

# Industry Leaders Lifton and Karayannopoulos China's Influence on Rare Earth Prices and Markets Today

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In a thought-provoking InvestorNews interview hosted by the [Critical Minerals Institute](#) founder [Tracy Weslosky](#), [Jack Lifton](#) and [Constantine Karayannopoulos](#), two renowned figures in the rare earths market, share their insights on the sector's current trends and future prospects. Constantine Karayannopoulos, reflecting on the state of the market, observes, "There is never a dull moment in the rare earths industry," highlighting the ongoing slide in prices for critical rare earth elements like neodymium and praseodymium. He expresses a cautious outlook, noting, "I'm a little pessimistic about the near term... it's a cyclical industry."

[Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI) Co-Chair Jack Lifton adds: "The low prices may be here for a while because the principal producer in the world is China, and China's having a very bad time economically right now." He emphasizes the opportunities presented by the current market conditions for strategic investments, advising, "This is the ideal time for real mining and real processing companies to get into the game."

Karayannopoulos also touches on the disconnection between market interest and actual market trends, suggesting, "There's always a disconnect between reality versus expectation." He elaborates on the nuanced dynamics within China, mentioning, "The Chinese consumer has not stopped buying, China grew at 5% last year... However, the main consumer of rare earths today, the magnet

industry that feeds the electric vehicle production in China, it's not growing as fast as people thought it was going to grow."

Lifton further discusses the broader implications of supply and demand, cautioning, "As long as the supply is in excess, the prices are not going to go up." He also highlights the strategic importance of investments in raw material sources and processing capabilities, particularly in light of China's dominance in the market.

Through their conversation, Lifton and Karayannopoulos provide a nuanced analysis of the rare earths market, blending perspectives on economic trends, geopolitical strategies, and investment opportunities. To access the complete interview, [click here](#)