

Brussels, April 2021

The Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) has wrapped up its first-ever virtual convention that happened between March 8-11, 2021, receiving positive feedback and industry accolades. The annual PDAC Convention is the premier event of the world's mineral exploration and mining industry that brings together mining executives, geologists, government officials, investors, analysts, and students from around the globe. With over 7,200 members around the world, PDAC's mission is to promote a globally responsible, vibrant and sustainable mineral sector that encourages leading practices in technical, operational, environmental, safety and social performance.

At the [PDAC 2021 Virtual Convention](#), attendees had access to a customized platform where they could visit exhibit halls, network with colleagues, and join sessions that were available on-demand shortly after airing. This new virtual format allows attendees to continue networking by sending direct messages to other participants, engaging through text lounges, and watching educational sessions and newly added content for three months post-convention, until June 1, 2021.

### European Technology Platform on Sustainable Mineral Resources (ETP SMR) virtual booth at the PDAC 2021:

[ETP SMR](#) was present at the [EuroGeoSurveys](#) (EGS) stand within the European Commission's virtual booth. The European Commission booth also hosted European Commission initiatives and representatives as the [European Raw Materials Alliance](#) and [EIT Raw Materials](#), and projects from H2020 (the EU research programme for research and innovation), EU countries, and small and medium-sized enterprises.

The ETP SMR stand offered the information through the presentations. Interested attendees could interact with the EGS Secretariat representatives through one-on-one meetings, and live text-based chats to raise awareness about ETP SMR activities and to be engaged in discussions.





### About ETP SMR:

The ETP SMR is an association of entities active in raw materials research and innovation at a wide scale, representing different sectors along the value chain from exploration to extraction, processing and recycling, including the highly innovative technology development sector.

The ETP SMR focuses its activities on creating sustainable resources potential, access to, and supply of essential and critical raw materials through research, development and innovation, in line with the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials proposed by the EU, based on three pillars: fostering sustainable supply within the EU, boosting resource efficiency and recycling, and international collaboration.

### Background message from the EU:

Responsible mining sourcing and sustainable management and consumption of mining resources is key for Europe's resilience in relation to supply raw materials. In September 2020, the European Commission (EC) presents an Action Plan to make Europe's raw materials supply more secure and sustainable. The EC adopted the Communication Critical Raw Materials Resilience: Charting a Path towards greater Security and Sustainability:

*Access to resources is a key issue for Europe's ambition to deliver the Green Deal. The new industrial strategy for Europe proposes to reinforce Europe's open strategic autonomy, warning that Europe's transition to climate neutrality could replace today's reliance on fossil fuels with one on raw materials, many of which we source from abroad and for which global competition is becoming more fierce. The EU's open strategic autonomy in these sectors will therefore need to continue to be anchored in diversified and undistorted access to global markets for raw materials. At the same time, and to decrease external dependencies and environmental pressures, the underlying problem of rapidly increasing global resources demand needs to be addressed by reducing and reusing materials before recycling them.*

Raw materials, in particular scarce critical raw materials, keep European industrial value chains competitive for sectors such as automotive, machinery, electrical engineering, ICT, and defence. For this reason, achieving resource security requires actions at European level to diversify supply from both primary and secondary sources, reduce dependencies and improve resource efficiency and circularity, including sustainable product design. Raw materials' availability is a prerequisite for the transition to a climate-neutral economy with e-mobility and renewable energy.

For more information, visit: <https://www.etpsmr.org/>