



American Vanadium not expecting critical mineral exports cull

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Sole US vanadium developer says it does not fear government interference

American Vanadium Corp., the US's only developer of the critical mineral derivative, vanadium pentoxide, has told **IM** that it aims to make batteries for the US, not China.

"We are not going to be shipping tank-loads of vanadium to China," the company's president and CEO Bill Radvak explained to **IM**. "We aim to make the batteries here in the US."

The company, which is developing a vanadium mine in central Nevada to supply electrolyte for a potential boom in the battery industry, said it is aware of interference from the US government but is not expecting any.

As China has restricted the exports of similar high-tech minerals like rare earths, there has been a resource nationalism sentiment coming from Washington - an urgency for self-sufficiency in raw material production.

However should the company initially choose to export vanadium products, it feels that the government could not intervene.

"I don't think they could stop us selling to foreign countries," executive chairman Ron MacDonald explained, "...it would invoke retaliation policies - a tit for tat situation - where no one wants to be."

American Vanadium is positioning itself as a high-value products supplier to China, Japan and South Korea - the high-tech economies and demand drivers of the next generation.

Vanadium battery technologies are vying for traction for new large scale storage systems and electric vehicles, seen as key to weaning off a hydrocarbon-based transport network.

Many believe the future potential of vanadium is locked in its pentoxide form to be used in the battery sector. This is in sharp contrast to today's almost sole use in its metal form for steel strengthening.

American Vanadium's Gibellini project is aiming to produce 11.4m lbs of V_2O_5 in 2014-2015 from measured and indicated reserves of 23,000 tonnes 0.285% V_2O_5 .

***IM's** Critical Materials for Green Energy, Issue 2, will be published in May 2012. It will include a feature on how the vanadium industry is shaping for a high-tech revolution.*