

WHY A WEBSITE COMPANY DESPERATELY WANTS TO PUSH ELECTRIC CARS! GOOGLE'S AWFUL SECRET

Google's owners got an exclusive kickback scam between themselves and the White House over lithium ion batteries ravaged from war profiteering in Afghanistan, political rigging in Bolivia and other war incursions.

Google wants to push electric cars to keep it's owners political payola scams alive.

Afghanistan: The Saudi Arabia of Lithium?

Lithium, which is from mobile phone nation's economy.

By JAMES RISEN
Published: June 13, 2010

WASHINGTON — The United States has discovered nearly \$1 trillion in untapped mineral deposits in Afghanistan, far beyond any previously known reserves and enough to fundamentally alter the

As of late February held EnerI Group.

loan to Think Global, which is trying to emerge from bankruptcy — is held by Bzinfon, a British Virgin Islands company whose "indirect beneficial owner" is Boris Zingarevich, a Russian businessman. Zingarevich has close ties to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

Investing in Lithium Mining Stocks

How To Profit from the Lithium Boom

By Brian Hicks
Friday, October 16th, 2009

Editor's Note:

While Western Lithium remains trades — and possibly a third — opportunity to double if not trip

Green power corrupts

June 08, 2012 - 9:00 AM

Goldman Sachs culture 'toxic'? Letter confirms suspicions about Wall Street.

A123 lithium-ion battery maker bankruptcy fuels criticism of President Barack Obama's alternative

Energy & Genius

The Saudi Arabia of Lithium

Brendan I. Koerner, 10.30.08, 06:00 PM EST
Forbes Magazine dated November 24, 2008

The gas engine made petroleum the world's biggest commodity. The electric car could do the same for the third element on the

EnerI Wants to Win Lithium Ion Battery Race

Share Tweet Stumble

U.S. Identifies Vast Mineral Riches in Afghanistan



The problem with lithium

David Booth, National Post

RUSSIAN OWNED

Goldman Sachs discloses ownership in Talison Lithium Corp.

Talison Lithium Ltd's

N
chloride ring SQM
creating the illucid
the ultra-arid sala

Image: CarSpace

Lithium ion battery manufacturer EnerI (HEV) could become the country's first lithium ion bat mass producer—if it wins a \$480M Department of Energy loan. [CNNMoney](#) has more:

Obama administration to announce efforts to boost self-driving cars

By David Shepardson

[Reuters](#)



By David Shepardson

DETROIT (Reuters) - The Obama administration will announce efforts to boost self-driving cars on Thursday, and President Barack Obama may discuss advanced transportation efforts in his final State of the Union Address on Tuesday, according to government officials.

Mark Rosekind, head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, told reporters that Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx will be in Detroit to talk about efforts by the Obama administration to speed the introduction of self-driving vehicles.

"Thursday is huge because this is the White House telling you that the secretary is going to be here to amplify stuff that is coming out of the State of the Union, and it's focused on self-driving cars," Rosekind told reporters in Detroit.

There is not yet a clear legal framework governing their presence on U.S. roads.

Automakers and technology companies such as Alphabet Inc's Google have called on regulators to clarify guidelines for introduction of autonomous driving technology, in part out of concern that a mishap involving a self-driving car could result in costly litigation.

A Google spokesman said the company will take part in Thursday's announcement by Foxx. Detroit automakers are also likely to participate.

In December, Rosekind said he opposes a "patchwork" of state regulations on driverless cars and promised a "nimble, flexible" approach to writing new rules for self-driving vehicles.

(Reporting by David Shepardson; Editing by Bill Rigby and Dan Grebler)

Google Seeks Multiple Auto Partners for Self-Driving Car Unit

[Dana Hull danahull](#)

[John Lippert johnmlippert](#)

[Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)

- Company wants to begin announcing some joint efforts this year
- Google vehicle chief John Krafcik speaks at Detroit meeting

[Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)

[Share on LinkedIn](#)[Share on Reddit](#)[Share on Google+](#)[E-mail](#)

Google hopes to form partnerships with many automakers and suppliers as it develops self-driving cars to reduce traffic accidents and expand mobility for elderly and disabled people, the head of its vehicle project said.

