

**VENUE:** [Knightsbrook Hotel Spa and Golf Resort, Dublin Rd, Iffernock, Trim, Co. Meath, Ireland](#)

**Pre-Forum DAY 27 October (Tuesday)**

**10:00 - 17:00**

Ash Suite

**WORKSHOP: SHARING YOUR MINING STORY**

**Format: Full-day interactive workshop (10am-5pm, 6 hours CPD)**

**Certificate provided on completion**

**Chris Stockey**, Climate Change and Nature Lead, Satarla

**Organiser:** Satarla is a specialist consultancy and training provider focused on risk management, sustainability and the extractive industries.

**Overview:** Mining and exploration companies must communicate increasingly complex projects to a wide range of stakeholders, each with different priorities, concerns and levels of technical knowledge. A compelling project story must connect geology, finance, environmental performance, social value, risk and uncertainty, all while remaining credible and evidence - based. This workshop explores how organisations can communicate their work clearly, transparently and effectively, building trust with investors, communities, regulators and the wider public without falling into greenwashing. Participants will examine practical approaches to stakeholder engagement, communication strategy and evidence-led storytelling throughout the mining lifecycle.

**Participants will:**

- Understand how communication can build or erode stakeholder trust
- Identify priority stakeholders and their information needs
- Adapt messages for different audiences while maintaining consistency
- Connect technical, commercial, environmental & social information into a coherent story
- Recognise greenwashing risks
- Select the most appropriate communication channels and assets
- Explore opportunities for evidence-based and dynamic communication
- **Who should attend?**
- Corporate and project communications teams
- External and public affairs professionals
- Investor relations teams
- Sustainability and ESG practitioners
- Community and stakeholder engagement specialists
- Exploration and project leaders
- Risk and governance professionals
- Technical experts with communication responsibilities

**Delegates will be served with lunch and beverages**

**VENUE:** [Knightsbrook Hotel Spa and Golf Resort, Dublin Rd, Iffernock, Trim, Co. Meath, Ireland](#)

## 1 DAY 28 October (Wednesday)

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| <b>08:30 – 09:00</b><br>Barbican Suite 1 | <b>Registration &amp; Welcome coffee (sponsored by Bara Consulting)</b><br><i>Networking at the exhibition area</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>09:00 – 09:15</b>                     | <b>Keynotes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>09:15 – 11:00</b><br>Barbican Suite 2 | <b>SESSION 1</b><br><b>Beyond Legislation - Can Europe Rebuild Its Mining Industry?</b><br><br><p>Europe has created a stronger policy framework for critical raw materials, but the gap between political ambition and industrial delivery remains wide. The Critical Raw Materials Act promised faster permitting and stronger domestic supply chains, yet many projects still struggle to advance. The central questions are no longer only about geology or legal frameworks, but about competitiveness, public legitimacy, financing and the ability to move projects from concept to production. How much can legislation really change? Where are the main bottlenecks now - permitting, energy costs, market conditions, public resistance, or lack of investor confidence? And what does “rebuilding an industry” mean in a European context where mining remains strategically necessary but politically contested? This opening session sets the intellectual and commercial frame for the Forum by examining whether Europe is entering a new phase of mining development or still operating mainly at the level of policy aspiration.</p> |
| <b>Moderator</b>                         | <b>Kruthika Anastasia Bala</b> , Managing Director, Resources Now                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>09:15</b>                             | <b>Bernd Schäfer</b> , CEO, Managing Director, EIT RawMaterials                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>09:30</b>                             | Beyond Legislation - Can Europe Rebuild Its Mining Industry?<br><b>Åsa Edfelt</b> , Chief of Staff, Boliden Mines                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>09:45</b>                             | From Innovation to Impact: Building Engagement and Dialogue in relation to European Raw Materials Projects.<br><b>Pól Ó Seasnáin</b> , Council Member, European Federation of Geologists                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>10:00</b>                             | The UK's approach to investing in critical minerals supply chains.<br><b>Oliver Richards</b> , Head, Critical Minerals and Mining (International), Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>10:15</b>                             | Dalradian ( <b>speaker to be confirmed</b> )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>10:25</b>                             | Do Friend-Shoring MoUs Actually Deliver? Europe and the World Compared.<br><b>Han Ilhan</b> , Co-Founder and Managing Director, Catalis Strategies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>10:40</b>                             | Panel discussion with presenters<br><br>Guest panellist: <b>James Watson</b> , Director General, European Metals                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>11:00 – 11:30</b>                     | <b>Mid-morning coffee break (sponsored by Bara Consulting)</b><br><i>Networking at the exhibition area</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>11:30 – 13:00</b>                     | <b>SESSION 2</b><br><b>Europe's critical raw materials supply chain: What Strategic Status Is Really Worth</b><br><br><p>For a developer, the Critical Raw Materials Act's "strategic" label promises a great deal: expedited permitting, a single national contact point, priority access to the RESourceEU financing hub, UNFC classification for bankability, and the offtake</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

