Volta Metals Aims to Break China’s Gallium Grip with High-Grade Ontario Discovery

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July 28, 2025 — In an era defined by critical minerals and geopolitical fractures, Volta Metals Ltd. (CSE: VLTA) has emerged as a stealth contender armed with **gallium**, **rare earths**, and a bold vision rooted in Canadian bedrock. “We’re focused on critical minerals,” said Kerem Usenmez, President and CEO of the Toronto-based exploration company. “We’re focused in Ontario.” But Volta’s story is more than just geography—it’s about strategy, infrastructure, and timing in a market where gallium now trades above $1,000 per kilo and China’s export restrictions have become a wake-up call for Western economies.

Volta’s recently acquired **Springer Rare Earth Project** is the centerpiece of that strategy. It’s not just high-grade—it’s accessible. “One of the main mandates we had when we started the company was to have good-quality projects with road access,” Usenmez said. “Not just for exploration, but to reduce the cost to get them into production.” The Springer deposit, located just 8 kilometers outside Sturgeon Falls, Ontario, has paved road access to the Trans-Canada Highway, hydropower dams within 6 kilometers, and power lines running through the site. “It’s a really good deposit,” he added, “no radioactivity, and mineralization starts right at surface.”

Perhaps most importantly, the project is now under scientific scrutiny at the highest levels. Volta has partnered with the **Idaho National Laboratory (INL)**—the U.S. Department of Energy’s primary separation science facility—under a **Material Transfer Agreement** to conduct advanced metallurgical work on the Springer deposit's **rare earths and gallium**. "They did work for Mountain Pass," Usenmez noted, referencing the rare earth project now supported by the U.S. Department of Defense. "They understand gallium recovery. They're excited as much as we are."

Volta's leadership isn't green. Usenmez himself has built and sold a drill bit company and led a drilling firm—giving Volta a sharp advantage in execution. "We understand the ins and outs, the pricing, and everything else," he said. "We were fortunate to get a really good cost in our last drilling… and we're confident we're going to get a good drill rate again." The upcoming exploration will target updates to a **2012 resource estimate** that already reported **4.167 million tonnes at 1.073% TREO (Total Rare Earth Oxides) indicated**, and **12.73 million tonnes at 1.119% TREO inferred**, at a 0.9% cutoff. "Every borehole hit mineralization," he added.

What makes Springer particularly electrifying is its gallium content. "Gallium is coming on because of AI, data centers—but AI mainly," Usenmez said. "Gallium nitride is coming on to speed up the AI process for semiconductors." He cited China's 2024 ban on gallium exports as a pivotal moment for Volta—and for global supply chains. "The U.S. has zero production of gallium, and China controls it. So there's a lot of separation of East and West."

Springer, he believes, could help address that imbalance. "This is surface mineralization. We have the surface rights," Usenmez emphasized. "The infrastructure—we talked about the road access—this is paved road access right off the main Trans-Canada Highway." Drilling is imminent. "We're going to hit the ground and drill and update the resource," he confirmed. "With macro-level developments, I think that's helping with the momentum."

Usenmez was diplomatic when asked to pick a favorite from

Volta's portfolio of **rare earths, lithium, tantalum, cesium**, and **gallium**. But his answer was telling. "What I see as the most valuable at this time is gallium… Western governments are realizing its importance." With gallium prices rising daily and Washington seeking to uncouple from Beijing's mineral monopoly, Volta Metals appears poised to deliver what policymakers are desperate to secure: a reliable, road-ready, North American supply chain for the digital economy's next critical input.

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Volta Metals Ltd. (CSE: VLTA) (FSE: D0W) is a mineral exploration company based in Toronto, Ontario, focused on rare earth elements, gallium, lithium, cesium, and tantalum. It owns, has optioned and is currently exploring a critical minerals portfolio of rare earths, gallium, lithium, cesium, and tantalum projects in Ontario, one of the world's most prolific mining and mineral exploration districts.

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