

Meeting Summary: Strategic Rare Earths & E-Waste Reclamation 3rd September 2025

- **Global Supply Chain Risks**
 - China's dominance in rare earths was highlighted as a strategic vulnerability for other nations. India's proactive approach includes banning e-waste exports to localize supply chains.
- **Silex Technology & Collaboration**
 - Silex's alkali-based, non-acid rare earth separation technology was presented as more environmentally friendly and supply-chain resilient. Collaboration with India is supported by IP protection and government agreements.
- **Economic & Environmental Factors**
 - Recycling is seen as cheaper and faster to establish than new mining, with a preference for smaller, distributed plants. Localizing supply chains and government prioritization are key.
- **Technical Process & Traceability**
 - The alkali-based process is effective for various rare earth minerals, and digital identity/traceability of e-waste is crucial for efficiency and cost reduction. (chat)
- **Cultural & Workforce Issues**
 - The need for a cultural shift toward reduction and circularity was discussed, as well as the risk of reclaimed materials leaving the UK. Upskilling in engineering and bridging the "valley of death" from lab to industry were identified as challenges.
- **Next Steps & Action Items**
 - Emphasis on building local communities for waste collection, stratification, and safe recycling. Integrated product support and design for disassembly were recommended. Clem invited further engagement.
- **Shared Resources (chat)**
 - [Royal Mint e-waste recovery article](#)
 - [Met4Tech recycling toolbox and roadmaps](#)
 - [Report on Industry Resilience for Critical Minerals](#)
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