certainty of public-interest status. On 9 October 2026 the European Commission named 46 new strategic projects across 16 Member States, taking the EU portfolio to 93. The mix has shifted: recycling now leads with 19 projects and extraction trails with eight, a tacit admission that Europe will not mine its way to self-sufficiency. Strategic status brings permits capped at 27 months for extraction and 15 for processing and recycling, a single national contact point and priority access to RESourceEU funding. But status is not production. The first 47 projects alone were estimated to need €22.5 billion, against just over €2 billion mobilised so far. This session asks what the label is really worth. Does it change bankability, or mainly paperwork? Will carmakers and turbine manufacturers sign the multi-year offtake contracts that keep European plants open? And will private capital follow the public money, or wait for proof that demand exists?

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| <b>Moderator</b>                          | <b>James Watson</b> , Director General, European Metals                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>11:30</b>                              | From Strategic Status to Commercial Reality: What Actually Changes When Europe Calls a Project Strategic?<br><b>Kruthika Anastasia Bala</b> , Managing Director, Resources Now                                         |
| <b>11:45</b>                              | Presentation of the Key Findings of European Court of Auditors Special Report 04/2026: Critical Raw Materials for the Energy Transition<br><b>Keit Pentus-Rosimannus</b> , Member of the EU Court of Auditors (remote) |
| <b>12:00</b>                              | Mineral Information Mission and Critical Minerals Research at USGS.<br><b>Sean Xun</b> , Acting Chief, Global Minerals Analysis Section, USGS National Minerals Information Center                                     |
| <b>12:15</b>                              | Sokli – More than a Mine: Building Europe's Future Critical Raw Materials Ecosystem.<br><b>Kasper Karhapää</b> , Business Development Lead, Sokli                                                                      |
| <b>12:30</b>                              | Iberian Belt West: Poised to be a significant contributor to the EU's bid for Responsible Mining.<br><b>Joaquín Merino</b> , CEO, Emerita Resources Corp                                                               |
| <b>12:45</b>                              | A New Primary Tin Supply for Europe.<br><b>Joe David</b> , Managing Director, Elementos                                                                                                                                |
| <b>13:00 - 14:00</b><br>Rococo Restaurant | <b>Lunch</b><br><i>Networking at the exhibition area</i>                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>14:00 - 15:00</b><br>Barbican Suite 2  | <b>SESSION 3</b><br><b>Ireland's Mining Renaissance: Policy, Regulation and Strategic Opportunity</b>                                                                                                                  |

Ireland occupies a unique position within Europe's minerals landscape. As one of the continent's most established mining jurisdictions, it combines a long history of base metal production with a new generation of critical minerals exploration and development. At the same time, the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment's (DCEE) implementation of the Critical Raw Materials Act, the development of national exploration programmes and renewed industry investment are reshaping the country's approach to resource development. This session examines how Ireland is positioning itself within Europe's evolving raw materials strategy and asks whether the country can translate geological potential into a new generation of mining projects. The discussion will explore regulatory reforms, permitting frameworks, government policy, investment support mechanisms and the role of mining in national economic development, including the evolution of industry representation through bodies such as the Irish Minerals Industry Group (IMIG). It will also address the legacy of Ireland's historic mining districts, and how health, safety and environmental obligations at these older sites are being managed as the sector modernises. It will

consider whether Ireland's experience, past and present, offers lessons for other European jurisdictions seeking to strengthen domestic mineral supply chains.