The Alphabet Inc. company wants to announce some of those joint efforts during 2016, John Krafcik, the Google executive, said in Detroit at an Automotive News conference Tuesday held in conjunction with North American International Auto Show.

Almost every automaker "has been in to speak with us, if only to understand where we are," Krafcik said. "I don't know how many we'll end up having."

His comments counter speculation that Google would pick a single automaker as its exclusive partner for self-driving cars. Yahoo Autos reported last month that Ford Motor Co. would announce a [joint venture with Google](#) on self-driving. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV and General Motors Co. have also said they're talking with Google about developing self-driving cars.

Google Hires Former Obama Adviser Atkinson to Lead Global Policy

[Jack Clark mappingbabel](#)

[Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)

- Caroline Atkinson was deputy national security adviser
- Company faces probes in Europe and U.S. as influence grows

[Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)

[Share on LinkedIn](#)[Share on Reddit](#)[Share on Google+](#)[E-mail](#)

Google has hired former White House Deputy National Security Adviser Caroline Atkinson to lead its global policy team as the Internet advertising giant seeks an advocate to deal with regulators around the world.

Atkinson, 63, stepped down in December from her post in U.S. President Barack Obama's administration as an [emissary](#) to the Group of 20 economies, negotiating behind-the-scenes on agreements of international scope and significance. Google, a unit of Alphabet Inc., currently faces [probes](#) from both federal and European regulators into its businesses, as the company's increasing influence over areas like mobile phones and Web search draws scrutiny.

"Caroline's an internationally respected diplomat and adviser, and we're delighted to have such a thoughtful leader heading our global policy team," Google General Counsel Kent Walker said in a statement.

Atkinson also [previously](#) worked at the National Security Council, the International Monetary Fund, the Treasury Department, and investor consultancy Stonebridge International. She was [selected](#) by the Obama administration in June 2013.

[**Mining in Afghanistan - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**](#)

Mining in Afghanistan is controlled by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, which is headquartered in Kabul with regional offices in other parts of the country.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mining_in_Afghanistan

[**The future of Silicon Valley may lie in the mountains of ...**](#)

The future of Silicon Valley's technological prowess may well lie in the war-scarred mountains and salt flats of Western Afghanistan.

• venturebeat.com/2014/03/20/lithium-afghanistan/

[**\\$1 Trillion Motherlode of Lithium and Gold Discovered in ...**](#)

A recently unearthed 2007 United States Geological Service survey appears to have discovered nearly \$1 trillion in mineral deposits in Afghanistan, far bey

• mining.com/1-trillion-motherlode-of-lithium-and-gold...

[**Afghanistan: The Saudi Arabia of Lithium? : Discovery News ...**](#)

Lithium, which is used to make batteries for everything from mobile phones to iPads, could transform

the war-torn nation's economy. THE GIST - Nearly \$1 ...

 news.discovery.com/earth/afghanistan-minerals-lithium.htm

[Afghanistan the "Saudi Arabia of lithium" - Khaama Press \(KP ...](#)

The Afghanistan's natural resources are considered to be a silver lining for the economy of Afghanistan, as the NATO-led international coalition

 khaama.com/afghanistan-the-saudi-arabia-of-lithium-1747

[Afghans Wary as Efforts Pick Up to Tap Mineral Riches - The ...](#)

With a trillion-dollar cache of oil, gold and other resources underground, hopes of self-sufficiency in Afghanistan are tempered by worries about ...

▪ nytimes.com/2012/09/09/world/asia/afghans-wary-as-eff...

[The War is Worth Waging": Afghanistan's Vast Reserves of ...](#)

"The War is Worth Waging": Afghanistan's Vast Reserves of Minerals and Natural Gas The War on Afghanistan is a Profit driven "Resource War".

▪ globalresearch.ca/the-war-is-worth-waging-afghanistan-s-vas...

[Why Afghanistan's Lithium Is a Big Deal, Even If It Never ...](#)

Why is this significant? Because even if Afghanistan's **lithium** never leaves the ground, the sudden, black-swan appearance of a new and potentially massive ...

