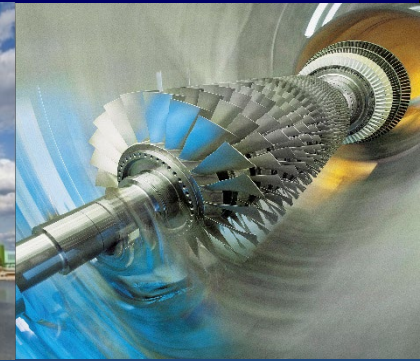


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Fossil Energy



# Critical Minerals Program

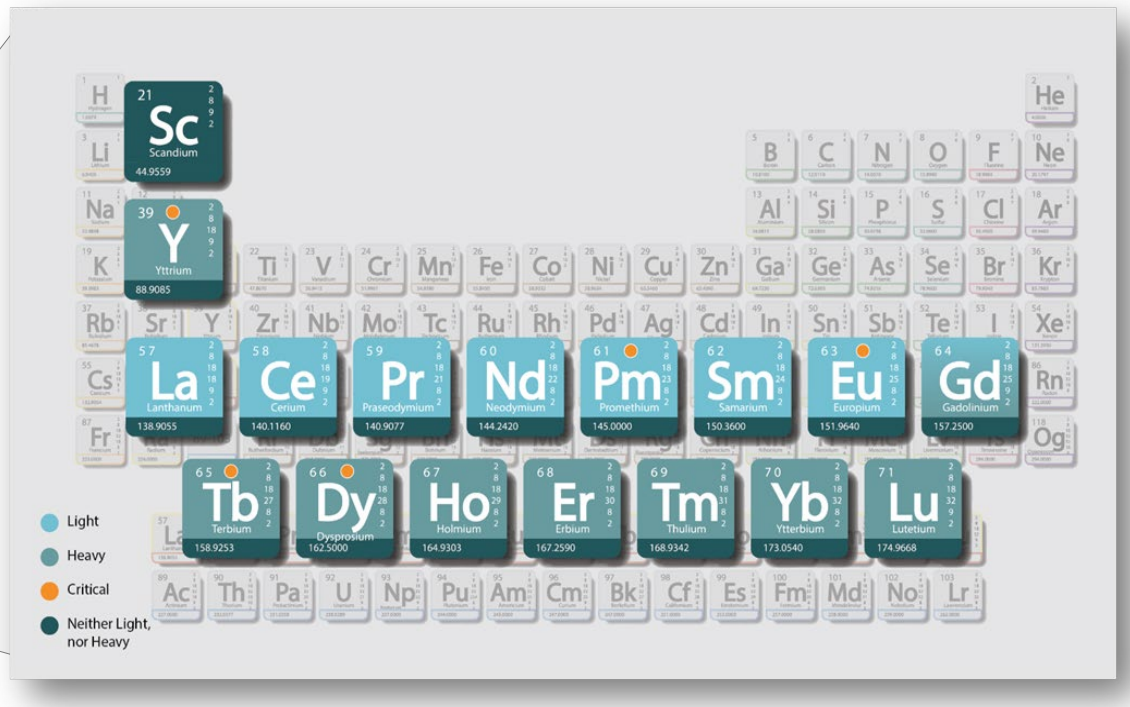
Traci Rodosta  
Program Manager

August 2020

# WHAT ARE CRITICAL MINERALS AND RARE EARTH ELEMENTS (REE)?

Mineral Commodity	Top Producer
Aluminum	China
Antimony	China
Arsenic	China
Barite	China
Beryllium	U.S.
Bismuth	China
Cesium/Rubidium	Canada
Chromium	So. Africa
Cobalt	Congo
Fluorspar	China
Gallium	China
Germanium	China
Graphite (natural)	China
Helium	U.S.
Indium	China
Lithium	Australia
Magnesium	China
Manganese	China
Niobium	Brazil
Platinum metals	So. Africa
Potash	Canada
Rare earth elements	China
Rhenium	Chile
Scandium	China
Strontium	Spain
Tantalum	Rwanda
Tellurium	China
Tin	China
Titanium	China
Tungsten	China
Uranium	Kazakhstan
Vanadium	China
Zirconium, Hafnium	Australia

REE are chemical elements/metals found in low concentrations throughout the Earth's crust, making them hard to recover.