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| <b>Moderator</b>                         | <b>Aiden Lavelle</b> , President, The Irish Association for Economic Geology                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>14:00</b>                             | Ireland's Mineral Exploration and Mining Policy - a framework for modern resource development.<br><b>Mairéad Fitzsimons</b> , Principal Geologist, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment's (DCEE)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>14:10</b>                             | Ireland; a Case Study on developing a supply chain for the minerals industry.<br><b>Sean Finlay</b> , Chair, Geoscience Ireland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>14:20</b>                             | Priming the Pump: How Geological survey Ireland is derisking mineral exploration.<br><b>Koen Verbruggen</b> , Director, Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>14:30</b>                             | Unlocking Value Through Research in the Raw Materials Value Chain.<br><b>Sarah Gleeson</b> , Director, iCRAG at University College Dublin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>14:45</b>                             | Planning and Permitting a Mine - an Irish Perspective.<br><b>Hannah McGillicuddy</b> , Senior Environmental Geologist, SLR Consulting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>15:00 - 16:00</b><br>Barbican Suite 2 | <b>SESSION 4</b><br><b>Data, Discovery and Research: Building Ireland's Next Generation of Mineral Project</b><br><br>Modern mineral discovery depends increasingly on the quality of geological data, scientific research and exploration technologies. Ireland has emerged as a leading centre for geoscience innovation through initiatives such as Geological Survey Ireland's National Exploration Programme and the internationally recognised research activities of iCRAG. This session explores how government agencies, researchers and industry are working together to improve geological understanding, reduce exploration risk and accelerate the discovery of new mineral resources. Topics include national geoscience datasets, critical raw materials research, deep targeting methodologies, artificial intelligence, geophysical technologies and the growing role of digital tools in exploration. The session asks whether Ireland's integrated approach to science, data and industry collaboration can help unlock the country's next generation of mining opportunities while supporting Europe's broader raw materials ambitions. |
| <b>Moderator</b>                         | <b>Hannah McGillicuddy</b> , Senior Environmental Geologist, SLR Consulting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>15:00</b>                             | "The Value of Tellus" - GSI's national airborne geophysics/geochemistry programme, full Irish coverage achieved in 2026.<br><b>Jim Hodgson</b> , Senior Geologist, Geological Survey Ireland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>15:15</b>                             | "Priming the Pump for Exploration" — GSI's role de-risking early-stage Irish exploration investment.<br><b>Eoin McGrath</b> , Principal Geologist, Geological Survey Ireland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>15:30</b>                             | Transforming Tellus Programme Data into Discovery.<br><b>Olivia Rhind</b> , Senior Geologist, Business Development, ALS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>15:45</b>                             | Towards an All-Ireland Regional Mineral Prospectivity using CSET.<br><b>Kevin Leahy</b> , Associate Technical Partner, ERM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>16:00 - 16:20</b><br>Barbican Suite 2 | <b>Afternoon coffee break (sponsored by Bara Consulting)</b><br><i>Networking at the exhibition area</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>16:20 - 18:00</b><br>Barbican Suite 2 | <b>SESSION 5</b><br><b>Ireland's Advanced Mining Projects: From Discovery to Development</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

Ireland is home to a new generation of projects seeking to build upon the country's established mining heritage. From the expansion of existing operations and brownfield opportunities to new discoveries and project restarts, developers are seeking to demonstrate that Ireland can remain a significant contributor to Europe's future mineral supply. This session provides a strategic overview of the country's most important mining and exploration projects, examining their geological potential, development status, financing requirements and pathways to production. The session will explore the challenges facing project developers, including permitting, community engagement, financing and market competitiveness, while assessing the realistic prospects for a new cycle of mining investment in Ireland. The broader question is whether Ireland is entering a genuine period of mining revival or merely witnessing isolated project successes.

- Moderator** **Sean Finlay**, Chair, Geoscience Ireland
- 16:20** From Mineral Potential to Financeable Mines: Ireland's Role in Europe's Raw Materials Future  
**Paul Quirk**, Co-Managing Partner, The Irish Minerals Fund
- 16:35** Mining the all-island opportunity  
**Ciaran McCreanor**, Stakeholder Relations, Business Lead, Dalradian
- 16:50** Mining with Purpose: Rethinking Responsibility Across Ireland's Mining Sector  
**Aileen Doran**, Sustainability & Raw Materials Consultant, Satarla
- 17:05** The Tynagh Project - Tailings Recycling and Hardrock Polymetallic Exploration Updates.  
**Aiden Lavelle**, General Manager, Northmin Corporation
- 17:20** Mineral Exploration in Ireland – A Renewable Industry: The Minco Experience  
**John Clifford**, Director - Exploration, Minco Exploration
- 17:35** A District-Scale Gold Opportunity in Ireland  
**Kevin McNulty**, Senior Geologist, Conroy Gold and Natural Resources
- 17:50** Beyond Membership: Supporting Ireland's Geoscience Professionals.  
**Emer Blackwell**, Treasurer, Institute of Geologists of Ireland