▪ popsci.com/science/article/2010-06/why-finding-lithi...

[U.S. Identifies Vast Mineral Riches in Afghanistan - The New ...](#)

The nearly \$1 trillion in untapped deposits are enough to fundamentally alter the **Afghan** economy and perhaps the **Afghan** war itself, officials said.

▪ nytimes.com/2010/06/14/world/asia/14minerals.html

[The Spoils of the War on Afghanistan, One Trillion Dollars of ...](#)

Above: An Italian helicopter flies over western Afghanistan during an international operation. **Lithium** reserves have been found in the western part of that country.

▪ globalresearch.ca/the-spoils-of-the-war-on-afghanistan-one-...

[Conspiracy Theory- Afghanistan's Lithium Takeover](#)

Conspiracy Theory- Afghanistan's **Lithium** Takeover. ... The candidate must support the corporation's wishes, and this time it would be the Afghanistan **mining** ...

 illuminatiwatcher.com/conspiracy-theory-afghanistans-lithium-ta...

[Does Us Have Control Of Lithium Mines In Afghanistan - Prijom](#)

The War is Worth Waging Afghanistan's Vast Reserves of Minerals : The 2001 bombing and invasion of

Afghanistan has been presented to World public for **lithium** ...

▪ prijom.com/posts/does-us-have-control-of-lithium-min...

[There are better places than Afghanistan to mine for lithium.](#)

For years, the **mining** industry has known that there are vast supplies of **lithium**, an element that is crucial to the technology business, sitting untapped u

▪ slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/politics/2010/...

[Eyes on Afghanistan as Next Lithium Motherlode | OilPrice.com](#)

Eyes on Afghanistan as Next **Lithium** Motherlode. ... **Lithium** is positioned to play a key role in this **mining** venue, as Afghanistan is said to have one of the world's ...

▪ oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/Eyes-on-Afghanistan...

[China, Not U.S., Likely to Benefit from Afghanistan's Mineral ...](#)

Although the U.S. government has spent more than \$940 billion on the conflict in Afghanistan since 2001, a treasure trove of mineral deposits, including ...

▪ dailyfinance.com/2010/06/14/china-us-afghanistan-mineral-m...

[Afghanistan grants key copper and gold permits | MINING.com](#)

The government of Afghanistan announced Friday its preferred bidders for three of its four current mineral tenders, with a consortium backed by City of London banker ...

▪ mining.com/afghanistan-grants-key-copper-and-gold-mi...

[Afghanistan's lithium Eureka: A big win for China, or another ...](#)

Since reports emerged this weekend that Afghanistan is home to a massive deposit of useful minerals, namely **lithium**, the green news complex has been ...

▪ venturebeat.com/2010/06/14/afghanistans-lithium-eureka-a-...

[Dreams Of A Mining Future On Hold In Afghanistan : NPR](#)

Afghan miners in a makeshift emerald mine in the Panjshir Valley in 2010. Reports suggest that Afghanistan is sitting on significant deposits of oil, gas ...

▪ npr.org/2012/04/04/149611352/dreams-of-a-mining-f...

[Massive Afghanistan Lithium Deposit \(As In Batteries\) Could ...](#)


A large mineral deposit worth an estimated \$1 trillion has been discovered in Afghanistan, Pentagon officials revealed today. The find could change the nation's ...

▪ gizmodo.com/5562473/massive-afghanistan-lithium-depos...

[US discovers natural desposits of gold, iron, copper and ...](#)

A Pentagon memo claims Afghanistan could become the 'Saudi Arabia of **lithium**', a key raw material

in the manufacture of batteries for laptops and mobile phones.

 dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1286464/US-discovers-natural...

[Afghanistan's Lithium, Pakistan's Loss - New America Media](#)

Anonymous Posted Oct 2 2010. The electric car projects are just a scam to get a certain group of VC's to control the **lithium** fields in Afghanistan!

 newamericamedia.org/2010/07/afghanistans-lithium-pakistans-lo...