# WHY ARE CRITICAL MINERALS AND REE IMPORTANT?



## MAGNETICS

Computer Hard Drives  
Disk Drive Motors  
Anti-Lock Brakes  
Automotive Parts  
Frictionless Bearings  
Magnetic Refrigeration  
Microwave Power Tubes  
Power Generation  
Microphones & Speakers  
Communication Systems  
MRI

Nd Tb Dy Pr



## DEFENSE

Satellite Communications  
Guidance Systems  
Aircraft Structures  
Fly-by-Wire  
Smart Missiles

Nd Eu Tb Dy Y Lu Sm Pr La



## CERAMICS

Capacitors  
Sensors  
Colorants  
Scintillators  
Refractories

Nd Y Eu Dy Lu Gd La Ce Pr



## CATALYSTS

Petroleum Refining  
Catalytic Converter  
Fuel Additives  
Chemical Processing  
Air Pollution Controls

Nd La Ce Pr



## METAL ALLOYS

NiMH Batteries  
Fuel Cells  
Steel  
Super Alloys  
Aluminum/Magnesium

Nd Y La Ce Pr



## GLASS & POLISHING

Polishing Compounds  
Pigments & Coatings  
UV Resistant Glass  
Photo-Optical Glass  
X-Ray Imaging

Nd Gd Er Ho La Ce Pr



## PHOSPHORS

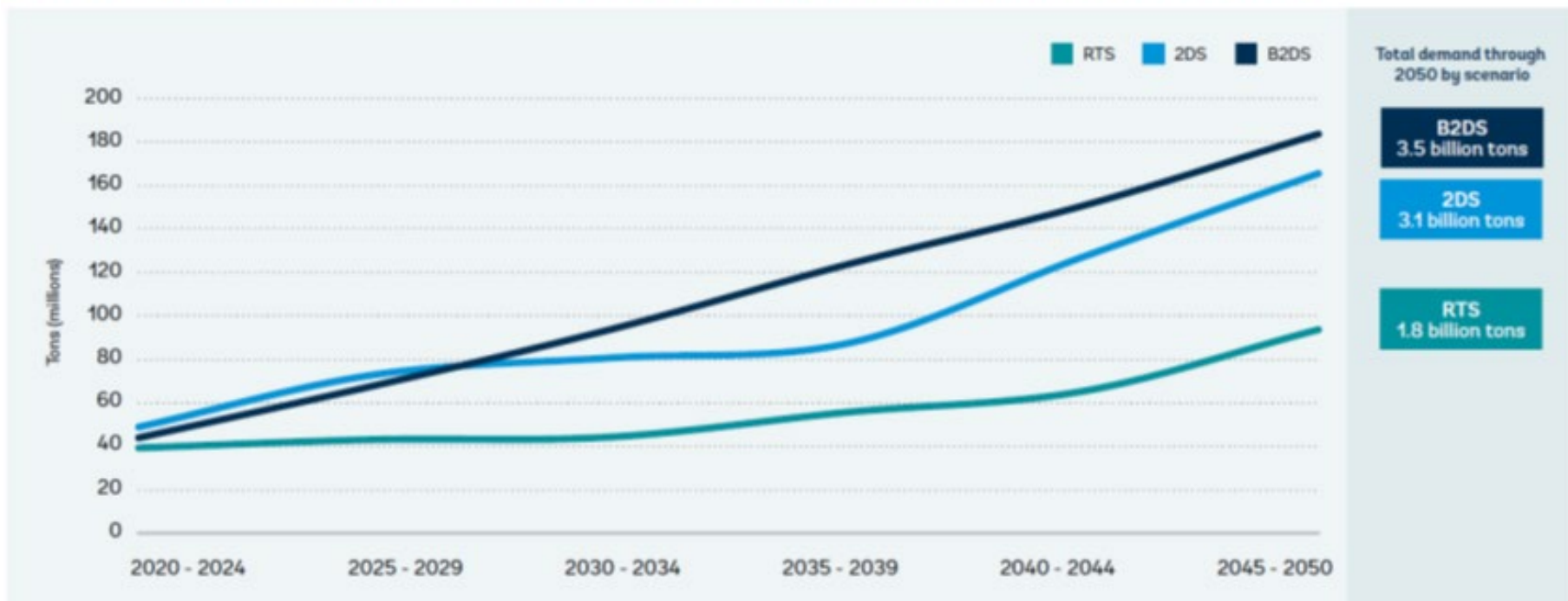
Display phosphors-  
CRT,LPD,LCD  
Fluorescents  
Medical Imaging  
Lasers  
Fiber Optics

