

Strengthening the Delicate US Graphite Supply Chain

Urbix Resource' Mesa, Arizona-based green tech graphite purification plant will help strengthen the natural graphite supply chain in the United States.

MESA, AZ, UNITED STATES, June 29, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: At a U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources meeting on June 24th, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence Managing Director Simon Moores stressed the importance of countries building their own supply chains and managing them well.



Urbix CTO Dr. Palash Gangopadhyay

“Those who invest in battery capacity and supply chains today are likely to dominate this industry for generations to come,” Moores told those assembled. “It is not too late for the US, but action is needed now.”

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We are basically changing the entire graphite industry.”

*Dr. Palash Gangopadhyay,
Urbix CTO*

As they move towards the completion of their pilot [graphite](#) purification plant in Mesa, Arizona, [Urbix Resources](#) has come to realize how important a part they can play in that initiative. Urbix has been a Clean-Tech Open winner and has been a recognized leader in environmentally friendly graphite purification. This is

important for several reasons.

- Roughly 22 percent of an electric vehicle’s lithium-ion battery is composed of purified and processed graphite
- 19 percent of US electric consumption comes from nuclear energy. Nuclear reactors use purified graphite to prevent them from melting down
- US imports 100 percent of its graphite and more than 95 percent of purified graphite comes from China

- At least eight battery gigafactories will be constructed in the US by 2023
- Graphite has been designated as a critical mineral and has now become a matter of national and economic security.

“The United States is 100 percent dependent on foreign sources for natural graphite,” says Urbix co-founder Adam Small. “We do not have a single operating natural graphite mine in the 50 states. That's not just a problem for the US, but it's a problem for the entire world.”



Urbix Chairman and Co-Founder Nico Cuevas

To make matters worse, graphite from wherever in the world it is sourced, must be processed before it can be used for a wide variety of applications. “Graphite is a part of every person's mundane life activities,” says Urbix chairman Nico Cuevas. “Twenty-two percent of a lithium ion battery is a very expensive refined form of graphite. Graphite is utilized in a plethora of applications, including steel, refractory, paints, coatings, brakes, and nuclear.”

And, for much of the world, graphite purification is a messy business, mostly involving hydrofluoric acid and high temperature ovens that use a lot of energy.

Urbix CTO Dr. Palash Gangopadhyay says that “graphite has also been the dirtiest chemical in terms of processing. We are basically changing the entire graphite industry.”

Cuevas agrees. “The Urbix method — the solution, we believe — is environmentally conscious, does not use hydrofluoric acid. We consume 1/25th of the energy of the next best alternative, 1/100th of the space of the next best alternative [and can do it] in a light industrial zone. It's a true American technology that is innovative and lower cost than the best alternatives.”

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About Urbix Resources:

Urbix Resources LLC creates radical change in the way natural graphite is refined and commercialized. The company specializes in all aspects of the graphite value chain. Urbix's advanced technology includes cost and environmentally aware purification methods and significant intellectual property developments in a wide range of applications.

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