[Lack of regulation limits Afghan gem mining | Global Risk ...](#)

The lack of clear industry rules is hampering the growth of Afghanistan's **mining** sector. Blessed with mineral wealth, Kabul remains unable to utilize it.

 globalriskinsights.com/2013/06/lack-of-regulation-limits-afghan-...

[Afghanistan: War for Lithium? \(Mar 11, 2013\) - Truth in Media](#)

Afghanistan: War for **Lithium**? How supposed "War on Terror" and "War on Opium" morphed into "War for **Lithium**," mineral essential for building of nuclear weapons; US ...

 truthinmedia.org/2013/AfghanWar.html

[Vast \\$Trillion Mineral Deposits Discovered in Afghanistan ...](#)

'Trillion dollar' mineral deposits have been discovered in Afghanistan according to US officials. These deposits include vast quantities of iron, copper, and **lithium** ...

 thenewslink.com/afghanistan-lithium-trillion-dollar-miner...

[Lithium in Afghanistan for electric cars: a blessing and a curse](#)

Lithium in Afghanistan, as well as rich deposits of other precious minerals, could further complicate U.S. goals in the Afghanistan war.

 personalmoneystore.com/moneyblog/lithium-afghanistan/

[Afghanistan's Lithium Wealth Could Remain Elusive](#)

Afghanistan may be the Saudi Arabia of lithium—a key energy storage medium—but prosperity will not flow easily.

 news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/06/100616-energy-afghanistan-li...

[Lithium in Afghanistan - mom.gov.af](#)

Lithium in Afghanistan Figure 1. **Lithium** occurrences in Afghanistan on a low-resolution Landsat image, with major tectonic features, intrusive

 mom.gov.af/Content/files/MoMP_LITHIUM_Midas_Jan_2014...

[Afghanistan: Mining, Minerals and Fuel Resources](#)

Afghanistan, with a total population of 30,419,928 as of July 2012, is located in Southern Asia, north and west of Pakistan, east of Iran. The country mostly has an ...

 azomining.com/Article.aspx?ArticleID=170

[Afghanistan copper, lithium worth \\$1 trillion | Marketplace.org](#)

American geologists have reported that Afghanistan is sitting on \$1 trillion of copper and **lithium** deposits, a new-found mineral wealth that marks the country as a ...

▪ marketplace.org/topics/world/afghanistan-copper-lithium-w...

[Why Lithium Can't Save Afghanistan : Discovery News](#)

Why **Lithium** Can't Save Afghanistan. Jun 16, ... After that comes **mining lithium**-bearing minerals right out of granites. Until recently, ...

 news.discovery.com/earth/can-lithium-really-save-afghanistan...

[The ASIA Miner - AFGHANISTAN - Survey of lithium deposits](#)

Central Asian **Mining** Services (CAMS) has been contracted to assist in a survey of **lithium** deposits in Afghanistan. The country is believed to contain significant ...

 asiaminer.com/news/latest-news/5996-afghanistan-survey-...

[Afghanistan's trillion dollar curse: lithium - City of Brass](#)

Afghanistan has a national **mining** law, ... about Afghanistan's trillion dollar curse: ... work and your post about Afghanistan's trillion dollar curse: **lithium**

 beliefnet.com/columnists/cityofbrass/2010/06/afghanista...

[lithium mining in pakistan - mtmcrusher.com](#)

Why Afghanistan's **Lithium** Is a Big Deal, Even If It Never Leaves the Lack of Regulation Limits **Afghan Gem Mining** | Global Risk Insights.

 mtmcrusher.com/environment/lithium-mining-in-pakistan.html

B

-
-
-

The future of Silicon Valley may lie in the mountains of Afghanistan

[Richard Byrne Reilly](#)

Tags: [Andrew Chung](#), [Apple](#), [Donald R. Sadoway](#), [editor's pick](#), [Jay Jacobs](#), [Khosla Ventures](#), [lithium](#), [Lithium Exploration Group](#), [lithium-ion batteries](#), [Michel Chossudovsky](#), [Tesla](#), [Tesla Motors](#), [top-stories](#)



Above: An Italian helicopter flies over western Afghanistan during an international operation. Lithium reserves have been found in the western part of that country.