**18:00 - 18:30**  
Barbican Suite 2

**Fireside chat / Session 5**  
**Unearthing Opportunity: Introducing the Irish Minerals Industry Group**

Irish Minerals Industry Group (IMIG) created in September this year is premier network and business cluster representing Irish experts, consultancies, and contractors in the minerals, mining, infrastructure, and environmental sectors. In this fireside session, we are going to explore how this brand-new cluster aims to unite Irish expertise, tackle the global demand for critical raw materials, and drive the next generation of sustainable mining practices worldwide.

**Moderator** **Sean Finlay**, Chair, Geoscience Ireland

**Panel** **John McGrane**, Secretary General, Irish Minerals Industry Group  
**Aileen Doran**, Sustainability & Raw Materials Consultant, Satarla

**18:30 - 21:00**  
Terrace Lounge

**Networking drinks**

**VENUE:** [Knightsbrook Hotel Spa and Golf Resort, Dublin Rd, Iffernock, Trim, Co. Meath, Ireland](#)

**2 DAY 29 October (Thursday)**

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| <b>08:30 - 09:00</b><br>Barbican Suite 1 | <b>Welcome coffee (sponsored by Bara Consulting)</b><br>Networking at the exhibition area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>09:00 – 10:30</b>                     | <b>SESSION 6</b><br><b>Financing Europe's Next Generation of Mining Projects</b><br><br><p>Project finance remains one of the decisive tests of whether Europe's raw materials strategy can move beyond ambition. This session explores how mining and processing projects are being funded, what types of capital are available, and why many European assets still struggle to attract investment despite strong policy support. Key topics include equity financing, private capital, strategic investors, debt, public support instruments, offtake-backed funding and blended finance models. The session examines what investors are evaluating when they assess European projects: permitting uncertainty, cost inflation, timeline risk, commodity price exposure, power costs, technical complexity and political durability. Open questions include whether Europe's policy frameworks are bankable enough to reduce risk, whether strategic project designation can materially improve financing conditions, and what combination of capital is most likely to support project development in the current market. The broader issue is whether Europe can create not only political momentum, but also credible investment conditions for a new generation of mining assets.</p> |
| <b>Moderator</b>                         | <b>Han Ilhan</b> , Managing Director, Catalis Strategies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>09:00</b>                             | Challenges and solutions for mineral exploration in Europe.<br><b>Vaughan Williams</b> , Director & Principal Geologist, Aurum Exploration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>09:15</b>                             | New ways to finance a sovereign Critical Materials supply chain for the EU's deep tech industries.<br><b>Dr. Joachim Kayser</b> , Managing Partner/Co-Founder, Alliance Critical Materials                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>09:30</b>                             | Public Finance Can Help Scale Responsible Critical Mineral Supply<br><b>David Riposo</b> , Director, World Resources Institute                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>09:45</b>                             | Bridging the Critical Minerals Finance Gap: Insights from the UK.<br><b>Chenyan Lyu</b> , Innovation Research Fellow, University of Exeter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>10:00</b>                             | From Discovery to Production: Why Mining Enterprises Struggle to Evolve as their Assets Mature.<br><b>Sam Houston</b> , CEO and Executive Team Advisor, Strategist Solutions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>10:15</b>                             | Protection of foreign investments in the mining sector<br><b>Scott Macpherson</b> , Counsel, Hogan Lovells Cadwalader                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>10:30 – 11:00</b>                     | Panel<br><br><b>Ayuna Nechaeva</b> , Head of Europe, Primary Markets, London Stock Exchange<br><b>Claudia Lakov</b> , Vice President, Resources and Recycling, KfW IPEX-Bank<br><b>Paul Quirk</b> , Co-Managing Partner, Lionhead/ Manager of the Irish Minerals Fund<br><b>Stefan Müller</b> , CEO, DGWA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>11:00 - 11:30</b><br>Barbican Suite 1 | <b>Mid-morning coffee break (sponsored by Bara Consulting)</b><br>Networking at the exhibition area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

**11:30 - 12:30**

Barbican Suite 2

**SESSION 7****Europe's Energy Metals Opportunity: Mining, Processing, and Competitive Supply**

Europe's €300 billion battery gigafactory investment creates unlimited demand for lithium, cobalt, nickel, and graphite. Yet the continent controls less than 8% of the refining capacity needed to supply it. This session explores how European mining and processing developers can capture the mid-stream opportunity: accelerating projects through permitting, building cost-competitive refining capacity, and securing long-term offtake agreements with gigafactory planners. The focus: what successful European energy metals developers are doing now to win market position by 2030.

