Critical Minerals Institute Appoints Alister MacDonald as Director, Strengthening Board Depth in Global Critical Minerals Strategy

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Toronto, Canada – April 24, 2026 – The Critical Minerals Institute (CMI) is pleased to announce the appointment of Alister MacDonald as a Director of the organization, further strengthening its Board as it continues to expand its global influence across the critical minerals economy.

Mr. MacDonald joins a distinguished group of CMI Directors, contributing to a leadership body that connects capital markets, policymakers, and industry stakeholders at a time when critical minerals have become central to global economic security, defense, and advanced manufacturing.

With more than three decades of experience across the global minerals and advanced materials sectors, Mr. MacDonald brings deep expertise in zirconium, hafnium, rare earths, and industrial ceramics—materials that underpin critical applications ranging from nuclear technologies to high-performance alloys and advanced manufacturing systems. Zirconium and hafnium, in particular, are essential for nuclear fuel cladding, aerospace components, and high-temperature ceramics due to their corrosion resistance and thermal stability.

Mr. MacDonald is the founder of Technical Ceramic Marketing Services Pty Ltd (TCMS), where he has spent nearly two decades

advising clients across metals, minerals, and ceramics on market intelligence, supply chain strategy, and technical marketing. His career includes senior leadership roles such as General Manager, Marketing at Australian Strategic Materials Ltd (ASX: ASM), where he led global marketing efforts for the Dubbo Project and its integrated rare earths and zirconium strategy, as well as General Manager, Marketing at Alkane Resources Ltd (ASX: ALK | TSX: ALK). Earlier in his career, he drove significant commercial growth in advanced ceramics markets, including expanding global applications for fused zirconia materials.

“Alister brings a rare combination of technical depth and market intelligence to the Critical Minerals Institute at a time when clarity of insight and strength of network are more important than ever,” said Tracy Hughes, Executive Director and Founder of CMI. “His experience across zirconium, rare earths, and advanced materials strengthens our ability to connect upstream resource development with downstream industrial demand—an increasingly critical gap in the global supply chain.”

Mr. MacDonald is also confirmed as a featured speaker at CMI Summit 5 – “The New Critical Minerals Economy”, where he will serve as the kickoff speaker for Day 2 on Thursday, May 14, 2026.

Opening the morning session, he will present:

“Hafnium and Zirconium Critical Minerals: Hidden in Plain Sight”
Time: 8:30–8:45 AM

This session will examine two often-overlooked yet strategically essential elements, highlighting their role in nuclear energy systems, aerospace technologies, and next-generation manufacturing—areas where supply chain security is increasingly under scrutiny.

“I am pleased to join the Board of the Critical Minerals Institute at such a pivotal moment for the sector,” said Alister MacDonald, Director, Critical Minerals Institute. “The growing importance of critical minerals to energy transition, defense, and advanced manufacturing requires not only strong resources, but stronger coordination across the value chain. CMI is uniquely positioned to facilitate that dialogue, and I look forward to contributing to its continued growth and impact.”

Mr. MacDonald holds a Bachelor’s degree in Ceramic Engineering from UNSW Sydney and an International Baccalaureate from UWC Atlantic College, reflecting a career grounded in both technical expertise and global perspective.

His appointment comes ahead of CMI Summit 5 – “The New Critical Minerals Economy”, taking place May 13–14, 2026, in Toronto, where global leaders will convene to address the evolving dynamics of capital, supply chains, and policy in the sector.

About the Critical Minerals Institute (CMI)
The Critical Minerals Institute (CMI) is a global think tank for the critical minerals economy, serving as a central hub that connects companies, capital markets, and policymakers, and delivering actionable intelligence through its monthly CMI Masterclasses, weekly Critical Minerals Report (CMR), bespoke research, and board-level advisory services across exploration finance, supply chains, and geopolitics. CMI also organizes its flagship Annual Critical Minerals Institute Summit, a global gathering of government leaders, institutional investors, and industry executives, with the upcoming CMI Summit 5 – “The New Critical Minerals Economy” – scheduled for May 13–14 in Toronto, Canada.

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