Image Credit: [ISAF Media](#)

The future of Silicon Valley’s technological prowess may well lie in the war-scarred mountains and salt flats of Western Afghanistan.

United States Geological Survey teams discovered one of the world’s largest untapped reserves of lithium there six years ago. The USGS was scouting the volatile country at the behest of the U.S. Department of Defense’s Task Force for Business and Stability Operations. Lithium is a soft metal used to make the lithium-ion and lithium-polymer batteries essential for powering desktop computers, laptops, smartphones, and tablets. And increasingly, electric cars like Tesla’s.

The vast discovery could very well propel Afghanistan — a war-ravaged land with a population of 31 million largely uneducated Pashtuns and Tajiks, and whose primary exports today are opium, hashish, and marijuana — into becoming the world’s next “Saudi Arabia of lithium,” according to an internal Pentagon memo cited by the *New York Times*.

The [USGS survey report on Afghanistan](#) that detailed the findings also noted that, in addition to

lithium, the country also contains huge deposits of iron ore, gold, cobalt, copper, and potash, among many other valuable minerals.

“The mineral wealth there is astonishing,” said professor Michel Chossudovsky of the Montreal-based Center for Research and Globalization, who has written extensively on Afghanistan.

A conservative estimate of the riches is \$1 trillion. In some circles, it’s as high as \$5 trillion.



Above: A typical lithium “button” cell found in many small electronics.

Image Credit: [Rodrigo Senna](#)

In Silicon Valley and beyond, tech companies like Apple, Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, Samsung, Sony, and Tesla rely on continual, and uninterrupted, access to lithium, as lithium-based batteries are the primary power storage devices in their mobile hardware.

Without these batteries, MacBooks, iPads, iPhones, Kindles, Nooks, Galaxy IIIs, Chromebooks, and, yes, Tesla Model S cars would be largely worthless. If forced to use older, nonlithium batteries, their battery lives would certainly be much shorter.

The world’s current lithium heavyweight is Bolivia, the biggest exporter of the element. There, in the swamps and marshlands of the southern region of the country near where the borders of Chile and Argentina meet, are the biggest deposits.

Canada, China, Australia, and Serbia also have varying amounts of lithium, but not as much as Bolivia.

Or apparently, Afghanistan.

Enough to last a lifetime

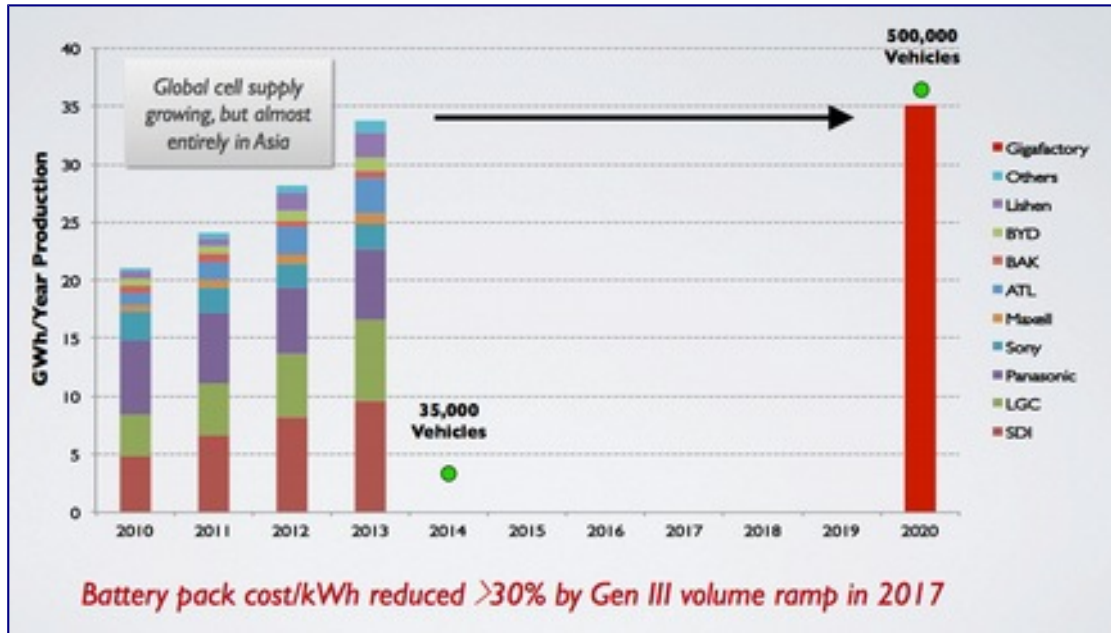
Depending on who you talk to, the current lithium global reserves are adequate for at least another generation of lithium-ion battery manufacturers to produce them.

