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Welcome to the OTCQB podcast. I'm your host, Michael Kaiser. On today's episode, we have Volta Metals. Volta Metals is a Canadian mineral exploration company strategically focused on developing a portfolio of high potential critical mineral assets. The company is positioning itself as a key supplier of essential materials for the North American semiconductors, energy transition, advanced electronics, and defense sectors. Joining us today is President and CEO of Volta Metals, Kerem Usenmez. The company trades on OTCQB venture market under the ticker VOLMF. Kerem, thank you for joining me today.

Kerem Usenmez

Thank you, Michael, for having it's my pleasure.

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Let's get started. um How about we begin with a brief introduction of yourself and how you became President and CEO of Volta?

Kerem Usenmez

Yeah, I'm a geological engineer. I worked with majors and junior exploration companies worked all kinds of projects across Canada literally did some consulting, yeah, my master's was in ground support in fact and slope stability. But yeah, I'm one of the founders. We started this company three years ago, just over three years ago with our own, you know, putting money and assembled the projects I assembled, put to put the projects at the time. We wanted to focus in Ontario. We wanted to focus on critical minerals as well. So, yeah, having that geological and the engineering background, we wanted projects that can be developed, actually, you know, for this Western world that needs this supply chain went better place to build this in Ontario with a lot of government support and the and the skill set that's already available.

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Amazing. So, you have a bit of an intro in your last answer to what you're up to, and you have a really unique story that you're focused on both rare earth elements as well as critical elements. Can you start with a high-level strategy overview for the company?

Kerem Usenmez

Absolutely. When we started, we wanted to obviously have good projects, but exploring projects that are road-accessed. That was one of the main pillars we wanted to build the company on because that not only makes it easier and cheaper, more cost effective to explore and develop but it also provides you year-round exploration so and those are the projects that get into production stage faster than the others that that those were the main things and we wanted to focus on critical minerals that the West North America desperately needs and built that big supply chain here so that's how we started and obviously team is extremely important so our board is a very engaged board that everybody brings in really a value to the company and to our projects. Everybody has some background to make this a success. And really what we've been doing is so far working and there's a lot of exciting stuff that are coming.

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Amazing. You mentioned supply chain. Obviously, exploration right now really as a new exposure to the metals and mining minerals space. Something that's being accessible year-round and in roads and production availability is a nuance that maybe I hadn't realized before, but makes a lot of sense. In that supply chain, what are the primary end products that you're supplying for? What are the use cases for each of your projects and but your the minerals have?

Kerem Usenmez

Yeah, so when we started the company, we just put together lithium portfolio, and we were coming up with discoveries. We still have that project, and we have more of the strike length. So, there's a lot of potential for lithium. We own that 100%. Now, last year in the summer, about June, we acquired this rare earth deposit. So, it's a deposit verified by third-party consultants. that there is a viable deposit in there for rare earths. So, when we acquired, we realized its potential that it was going to be bigger. So, we immediately drilled, we updated the resource. Now it's one of the top 10, in fact, the seventh largest, rare-earth deposit in North America with incredible infrastructure. Like you can bicycle. I actually ordered pizza from Domino's to the site a couple of weeks ago. The pictures are on our website, but there's also gallium. That's what we realized. So, what are these used for? Rare Earths are in our everyday life. In the modern world, this podcast is being made available because of Rare Earths. Any car, car seats that we are adjusting electronically, those are Rare Earths. They're in defense, the precision magnets making the rockets, the drones available. the EV motors, like a lot of old electronics, are cell phones. There's so much computing capacity, but the screens only have glass, but they're not getting hot.

Have you thought about it? Like it's not getting hot because of rare earths. Rare earths are making it possible that it doesn't explode or burn. So those are the main things, but what also we have is gallium. Gallium is extremely important. Right now, 98, almost 99% of production is happening in China, around the world. And Gallium is not only used everywhere where Earths are used, but also now in the new generation semiconductors, the chips that are making AI possible. They are extremely conductive. They're faster than silicon chips, making actual videos and whatnot available at the moment, and they're getting more shares, but we have zero production in the US, zero. So having that resource available in Ontario with road access is incredibly like incredibly important right now.

