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## Jean-Sébastien Lavallée

President and CEO, Critical Elements Corporation



SMR: What would be the contribution of lithium and tantalum from the Rose tantalum and lithium deposit towards global production?

JL: Critical Elements Corp. is focused on the rare metals and rare earths market; particularly tantalum and lithium. Our 100% owned-Rose Tantalum-Lithium Project is currently in the advanced exploration stage. A total of 181 drill holes totaling 26,500,000 meters have been drilled to date on the Rose Deposit. Our feasibility study will be released by the end of Q1 2013 and we will then have specific insight.

SMR: The mine is expected to be a source of Conflict free Ethical Tantalum. Please explain.

JL: Conflict minerals are minerals mined in conditions of armed conflict and human rights abuses. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which passed Congress and was signed into law by President Obama on July 21, 2010, requires electronics companies to verify and disclose their sources of tantalum, cassiterite and wolframite. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission finalized conflict minerals in 2012 and issued

draft regulations to implement the Conflict Mineral Law which requires U.S. and certain foreign companies to report and make public the use of so-called "conflict minerals" from the Democratic Republic of the Congo or adjoining countries in their products in order to curb the flow of cash to rebel groups... Due to political instability and associated risk, mining investment in Africa has been significantly curtailed...the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center has called on its members to take care to obtain their raw materials from lawful sources.

SMR: What are the critical issues connected with the exploration of tantalum and lithium?

JL: It is critically important for North America to have ample supplies of tantalum and lithium. The United States remained the leading importer of lithium minerals and compounds and the leading producer of value-added lithium materials...Credit Suisse has forecast a 10.3 percent annual growth in demand for lithium between 2009 and 2020.

Global lithium demand has tripled over the past decade, and the global market price of lithium carbonate has tripled since 2001 to its current level of around \$6,000 per ton...[Tantalum's] primary use today is with tantalum capacitors used in electronic equipment including computers, mobile phones, video game systems, etc. The oxide from tantalum is also used to make high refractive index glass for camera lenses.

SMR: Do you think the recently passed Dodd Frank act will impact Tantalum supply?

JL: Yes, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act will put pressure on law abiding countries to source and mine more tantalum as well as cassiterite and wolframite. This Act requires all US-listed companies to file annual reports with the SEC stating that they do not source tantalum from conflict areas, where either human welfare or wildlife are threatened. Similar positions have been taken by the UN and the European Community. Our 100% owned-Rose Tantalum-Lithium Project, with full support by the Quebec government will be a valued global source for conflict free tantalum and lithium.