But not everybody thinks so, and some say the light metal compound may someday run dry. That could in turn spell trouble for any company whose business depends on light and portable mobile electronics — unless someone comes up with an alternative to lithium batteries before then.

The experts VentureBeat interviewed pointed to sharp year-on-year increases in the demand for lithium. That’s putting heavy pressure on existing stockpiles.

According to Lithium Americas, a Canadian lithium-mining company with significant business interests in Argentina, [lithium demand will more than double in the next 10 years](#), while lithium prices have nearly quadrupled during the same timeframe.

Tesla, for its part, is in the process of investing up to \$5 billion to build its own lithium-ion [Gigafactory](#) in Texas, a plant capable of churning out 500,000 expensive battery packs a year by 2020 for its line of zero-emission, all-electric cars.



Above: Tesla predicts that its “Gigafactory” will produce more lithium batteries (by capacity) in 2020 than the entire global production of such batteries in 2013.

Image Credit: [Tesla Motors](#)

A Tesla spokeswoman did not return calls seeking comment.

As a potential source to feed that demand, enter Afghanistan.

“At some point, if present trends continue, demand [for lithium] will outstrip the supply. And again, at some point, the market for lithium-ion could get so big that it actually affects the supply chain,” said Donald R. Sadoway, a professor of the Materials Chemistry Department of Materials Science and Engineering at MIT.

Looking at Afghanistan, Sadoway says the war-ravaged nation, which has no effective mining infrastructure in place, may well be attractive to the world’s mining outfits.

“In this regard,” Sadoway, one of the world’s foremost experts on energy sources, says, “the deposits in Afghanistan could be important.”

Andrew Chung, a venture capitalist with [Khosla Ventures](#) in Silicon Valley who has invested in multiple startups producing alternative batteries, says lithium-ion batteries are limited in their lifetime cycles, scalability, and cost. Despite this, Chung says, he can understand how the untapped reserves of Afghan lithium are now an increasing focus.

“It is an issue of the supply chain, whether it’s Afghanistan or other [countries]. There is a finite supply, and lithium-ion will continue to be the [power] choice for the next decade,” Chung said.

Some of the Valley’s biggest and most powerful tech companies either declined to comment for this story or never returned calls. But they didn’t deny the importance of lithium-ion batteries.

For instance, an Apple spokesperson declined to comment for this story but provided VentureBeat with a 2014 “Suppliers List” of the 200-plus vendors it uses to produce its products. A related post made the Cupertino, Calif.-based company’s commitment to lithium batteries clear, at least in the short term.

“Rechargeable, lithium-based technology currently provides the best performance for your Apple notebook computer, iPod, iPhone, or iPad,” [the Apple post says](#).

[Sony Energy Devices Corp.](#) invented the lithium-ion battery in 1994. It was hailed as a breakthrough, providing longer battery life and without the “memory effect” that gradually reduced the effective capacity of previous types of batteries.

Since then, companies have gradually refined lithium battery technology but have not succeeded in moving beyond it. Indeed, early Tesla cars are actually [powered by large packs of industry-standard lithium-ion battery cells](#) — the same type of cells found in many laptop batteries.

And here is where it gets interesting.

Sharply increasing demand



Above: The custom battery pack Tesla uses for its Tesla Model S. Inside are hundreds of lithium cells.

