

# American Tungsten's Ali Haji on Fast-Tracking One of the World's Highest-Grade Tungsten Mines to Production

written by InvestorNews | August 11, 2025

August 11, 2025 – Tungsten is not just another industrial metal—it is, as Ali Haji puts it, “the number one military metal,” and [American Tungsten Corp.](#) (CSE: TUNG | OTCQB: DEMRF) intends to be first to production in North America within 12 to 18 months. Speaking from the company's headquarters in Canada, Haji describes the Ima Mine Project in Idaho as “a strategic asset” at a time when the U.S. is explicitly funding domestic tungsten supply to shore up national security. The project's competitive edge is speed: a past producer with over 35,000 feet of historical drilling, located entirely on private, patented land, and well above the water table—eliminating the need for complex federal permitting. “Given our very high grade, our private patented land, and the DSO model, our path to production is significantly quicker than any of our peers in North America,” he says.

That grade—0.63% tungsten—is not only high, it is exceptional. “Looking at the average grade of tungsten mines around the world... you will have grades anywhere between 0.11% all the way up to 0.23%,” Haji notes. “The grade at American Tungsten sits at about 0.63%... probably among the top three highest grades in the world.” The economics are further sweetened by by-product credits: 2 ounces of silver per ton, worth roughly \$77 to \$82, and 0.15% molybdenum, adding another \$18 to \$22. “About \$100 comes back to the company in credits with respect to every ton

of ore mined,” Haji says, emphasizing that this materially lowers production costs under their direct shipping ore (DSO) strategy.

The company’s execution is as much about people as geology. “We’ve got mine builders and government relationships on our board,” Haji says. That includes Dan Nicholas, former head of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Loan Program Office—where he managed a record \$40 billion fund—and Jim Whittaker, Chief Operating Officer of Capstone Copper, ex-President of Escondida, and veteran of BHP and Barrick. The newest addition, VP of Mining Engineering David Sabourin, “has experience building underground mines historically, and we’re very fortunate to have him come on board.” This leadership team, Haji argues, is what will convert the Ima Mine from a historic producer to a modern critical-mineral hub in record time.

Haji’s approach to corporate communications reflects the same discipline he applies to mine development. “Each time a press release is put out by the company, we will ensure that it highlights a material change in our operational model,” he says. “The intent for us is not to put out news that is repeating what has already been said in the market.” That commitment was evident in American Tungsten’s August 11 update, detailing the rehabilitation of the mine’s Zero Level portal, road improvements for heavy vehicles, and ongoing coordination with the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Defense Logistics Agency, DARPA-E, Export-Import Bank, and Industrial Base Policy offices. The next quarter promises visible milestones: “We just completed a very significant financing. We announced \$2.5 million—we [raised](#) \$7 million,” Haji says, pointing to strong institutional participation as “sticky money that’s validated our value proposition.” With roads nearing completion, timber arriving for portal rehabilitation, and plans for 6,000 to 10,000 feet of underground drilling leading to an

updated resource statement in the fall, Haji's focus is clear: "We are currently rehabilitating our mine site... and then move towards the investment decisions that allow us to come online with production in 12 to 18 months."

To access the complete interview, [click here](#)

Don't miss other InvestorNews interviews. Subscribe to the InvestorNews YouTube channel by [clicking here](#)

## About American Tungsten Corp.

American Tungsten Corp. is a Canadian exploration company focused on high-potential tungsten and magnetite assets in North America. The Company is advancing the Ima Mine Project in Idaho to commercial production, addressing critical metal scarcity in North America. The Company's Ima Mine Project is a historic and high-quality underground tungsten past-producing property on private-patented land well above the water table with significant infrastructure. The Company holds an exclusive option to acquire full ownership (subject to a 2% royalty) and has expanded its land position with 113 additional federal claims covering nearly 2,000 acres.

To learn more about American Tungsten Corp., [click here](#)

**Disclaimer:** American Tungsten Corp. is an advertorial member of InvestorNews Inc.

*This interview, which was produced by InvestorNews Inc. ("InvestorNews"), does not contain, nor does it purport to contain, a summary of all material information concerning the Company, including important disclosure and risk factors associated with the Company, its business and an investment in its securities. InvestorNews offers no representations or warranties that any of the information contained in this*

*interview is accurate or complete.*

*This interview and any transcriptions or reproductions thereof (collectively, this “presentation”) does not constitute, or form part of, any offer or invitation to sell or issue, or any solicitation of any offer to subscribe for or purchase any securities in the Company. The information in this presentation is provided for informational purposes only and may be subject to updating, completion or revision, and except as may be required by applicable securities laws, the Company disclaims any intent or obligation to update any information herein. This presentation may contain “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of applicable Canadian securities legislation. Forward-looking statements are based on the opinions and assumptions of the management of the Company as of the date made. They are inherently susceptible to uncertainty and other factors that could cause actual events/results to differ materially from these forward-looking statements. Additional risks and uncertainties, including those that the Company does not know about now or that it currently deems immaterial, may also adversely affect the Company’s business or any investment therein.*

*Any projections given are principally intended for use as objectives and are not intended, and should not be taken, as assurances that the projected results will be obtained by the Company. The assumptions used may not prove to be accurate and a potential decline in the Company’s financial condition or results of operations may negatively impact the value of its securities. This presentation should not be considered as the giving of investment advice by the Company or any of its directors, officers, agents, employees or advisors. Each person to whom this presentation is made available must make its own independent assessment of the Company after making such investigations and taking such advice as may be deemed*

*necessary. Prospective investors are urged to review the Company's profile on [SedarPlus.ca](http://SedarPlus.ca) and to carry out independent investigations in order to determine their interest in investing in the Company.*