Kerem Usenmez on Volta Metals' Rare Earth Scale and the High-Grade Gallium that Sets it Apart

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"When we acquired this project last June, we were looking for something advanced—and we found something that kept growing," said Kerem Usenmez, President, CEO & Director of Volta Metals Ltd. (CSE: VLTA | OTCQB: VOLMF).

In under 12 months, Volta Metals has moved from acquisition to two drill programs, an updated resource, metallurgical work, and a preliminary economic assessment targeted for this summer. The project, located near Sudbury, Ontario, is now described by the company as the seventh-largest rare earth deposit in North America, supported by a recently filed technical report.

The scale remains open-ended.

"We went deeper than historic drilling—600 to 700 metres of mineralization—and we still haven't hit the end of it," Usenmez said. "Every program is expanding the footprint."

What distinguishes the project is not only rare earth scale, but the presence of gallium—an increasingly strategic metal tied to semiconductors and defense technologies.

"It's almost twice the grade of the highest-grade gallium produced from bauxite," Usenmez noted. "Typical bauxite-derived gallium is 50 to 54 grams per tonne. Ours is consistently 83 to over 100 grams per tonne, and up to 130 in some intercepts, across 60 to 100 metre widths."

If confirmed through metallurgical work, this could position Volta to define what may become Canada’s first dedicated gallium resource.

The project’s location also removes a key development hurdle seen across many rare earth assets.

“We have paved roads through the property, hydroelectric power adjacent to the claims, and power lines already running across it,” Usenmez said. “We don’t need to build a camp. The infrastructure and workforce are already there.”

Volta’s acquisition timing also aligned with a renewed push into rare earth supply chains in North America.

“We acquired it when nobody was really looking at rare earths,” Usenmez said. “Then within days of our announcement, you had major government and corporate investments coming into the sector. The timing couldn’t have been better.”

Still, Usenmez emphasized that geology alone does not determine success in rare earths.

“There are 17 elements in the rare earth group. Some are worth $0.30 a kilo, some are worth $3,000,” he said. “The challenge is not just mining—it’s how you process, recover, and deliver the right elements into the supply chain.”

With another resource update pending and a PEA expected in the coming months, Volta Metals is attempting to compress what is typically a multi-year development timeline into a much shorter window.

“We’re moving at a very high pace,” Usenmez said. “Within 12 months—two drill programs, metallurgical work, baseline studies, and a technical study. And we’re still growing the resource.”

In a rare earth market increasingly defined by processing constraints and geopolitical supply risks, the combination of rare earth scale and high-grade gallium is not easily replicated.

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