchange were 48,206 tonnes last week, compared with 51,975 tonnes in the previous week.

Weekly Futures Price and Open Interest Change

OI / lots	Cobalt Metal	Lithium Hydro	OI WoW %	Cobalt Metal	Lithium Hydro	Price	Cobalt Metal	Lithium Hydro	Price WoW %	Cobalt Metal \$/mt	Lithium Hydro \$/mt
Jul-26	1,398	2,110	Jul-26	7.5%	3.2%	Jul-26	57,563	19,740	Jul-26	1.0%	6.0%
Aug-26	1,396	1,829	Aug-26	-2.0%	-1.3%	Aug-26	57,717	19,570	Aug-26	2.0%	5.1%
Sep-26	1,110	1,838	Sep-26	-1.7%	-0.3%	Sep-26	57,651	19,670	Sep-26	1.9%	5.4%
Oct-26	948	1,631	Oct-26	9.5%	2.7%	Oct-26	57,761	19,930	Oct-26	2.7%	4.8%
Nov-26	975	1,954	Nov-26	11.7%	0.8%	Nov-26	57,541	19,930	Nov-26	2.6%	4.3%
Dec-26	1,053	1,594	Dec-26	8.8%	3.3%	Dec-26	57,761	20,120	Dec-26	3.0%	5.3%
Jan-27	520	646	Jan-27	2.0%	0.0%	Jan-27	57,320	20,400	Jan-27	1.8%	4.6%
Feb-27	475	662	Feb-27	2.2%	0.0%	Feb-27	57,320	20,500	Feb-27	1.8%	4.6%
Mar-27	466	669	Mar-27	2.2%	0.0%	Mar-27	57,320	20,600	Mar-27	1.7%	4.9%
Apr-27	423	340	Apr-27	0.0%	1.5%	Apr-27	57,761	20,850	Apr-27	2.3%	4.3%
May-27	423	340	May-27	0.0%	1.5%	May-27	57,761	20,950	May-27	2.3%	4.2%
Jun-27	328	340	Jun-27	0.0%	1.5%	Jun-27	57,827	21,050	Jun-27	2.5%	4.0%
Jul-27	270	115	Jul-27	0.0%	0.0%	Jul-27	57,937	21,400	Jul-27	2.4%	4.5%
Aug-27	270	115	Aug-27	0.0%	0.0%	Aug-27	57,982	21,800	Aug-27	2.4%	5.6%
Sep-27	316	115	Sep-27	0.0%	0.0%	Sep-27	58,048	22,000	Sep-27	2.5%	5.6%
Oct-27	299	115	Oct-27	0.0%	0.0%	Oct-27	58,048	22,200	Oct-27	2.3%	5.2%
Nov-27	301	115	Nov-27	0.0%	0.0%	Nov-27	58,048	22,400	Nov-27	2.2%	5.7%
Dec-27	247	115	Dec-27	0.0%	0.0%	Dec-27	58,092	22,600	Dec-27	2.2%	6.1%

Source: CME

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