



What comes after the summer slump?

China lays out plan to cut industrial overcapacity

Metal-Pages reported these days that China's industry ministry has released a draft policy to tackle industrial overcapacity. The Government has put certain measures in place for the strict enforcement of environment, safety and energy use as well as emission standards. Those measures will certainly drive some producers out of business

At the same time British analyst house Roskill have reported that during a Chinese Rare Earth Forum further plans have been addressed to crack down on illegal mining. New plans include a product tracing scheme to track the source of rare earths. This could well deter companies from illegal activities and being subject to blacklisting and media attention.

Rare Earths prices

We are not in 2035 yet but two of those metals that were described as most critical in our last newsletter are getting more expensive these days. The prices for dysprosium and terbium are going up as most producers withheld sales and pushed up offer prices because of slim profit margins. In contrast, other rare earth elements prices have showed no signs of life in response to weak demand from downstream consumers associated with the summer slowdown.

New application for indium

A brilliant new blue pigment that contains yttrium and indium has entered the market recently. Its unique characteristics offer a lot of advantages to the industry for a wide range of coatings and plastics. Due to its increased infrared reflectivity it may play an important role in energy efficiency. Used in paints it can help keep buildings cool. In contrast to many other pigments it is made of non-toxic ingredients only and has a very good durability.

Gallium in queue for a rebound

After various Chinese manufacturers shut down production in recent months over-supply is about to fading away. While the slow summer season in Europe and the US is coming to an end consumers in the Fat East have already entered the market with extensive volumes. Some just want to secure the currently low price level. Others want to feed their increasing demands from new technologies that have achieved its market breakthrough.

Links:

- <http://oregonstate.edu/ua/ncs/archives/2015/may/licensing-agreement-reached-brilliant-new-blue-pigment-discovered-happy-accident>
- http://www.tradium.com/en/company/news/singleview/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=201&cHash=f9d5cce8dca0ee85db00af00f20bd1a5