

24 - 25 June 2025

MINEX Central Asia Forum

Forging Central Asia's Role in Global Critical Minerals Security

2025
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The 11th MINEX Central Asia Forum in Tashkent revealed new opportunities to shape the sustainable future of critical minerals

<https://2025.minexasia.com>

The 11th MINEX Central Asia Forum took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 24-26 June 2025. The event, held under the theme "Forging Central Asia's Role in Global Critical Minerals Security", brought together key stakeholders from across the mining industry from 21 countries.

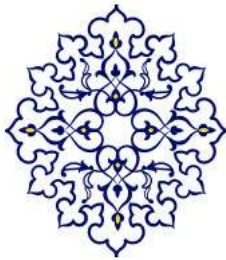
Organisation and Partners

The Forum was organised by Advantix Ltd. in strategic partnership with the Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology of Uzbekistan, and the Uzbekistan Technological Metals Complex (TMK), with sponsorship from companies including SRK Consulting, ESAN, SLR, Metso, ARGETEST, NGMK, AGMK, and Navoiyuran.



Key Facts and Figures

- Over **70 speakers and panellists**
- More than **400 participants** from **171 companies and organisations** across **21 countries**
- **14 exhibiting companies**
- **48% of participants** were from the mining and exploration companies
- **55%** of participants were **senior executives** involved in corporate, investment, and operational decision-making
- The most represented delegations were from **Uzbekistan (53%)** and **Kazakhstan (15%)**



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Forum Theme and Vision

With the rapid acceleration of the global energy transition, demand for tech-critical metals has surged. The mineral wealth of Central Asia presents a unique opportunity for the region to become a hub for environmentally sustainable raw material supply chains. Unlocking this potential will require coordinated efforts across policy, investment, and infrastructure.

MINEX Central Asia is a flagship regional platform operating under the international MINEX Forum trademark, established by Advantix in 2005. Its mission is to foster cross-border collaboration in mineral exploration, investment, and the adoption of advanced technologies to create added value from mineral resources.

NOMAD Format: A New Chapter

Relaunched in 2024 in the "Nomad" format, inspired by the historical legacy of the Silk Road, the forum now focuses on strengthening sovereign economic resilience and fostering sustainable development across Central Asia.

Dialogue and Transformation

- Two days of dynamic sessions, presentations, and debates featuring over 70 representatives from leading domestic and international organisations shaping the regional mining landscape
- In-depth discussion on the significant opportunities of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia, all of which boast impressive economic indicators and vast mineral reserves.
- Exploration of environmental and technological standards in critical resource extraction
- Engagement on the role of global players such as the EU, UK, USA, Germany, and China in regional development
- Panels on responsible natural resource governance

Uzbekistan: A Magnet for Investment

The forum was held against the backdrop of remarkable economic growth in Uzbekistan and across the wider Central Asian region. Over the past eight years, Uzbekistan's GDP has doubled. With bold ambitions—including a target GDP of 200 billion by 2030 — the country is positioning itself as a global frontrunner in the supply of high-value industrial materials. Uzbekistan boasts estimated mineral reserves worth \$3 trillion and is actively investing in cutting-edge “Metals of the Future” technology parks in Tashkent and Samarkand. These parks are designed to support the entire production cycle, from geological exploration to the manufacture of advanced materials.



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Shaping the Future of Resource Management

Global competition for Central Asia's critical raw materials is intensifying, prompting national governments to raise environmental and technological standards. Various players, including the EU, US, UK, and their partners, are employing "soft power" through funding, green political frameworks, and public diplomacy. Meanwhile, China is actively creating vertically integrated industrial clusters.

Discovering Uzbekistan: From Resource Riches to High-Tech Manufacturing

Following the forum on 26 June, participants visited the National Geological Museum of Uzbekistan and the AKFA Group's Industrial Technology Park.

The State Geological Museum of the Republic of Uzbekistan, established in 1926, houses over 50,000 unique exhibits, making it the largest in Central Asia, second only to the Beijing's Geological Museum in China. In 2024, the museum relocated to a new modern building adjacent to the Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology of Uzbekistan and a branch of the University of Pisa (Italy). The museum's three-level exhibition features interactive exhibits on mineralogy, palaeontology, the history of Uzbekistan's geology, ancient and modern mining, and geological research in Uzbekistan.

The AKFA Group Industrial Technology Park integrates over 20 high-tech productions operating as a single cluster, controlling the entire value chain and offering comprehensive solutions for various industries, including licensed production of household appliances, metal structures, heating systems, electrical products, building materials, and more. With a production area exceeding 350,000 sq. m, it is one of the largest in Central Asia. Many enterprises have a full production cycle, from raw material processing to finished product manufacturing.

The visit to the Technology Park was organised to showcase the strategic partner of the forum, Uzbekistan Technological Metals Complex (TMK), plans to establish two industrial parks in Uzbekistan specialising in the production of rare and rare earth metal products. In addition to launching new industrial sites, TMK also plans to open a unique scientific and technical centre for Central Asia, focusing on the development and implementation of innovative technologies for processing critical mineral resources.

Outcomes of the Forum

The MINEX Central Asia Forum demonstrated the growing role of Central Asian countries in shaping global critical raw materials security, opened new horizons for international partnership, and underscored the importance of sustainable and responsible resource utilisation for the prosperity of the region.

The Forum also served as a vital platform for deepening international investment and scientific-technical cooperation, bringing not only profit but also sustainable development, contributing to the well-being of people and the prosperity of the Central Asian region.