



*Do you have business or industry news of interest to the minerals, metals, and materials community? Submit your announcement or press release to Kaitlin Calva, JOM Magazine Managing Editor, at [kcalva@tms.org](mailto:kcalva@tms.org) for consideration.*

## ***In Case You Missed It:*** **Business News from the Field**

### **Rio Tinto Adds Utah Plant**

**London, U.K.:** Rio Tinto is building a new plant to recover tellurium from copper refining at its Kennecott integrated copper mining operation near Salt Lake City, Utah. A \$2.9 million investment will equip the plant to recover tellurium as a by-product of copper smelting through extraction from waste streams. Operations will begin in the fourth quarter of 2021 at the new plant, which will have around 20 tonnes of annual production capacity.

### **Zeiss Finishes New Californian Site**

**Oberkochen, Germany:** Carl Zeiss AG, a leading global optics and optoelectronics technology company, has completed construction of its new R&D, production, sales, and customer service site in Dublin, California, in the San Francisco Bay Area. The \$180 million investment in the new Zeiss Innovation Center is part of the company's efforts to expand close to research centers and growth markets. The center's focus on digital solutions and scientific and industry partnerships spanning disciplines and technologies are key drivers behind the company's selection of a site in the Bay Area.

### **Solvay's Tubing Advances Lightweighting**

**Brussels, Belgium:** Solvay and Maincor Rohrssysteme GmbH & Co. KG pioneered a technique to manufacture a highly flexible, extruded corrugated tubing with varying wall thicknesses and diameters. The manufacturer's advancement will help automobile makers meet new thermal management design challenges stemming from combining internal combustion engine and e-mobility technologies including batteries, e-motors, and power electronics.

### **Pioneer Buys Permian's DoublePoint Energy**

**Houston, Texas, USA:** Pioneer Natural Resources Company is acquiring DoublePoint Energy LLC for \$6.4 billion. Pioneer will gain more than 100,000 acres in the core of the Permian basin, which are currently producing nearly 100,000 barrels per day. The acreage, in the Midland basin portion of the greater Permian basin, is contiguous with much of Pioneer's existing holdings, enabling Pioneer to engineer longer horizontal wells from fewer drilling pads, utilizing the existing pipeline and water systems. The deal is comprised of approximately 27.2 million shares of Pioneer common stock, \$1 billion of cash, and assumption of approximately \$900 million of debt and liabilities.

### **U.S. Steel Acquires Patents and Trademarks**

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA:** U.S. Steel Corporation purchased the flat-rolled sheet patents and trademarks to advanced, high-strength steel made by The NanoSteel Co. Inc. in Providence, Rhode Island. The patented proprietary alloys have a nanoscale microstructure, which creates a unique combination of extreme strength and enhanced formability that is normally only found in low-strength mild steels. The NanoSteel grades can be rolled thicker than other high-strength grades and are designed for automotive and heavy industrial applications where higher strength-to-weight ratios are needed.

**Adelaide, Australia:** Core Lithium confirmed the production of battery-grade lithium at its Finiss Lithium Project in Australia's Northern Territory. Two samples of blended concentrate showed over 95% lithium in separate tests. The Finnish Lithium Project is the first lithium site to be approved outside Western Australia and is the first new mine of significant scale to be approved in the Northern Territory since 2013. Australia leads the world in lithium production. (Photo credit Core Lithium.)