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Really impressive and things that you don't think about on the daily and we probably take for granted. You mentioned China and know, there's been a lot of discussion in the last year for sure, and I'm sure many years prior to that, just generally the geopolitical landscape and resource exchange trade is ah in constant motion, it feels. had How would you describe the changes in the geopolitical landscape for good, for bad, for indifferent, and how they might shape what you guys are thinking about with your projects overall and drive demand as well?

Kerem Usenmez

Yeah, that's a great question. We are seeing East and West separated in a way. There is this manufacturing; this supply chain that we have lost over the years is now considered important and in fact critical. So, having these critical minerals in ground, we need to unlock this value and start building that supply chain here onshore basically. So that's where I think we come in because this project is very important not only for Canada but all North America and the Western world in fact because the mineralization is on surface. It's still growing. We have all the premium magnet rare earths available. It's a very clean deposit. There is no radioactivity. Processing seems pretty straightforward. And we have gallium. We're going to be the only company in Canada, only project that is going to have gallium resource. This year, by this summer, that's what we're targeting. So having that really, really is going to help, I think here in North America and the and entire supply chain of these extremely strategic, not only critical, but strategic elements that we all need.

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Great. You know you mentioned you started with lithium; you have this great rarest and gallium deposit. Are there learnings that you can take from each project? Is there a lot of

crossover and development and production? Can you talk about how you leverage your strengths and your experience throughout your career to help develop both these two very different types of assets?

Kerem Usenmez

Yeah, absolutely. So having them all in and Ontario with code access makes it easier. But what is critical is local engagement, not on paper. Just building that relationship. So that's what we did from day one for either project area. The first day we approached the local communities, the First Nations, and we built that relationship. We need their support. We need their involvement as we move these projects forward. And that's what's happening. We built a really, really strong relationship with them. Coming to the similarities and the differences, obviously very different technology, very different chemistry, very different geology to process them, but the mining and exploration is very similar. Now, the rare earth is more advanced, obviously, so we're taking that into the to the next level where we are going into more development stage. But the good thing is either project can be accelerated very quickly into production because of their location.

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Great. And that brings up the next question as we look to the future. Can you give some of the catalysts that we should be watching from Volta as a whole? And if you want to get into either or both of the projects as well, we'd love to get your perspective of what we should be watching for overall.

Kerem Usenmez

Absolutely, so, the Springer Railroad Deposit that we acquired last summer, we've already accomplished so much in the last six months. Now the next six months we just completed our drill program, the assays are pending, so once the assets start coming I'm going to start having those results which we anticipate if not like the same and better results than before. It could be because we drilled outside and soil mineralization, and we're going to have a gallium, you know more gallium numbers. But more importantly, in the near future, we're going to have our metallurgical work results. We've been working on these metallurgical tests, which is going to tell us how much we can recover. Right now, we know the in-situ, the in-ground value of the deposit so far, which is also growing, but the recovery is where you can make it real, in a way. So that is coming. That's very important. And with all this information, we are going to build the technical report, which is an engineering report that's going to map out the economics of it, as well as what you need to do to make it into

production. So that's coming after summer. So those are the next probably six months of major catalysts that are coming. So, after that, the yeah, we probably project as well as the company is going to be in a different middle.

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Great. And as you think longer term, do you have a view on exploration and production development on your own partnership? How do you think about those overall?

Kerem Usenmez

I think we have the experience and the team that can take this into production. Like I said, we have the local support, which is crucial. However, like I say that to everybody, for example, my house is not for sale, right? We love the house we live in, but if somebody came offered, you know, the super good value, we could sell it. That's the same thing. Having a partner, having a strategic, you know, would be probably beneficial. Not only the financial aspects of it, but if they can help us build the mine, that would be something we could consider. It really depends. It depends how things go in the next 6 to 12 months, really. We'll see. We are on our way to get this into development, so let's see where we are.

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That's a really fair and good answer because having all of those options at your fingertips are a real positive. So lastly, before we conclude, Volta Metals trades on the OTCQB venture market. You're also listed on the CSE in Canada. Can you talk to us about cross trading in the US and the importance for your investor strategy?

Kerem Usenmez

Yeah, so we have only been trading on the Canadian Stock Exchange in Canada. Having our trading available through OTC is very important because we've had a lot of US investors that were interested in our story, in our company. So, this trading being available in the US through OTC is the first step to take our company into the next level. I think that's very valuable for us at this moment.

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Amazing. Karim, thank you for coming in today and we wish you much success.

Kerem Usenmez



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Thank you for having me.