Image Credit: Tesla Motors

If electric car manufacturers begin ramping up production of lithium-ion battery-powered cars, the global demand for lithium will skyrocket. This could potentially come about at the same time for increasing demand for handheld consumer goods like tablets and laptops, Chung said, thus creating a

perfect storm.

“So you want to start looking at other sources producing it with current supplies being called into question, if we move more toward production of electric cars,” Chung said.

Which is why, increasingly, eyes are turning to Afghanistan and its new purported lithium reserves, a country long referred to as the “graveyard of empires.” The U.S. invaded Afghanistan after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and according to iCasualties, 2,315 American servicemen and women have been killed there.

Analyst Jay Jacobs of [Global X Funds](#) in New York, which has interests in lithium mining, said demand for the compound is growing, and that “there are two regions that have been revealed to contain huge lithium reserves: Afghanistan and Bolivia.”

William Tahil, a respected lithium expert who lives in France and is the general director for Material International Research, argues that lithium deposits in Bolivia will at some point be depleted.

Jacobs was sanguine about safely extracting lithium from Afghanistan. He said political risks there were considerable.

“With that being said, should there be a substantial and sustained increase in demand for lithium, lithium miners may become increasingly interested in the country as it has an abundance of the resource,” Jacobs said.

It was the Soviets who first discovered the country’s deposits when they invaded in 1979. Soviet geologists began mapping Afghanistan’s lithium, gold, and potash fields but abandoned their efforts after the former communist superpower pulled out of the country in 1989.

But with a weak and corruption-plagued “central government,” Afghanistan is now ripe for the picking, Chossudovsky said. Indeed, the country is still very much divided into fiefdoms, with the Muslim fundamentalist Taliban, warlords, and drug traffickers controlling large swaths of the country — and using violence to advance their interests.

“There’s no question the mining companies will go in there. No question. There’s no real functioning government there to reap the foreign investment of the mineral deposits. This makes it all the more enticing to the mining companies because nobody in the government of [President] Hamid Karzai will be regulating the bonanza of lithium, so they can do what they want,” he said.

Jockeying for position



Above: A lithium processing plant in Chile. Lithium is typically refined from vast piles of mineral salts.

Image Credit: [Reduse.org](https://www.reduse.org/)

For its part, the U.S. government, which helped locate the lithium deposits using flyovers with a sensor-filled Lockheed P-3 Orion and teams of geologists fielding soil samples, knows a potential gold rush when it sees one. And it has no intention of being left on the sidelines. Especially since the Chinese are now — and quickly — making deals with Afghan pols for mineral rights to copper deposits.

The USGS did return multiple calls seeking comment. Nor did the Pentagon.

Despite what some say are the shortcomings of lithium-ion batteries, venture capitalists and investors continue pouring money into them. Amprius, a lithium battery maker based in Sunnyvale, Calif., snared a \$30 million infusion round of investor cash in January.

Over at the Afghan embassy in Washington, D.C., the Afghans are licking their lips at the potential lithium and mineral windfall despite the country's continued conflict with a resurgent Taliban. What this may portend for the impoverished and war-torn nation is anybody's guess. But the Afghans are playing up the finds — or they were, until recently.

“In recent years, headlines from the Afghan mineral sector have competed to outdo each other in scale: from the landmark \$3 billion Chinese investment in the Aynak copper concession to the astounding survey work of the U.S., Afghan, and British Geological Services estimating anywhere between \$1 trillion and \$3 trillion in mineral potential, to the historic \$11 billion deal now being finalized with an Indian consortium for the Hajigak iron ore concession,” said a posting on the [Afghani Washington DC website](https://www.afghani-washington-dc.com/).

The post has since been removed.

Afghanistan's ambassador to the U.S., Eklil Hakimi, presided over a press conference at the Afghan embassy in Washington, D.C., on March 10, where he talked about the untapped deposits, along with reps from the USGS and other U.S. politicians.

But Hakimi, through a spokesman, told me he simply didn't have the time to talk.

More information:

- [Apple](#)
- [Tesla Motors](#)
- [Lithium Exploration Group](#)
- [Khosla Ventures](#)

by [VBProfiles](#)