**Moderator****Martina Bassan**, Corporate Affairs Director, European Metals**11:30**

Securing European lithium: assessing future demand, primary supply, trade and recycling  
**André Månberger**, Associate Professor, Lund University

**11:45**

Lithium's role at the centre of the energy transition  
**Tom Drabble**, Global Sustainability Manager, The International Lithium Association

**12:00**

Innovation as a key to unlock new sources of Lithium: the case of the Beauvoir deposit in France.  
**Antoine Gouze**, Director Geology, Mine and Metallurgy, Imerys

**12:15**

Rethinking Graphite: A New Path to European Supply Security.  
**Laura Malkamäki**, Founder & COO, Hycamite TCD Technologies

**12:30 - 13:30**

Barbican Suite 2

**SESSION 8****Social Licence as Industrial Policy: Why Legitimacy Is the Real Constraint**

Europe does not only face a permitting challenge. It faces a legitimacy challenge. This session tackles the political and social dimension of mining head-on, asking why domestic projects continue to encounter resistance even when policymakers agree that critical raw materials are essential for climate, industry and defence. The discussion explores trust, local participation, consultation quality, land use conflicts, environmental credibility, benefits sharing and the limits of top-down policy. It also examines why some projects become symbolic political flashpoints and what developers can do differently from the earliest stages of engagement. This session stands out from a standard ESG panel by framing social licence as a core industrial variable rather than an optional communications issue. The objective is to show that no permitting deadline or strategic target will materially shift outcomes unless mining regains public legitimacy on the ground.

**Moderator****Paul Gordon**, Practice Manager (Geology), Mining Advisory, SLR Consulting**12:30**

Mining regulation, permitting and investment conditions and social licence to operate.  
**Michelle Bennett**, General Manager, Boliden Tara Mines

**12:45**

Europe's Green Transition at Risk: How ESG Lite Capital and Offshore Impacts Are Reshaping the CRM Landscape.  
**Karen Dingley**, Regional Director (ESG), Hatch

**13:00**

Mining in a Connected World - Lessons from Global Mining Communities on Trust, Participation and Project Success.  
**Beth Candy**, Technical Director, SLR Consulting

**13:15**

What effect is the EU Taxonomy "Do No Significant Harm" process having on mine permitting and environmental impact assessment in the European union?  
**Freddy Brookes**, Principal Environmental Scientist, Hatch

**13:30 - 14:30**  
Rococo Restaurant

**Lunch**  
*Networking at the exhibition area*

**14:30 - 16:15**  
Barbican Suite 2

## **SESSION 9**

### **Designing Projects Europe Can Actually Permit: Innovation, Low-Impact Mining and Project Readiness**

In Europe, project design is increasingly tied to political acceptability, environmental credibility and permitting success. This session focuses on the kinds of mine design, engineering choices and operational strategies that may improve the chances of project approval and long-term viability. Topics include underground mining methods, digital technologies, water stewardship, tailings design, progressive rehabilitation, biodiversity considerations, closure planning and “low impact” approaches to mine development. The central issue is whether better-designed projects can reduce visible conflict, improve the quality of permitting applications and strengthen the overall case for mining in high-standard jurisdictions. At the same time, the session questions the limits of technical solutions: how far can innovation address opposition, and where do deeper issues of trust and legitimacy remain decisive? The discussion links engineering, ESG, feasibility and project readiness, highlighting the idea that in Europe the projects most likely to succeed may be those designed from the outset for a higher threshold of environmental and social performance.

