Nouveau Monde's Eric Desaulniers on China's Decision to Restrict the Export of Graphite

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In a recent episode of InvestorNews, Tracy Weslosky sat down with Eric Desaulniers, MSc, Géo, President & CEO of Nouveau Monde Graphite Inc. (NYSE: NMG | TSXV: NOU), to discuss China's surprising decision to implement export permits for certain graphite products starting December 1st. Eric remarked, "Waking up to this news was unexpected, but not entirely surprising. China's decision to restrict the export of battery materials, starting with graphite, comes sooner than many experts anticipated."

With the booming demand for electric vehicles, which require five times more graphite than any other critical mineral, Tracy delved into the implications of China's move on graphite supply. Eric highlighted China's dominant position, controlling nearly 100% of natural graphite processing. "This strategic decision by China impacts many companies in the U.S. that are scaling up cell production," he said. He was proud to mention that Nouveau Monde stands out, developing one of the largest and most sophisticated natural graphite operations outside of China.

The changing dynamics are also influencing Nouveau Monde's partnerships, particularly with giants like Panasonic. The recent developments have intensified their ongoing discussions. As Eric pointed out, the challenge will be detaching from China's supply chain, especially amid skyrocketing cell production demand. "Our goal is to be a viable alternative, and

this current pricing scenario outside China underscores the need for that," Eric emphasized.

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