Nd Eu Tb Y Er Gd Ce Pr



# CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES AND CRITICAL MINERALS

Figure ES.1 Projected Annual Average Demand of Minerals up to 2050 Under the IEA Energy Technology Perspective Scenarios



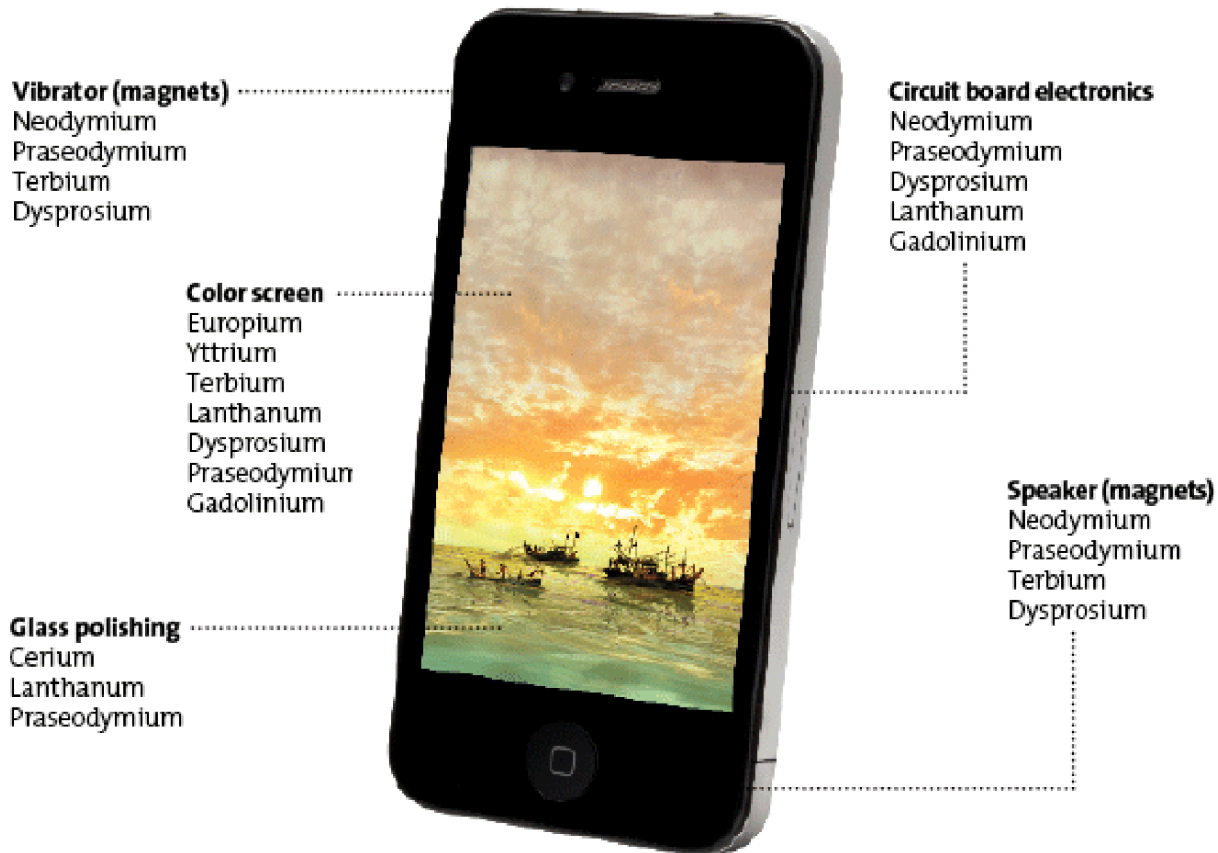
- A global study funded through the World Bank predicts key minerals for clean energy technology could grow over 450% by 2050
- Estimates over 3 billion tons of minerals and metals could be needed
- 100% recycling will not be enough – requiring additional mineral extraction and processing