#### **Moderator**

**Chris Stockey**, Climate Change and Nature Lead, Satarla

**14:30**

Going Back for Seconds: Reprocessing Europe's Mining Legacy  
**Paul Gordon**, Practice Manager (Geology), Mining Advisory, SLR Consulting

**14:45**

Mining with a lighter footprint.  
**Oonagh McKenna**, Sustainability Officer, Dalradian

**15:00**

Innovation in European Mining Projects  
**Andrew Bamber**, Bara Consulting (UK)

**15:15**

Operationalising Mine Decarbonisation.  
**Ottomar Brussee**, Program Manager Climate Impact, Boliden

**15:30**

What Ever Happened to Geology? Part Two!  
**Allan Armitage**, Technical Manager, SGS Geological Services

**15:45**

From Offshore Wind to Critical Minerals: Practical Engineering Solutions for the Energy Transition  
**Laurie Thornton**, Co-Founder and Director, MintMech Specialist Engineers

**16:00**

Comparison of Erosive Wear on Composite and Metallic Propellers in Slurry.  
**Marc Tusenko**, R&D Engineer, PTM

**16:15 - 16:30**  
Barbican Suite 1

**Afternoon coffee break (sponsored by Bara Consulting)**  
*Networking at the exhibition area*

**16:30 - 17:15**  
Barbican Suite 2

## **SESSION 10**

### **Mine to Market 4.0: The AI-Driven Supply Chain**

The final session examines how AI, Big Data, and Remote Sensing are revolutionizing both exploration and operations across the continent. By digitizing the entire value chain—from initial geological surveys to the final concentrate—companies can de-risk projects for investors and improve operational efficiency. The session will showcase

how Irish and European tech firms are leading the way in "Sub-Surface Intelligence," providing the data needed to secure the next generation of mining finance.

|                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Moderator</b>                         | <b>Tony Hand</b> , Consultant, TH Consulting and Training                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>16:30</b>                             | AI in Mining: Opportunities and Challenges.<br><b>Fernando Acosta</b> , Director of Economics and Environment, International Copper Study Group                                                                                             |
| <b>16:45</b>                             | Anchoring AI in Mining Operations.<br><b>Stefan Ebert</b> , CEO & Co-Founder, Digital Mine                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>17:00</b>                             | Diorama – digital transformation training for raw materials.<br><b>Manuel Regueiro y González-Barros</b> , Researcher, CSIC                                                                                                                 |
| <b>17:15 – 17:30</b>                     | <b>INVESTMENT BRIEF - CORNWALL</b><br><br>Cornwall mining sector and its opportunities<br><b>Ola Zawalna</b> , Managing Director, Cornwall Mining and Geo-Resources Alliance                                                                |
| <b>17:30 - 18:00</b><br>Barbican Suite 2 | <b>CLOSING SESSION</b><br><br><b>MINEX Europe 2026 takeaways</b><br><br>Forum moderators will provide a high-level overview of their respective sessions, distilling the key discussion points, participant suggestions, and core feedback. |
| <b>18:30 - 22:30</b><br>Gulliver suite   | <b>Gala Dinner</b> (by invitation)                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

**3 DAY 30 October (Friday)****07:45 - 16:30****VISIT TO BOLIDEN TARA**

Boliden Tara Mines  
 Knockumber  
 Navan C15 NH63  
 Co. Meath

Tara in Ireland is one of Europe's largest zinc mines located just north of Dublin. Since mining began in 1977, more than 85 million tonnes of ore have been extracted. Boliden acquired the mine in 2004. In recent years, Tara has focused on improving its cost position through productivity enhancing activities and cost savings measures. In Tara, both zinc and lead concentrates are produced mainly for the European market.

**Visitor Information**

For everyone participating in the underground visit, please provide **PPE/clothing size and shoe size in advance** so that the appropriate equipment can be prepared

**GROUP 1**

**07:45 – Departure from Knightsbrook Hotel**

**08:30 – Arrival at Tara Mines & Gear Up**  
 Arrival onsite, safety preparation and fitting of PPE ahead of the underground visit.

**09:00 – Underground Mine Visit**  
 Guided underground tour of Tara Mines and an introduction to the mining operations.

**12:30 – Lunch**  
 Lunch in the onsite canteen.

**13:30 – Mill Tour**  
 Guided tour of the processing mill, following the journey of the ore from the mine through to zinc and lead concentrate production.

**15:00 – End of Visit and transfer to Dublin**

**GROUP 2**

**08:45 – Departure from Knightsbrook Hotel**

**09:30 – Arrival at Tara Mines**  
 Gear up with PPE for Mill visit

**10:00 – Mill Tour**  
 Guided tour of the processing mill, following the journey of the ore from the mine through to zinc and lead concentrate production.

**12:00 – Lunch**  
 Lunch in the onsite canteen.

**13:00 – Underground Mine Visit**  
 Guided underground tour of Tara Mines.

**16:30 – End of Visit and transfer to Dublin**