Feisal Somji of Sio Silica to Deliver Keynote at CMI Summit 5 on Securing North America's Silica Supply Chain for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

written by Raj Shah | May 8, 2026

May 8, 2026 – TORONTO, ONTARIO – As governments and industry leaders increasingly recognize that control of industrial minerals may determine the future balance of technological and economic power, silica is rapidly emerging as one of the foundational materials underpinning the next industrial era. From semiconductors and advanced manufacturing to AI infrastructure, energy systems, and strategic supply chains, high-purity silica is becoming central to the global race for technological sovereignty.

Against this backdrop, Feisal Somji, Founder & CEO of Sio Silica Corporation, will deliver a featured keynote presentation at CMI Summit 5: "The New Critical Minerals Economy," taking place May 13–14, 2026, at the Historic National Club in Toronto. Mr. Somji's keynote presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2026, from 9:00–9:20 AM and is titled: "How do we use Silica to Gain Control and Secure North America's Supply Chain During the Fourth Industrial Revolution."

As the global economy accelerates toward AI, electrification, advanced computing, defense technologies, and semiconductor manufacturing, silica has become increasingly recognized not merely as an industrial commodity, but as a strategic material essential to national competitiveness and industrial

independence. Mr. Somji is expected to address how North America can secure domestic access to ultra-high-purity silica resources at a time when global supply chains are becoming increasingly vulnerable to geopolitical fragmentation, export restrictions, and industrial concentration risk.

“Silica sits at the very foundation of the modern economy, yet most people still underestimate its strategic importance,” said Feisal Somji, Founder & CEO of Sio Silica Corporation. “The Fourth Industrial Revolution will be built on semiconductors, data infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, renewable technologies, and defense systems—all of which rely heavily on secure access to high-quality silica. North America must begin thinking about silica not simply as a construction material, but as a strategic industrial asset.”

Mr. Somji has become one of the leading advocates for positioning silica within the broader critical minerals and strategic materials conversation. Through Sio Silica Corporation’s development initiatives, the Company is advancing a vision centered on large-scale, long-term supply security for high-purity silica products capable of supporting North America’s industrial and technological ambitions.

Critical Minerals Institute (CMI) Co-Chair Jack Lifton emphasized the growing strategic relevance of silica within the evolving critical minerals economy:

“The future industrial economy will not simply be defined by access to metals—it will be defined by access to the materials that enable technological civilization itself,” said Jack Lifton, Co-Chair of the Critical Minerals Institute (CMI) & Editor-in-Chief of InvestorNews.com. “Feisal Somji understands that silica is no longer just a commodity. It is becoming an increasingly strategic industrial material tied directly to

semiconductors, AI systems, advanced manufacturing, and industrial sovereignty. This is exactly the type of discussion global policymakers and investors need to be having."

In addition to Mr. Somji's keynote presentation, Paul Klemke, Managing Director, Energy Capital Markets, Integral Capital Markets & Director, Sio Silica Corporation, will also participate in Panel 4: "What Gets Funded and What Doesn't – The New Rules of Critical Minerals Investing," taking place Wednesday, May 13, 2026, from 4:10–5:00 PM. Mr. Klemke will contribute capital markets and financing expertise to a discussion focused on how institutional investors, governments, and strategic capital are increasingly reshaping the critical minerals investment landscape.

CMI Summit 5 – "The New Critical Minerals Economy" – will convene leading executives, institutional investors, government representatives, defense stakeholders, and technical experts from across the critical minerals ecosystem to address the growing intersection of resource security, industrial policy, advanced manufacturing, capital formation, and geopolitical power.

As nations increasingly compete to secure the raw materials required to power AI, semiconductors, energy systems, and next-generation industrial technologies, Mr. Somji's keynote is expected to deliver one of the summit's most forward-looking discussions on the strategic future of silica and industrial materials.

About Sio Silica Corporation

Sio Silica Corporation is focused on the development of high-purity silica resources intended to support North America's growing demand for strategic industrial materials. The Company is advancing projects designed to provide long-term, secure

domestic silica supply for industries including semiconductors, solar, advanced manufacturing, energy infrastructure, and emerging technology applications tied to the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

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. For more information, please contact Chrissy Hessam, Director, Membership Services, at Chrissy@criticalmineralsinstitute.com or +1 647 289 7714, or visit CriticalMineralsInstitute.com. To register for the CMI Summit 5, click here.