<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/961711588875536384/Minerals-for-Climate-Action-The-Mineral-Intensity-of-the-Clean-Energy-Transition.pdf>



# CRITICAL MINERALS AND MANUFACTURING

The total value of REE in a cell phone is about \$15  
The value of the phone is hundreds of dollars



# FEDERAL STRATEGY – CRITICAL MINERALS

The President issued Executive Order (EO) 13817, *A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals* address strategic vulnerabilities in critical minerals supply chains

## Two deliverables

- Critical Minerals Lists – published by Department of the Interior in May 2018
- Report to President – published by Department of Commerce in June 2019.

## Interagency Coordination

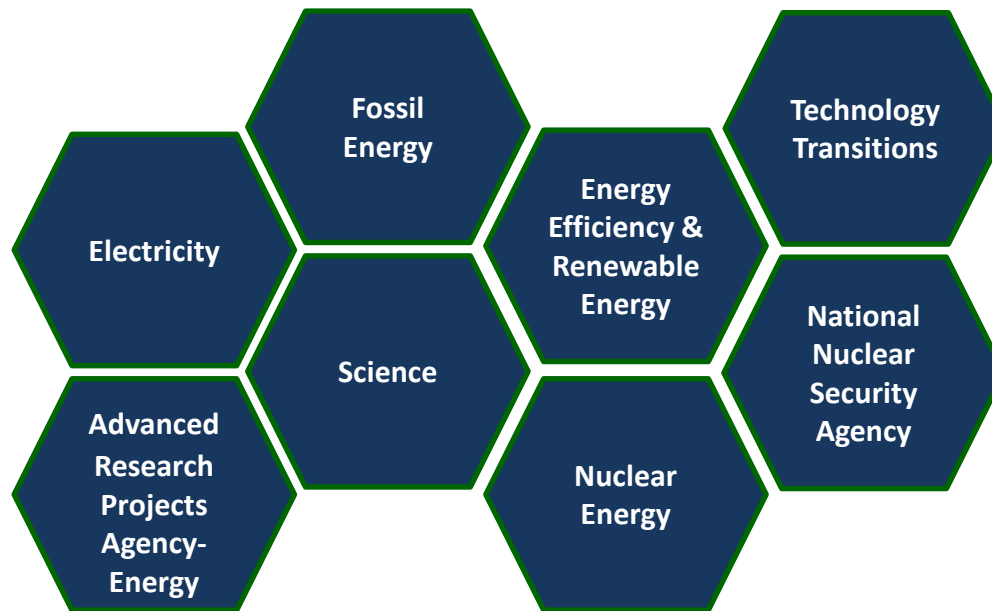
- National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Critical Minerals



# DOE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

## Research and Development Priorities for Critical Minerals

- Diversifying supply of critical materials – including domestic production and processing
- Developing Substitutes
- Driving recycling, reuse and more efficient use



***R&D is being coordinated across DOE Offices***



# WHAT IS A CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAIN?

Sequence of processes involved in the production of a commodity from raw materials (feedstock) through processing to end-use

Upstream

Midstream

Downstream



**Exploration-Extraction-  
and Beneficiation**

**Separation and Purification**

**Manufacturing**

Pictures are courtesy of University of North Dakota, Three Consulting + Thorium Energy Alliance, University of Kentucky, and NETL

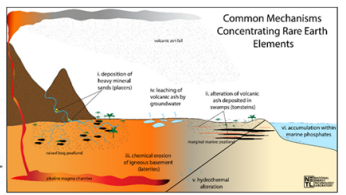




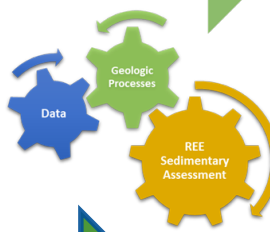
# TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT- NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LAB



## CHARACTERIZE GEOLOGIC PROCESSES:

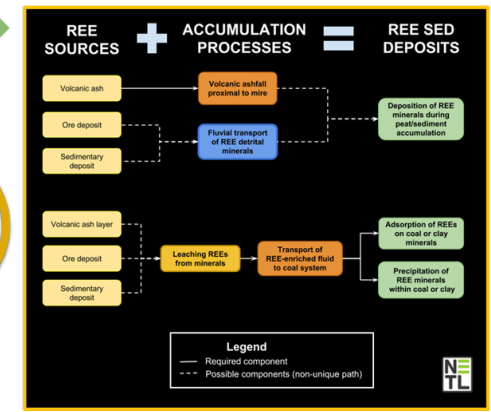


Distill geologic processes tied to REE SED systems into discrete, testable components

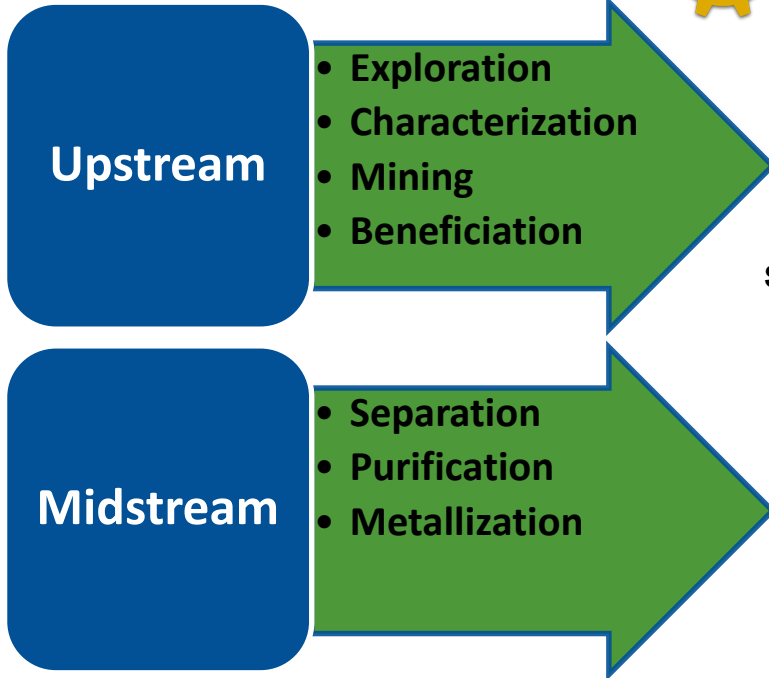


## INTEGRATION OF GEOLOGIC PROCESSES AND DATA:

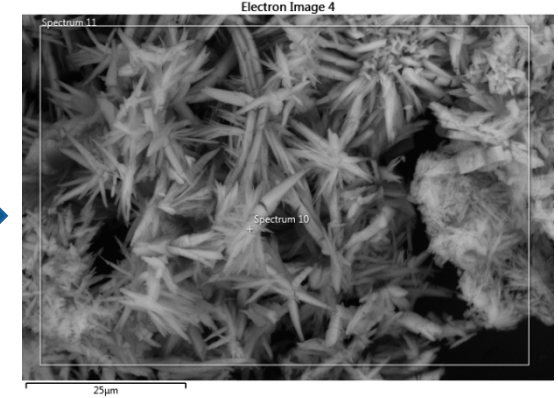
Enables testing for geologic conditions needed to accumulate REEs



Photos courtesy of B. Hedin (Pitt)



## SEM Image of HREE+Y oxalate precipitate



# TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT - FIELD VALIDATION PROJECTS



**Upstream**

- Exploration
- Characterization
- Mining
- Beneficiation



**Midstream**

- Separation
- Purification
- Metallization



# QUESTIONS



Image Courtesy of National Energy Technology Laboratory

