

## Green Steel Era Begins: New Innovations Forged a Path to a Carbon-Free Future

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-- In the vibrant heart of New York,
where skyscrapers pierce the sky ever
higher, Sahit Muja, the visionary
Albanian CEO, stands with pride.
Amidst the city's relentless ascent, he
gazes towards the future of green
steel. His role in this green revolution is
pivotal, as his company pioneers the
use of eco-friendly metals in steel
production. Muja's commitment
extends to the essential metals—nickel



Sahit Muja

and chromium—that form the backbone of the stainless steel industry. With a nod to sustainability, he declares with conviction: "Our mission is to forge a future where innovation and environmental stewardship walk hand in hand, shaping a world that is both strong and sustainable".

Sahit Muja added that the path to a greener future is paved with the promise of innovation and responsibility. "Our journey towards sustainable steel is not just a vision, but a commitment to redefining industry standards. By integrating nickel and chromium in eco-conscious ways, we're not only enhancing the durability of stainless steel but also minimizing our environmental footprint. It is through such endeavors that we honor both progress and the planet".

Sahit Muja said. "In the crucible of human ambition, steel rises like a colossus, its shimmering strength a testament to our unyielding drive to forge and construct. This alloy, the very backbone of industrial might, silently bears the weight of our modern world. Its presence is woven into the fabric of our daily lives—its gleaming surface the backbone of bridges, the frame of skyscrapers, the engine of progress.

Yet, the story of steel is shadowed by a profound paradox. For every ounce of steel that graces our cities and infrastructures, there lies a hidden price, etched in the language of destruction and pollution. The journey from raw iron ore to the gleaming steel of our modern world is a testament to human ingenuity, but it is also a harrowing tale of environmental sacrifice.

The steelmaking process, a fiery ballet of transformation, is both a marvel and a curse. At its heart lies the blast furnace, a titanic structure that burns at temperatures reaching 1600°C, a searing furnace of industry where raw iron ore is transformed into molten metal. The heart of this beast is stoked by fossil fuels, the burning of which releases torrents of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The very essence of this transformation—purifying the molten ore with refined coal, or coke—unleashes another flood of carbon dioxide, a silent witness to the cost of our progress.

As if this were not enough, the molten iron, now a fiery river of potential, is subjected to yet another phase of alchemical change. The steelmaking process continues as the iron is further refined, the remaining carbon baked away, and alloying elements such as, nickel, chromium or titanium are introduced. Each step in this intricate dance adds to the toll on our climate, as the very act of creating steel releases a torrent of gases that often weigh more than the steel produced.

The environmental impact is staggering. Each year, the world produces nearly 2 billion tons of steel, a colossal figure that contributes to about 7% of human greenhouse gas emissions. In the forge of progress, the weight of the emitted greenhouse gases roughly doubles that of the steel itself. It is a heavy price indeed, one that underscores the profound environmental cost of our relentless pursuit of development.

Thus, steel stands as a symbol of human achievement, a testament to our ability to shape and build. Yet, it is also a stark reminder of the cost of our endeavors, a reflection of the delicate balance we must maintain between progress and preservation. In every beam and bridge, in every skyscraper and vehicle, there echoes the quiet lament of an earth paying the price for our boundless ambition.

Green Steel Revolution Begins: Pioneering Efforts Mark a New Era in Sustainable Industry

As the CEO of <u>Albanian Minerals</u> and our affiliated ventures, my steadfast commitment to a greener future has long been my guiding beacon. Throughout my travels and observations of the intricate dance of mining, transportation, and metal production, I have witnessed firsthand the indispensable role these processes play in the steel industry.

Today, our focus has evolved and sharpened. We are making groundbreaking strides in the realm of stainless steel production, heralding a new chapter in sustainable industry. For the first time globally, we are proud to unveil our green nickel. A revolutionary advancement that boasts a CO2-negative footprint. With each ton of this innovative nickel, 200 tons of CO2 are permanently sequestered, marking a profound leap towards carbon neutrality. We have achieved a groundbreaking advancement in nickel phytomining technology. This innovative approach takes root in one of the world's most breathtaking mountain landscapes, Tropoja, Albania where the beauty of nature harmonizes with human ingenuity, heralding a new era of

## sustainable mining.

In these majestic terrains, green technology's influence runs deep. Here, plants serve as more than just guardians of the soil; they become nature's alchemists, extracting nickel and other essential metals while rejuvenating the land. This process not only mines but also cleanses, transforming polluted areas into verdant sanctuaries, significantly reducing CO2 emissions and purifying previously contaminated waters. This technology embodies the intersection of environmental stewardship and economic growth, generating jobs, revitalizing communities, and producing materials vital for our global transition to green energy.

https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/metalplant-unveils-groundbreaking-green-nickel-phytomining-and-co2-sequestration-technology-1033239052

In parallel, Albanian Minerals is on the cusp of another milestone. Our world-leading best quality chromium production is on track to achieve CO2-negative status through pioneering technological advancements. These efforts are not just incremental improvements but transformative shifts that redefine our relationship with the environment and set a new standard for sustainable industry practices.

The green steel revolution is not just a vision of the future—it is unfolding now, driven by our relentless pursuit of innovation and sustainability.

In a momentous confluence of scientific prowess and industrial ambition, Vattenfall, SSAB, and LKAB have unveiled the prodigious findings of their six-year HYBRIT project, a groundbreaking endeavor presented to the Swedish Energy Agency. This report, a beacon of innovation in the annals of metallurgy, illuminates a paradigm shift: iron forged through the alchemy of hydrogen not only attains the coveted mantle of carbon neutrality but also surpasses the traditional product in strength and resilience, setting a new standard in material excellence.

The HYBRIT pilot plant, heralded as the world's inaugural facility to substantiate the "fossil-free value chain" for steel on a semi-industrial scale, has etched its name into the chronicles of sustainable manufacturing. With the successful production of 5,000 tonnes of hydrogen-reduced iron, this avant-garde plant has catalyzed a transformative era in steel production. The ripple effects of this innovation extend beyond mere numbers, as stalwart enterprises such as Volvo Group, Epiroc, and Peab have already integrated this venerated green steel into their vehicles, machinery, and edifices. <a href="https://www.ssab.com/en/news/2024/08/hybrit-six-years-of-research-paves-the-way-for-fossilfree-iron-and-steel-production-on-an-industrial">https://www.ssab.com/en/news/2024/08/hybrit-six-years-of-research-paves-the-way-for-fossilfree-iron-and-steel-production-on-an-industrial</a>

As these industrial behemoths chart a course toward a greener future, the next chapter unfolds with the construction of a grander facility in Gällivare, nestled three hours north of Luleå amidst the pristine expanse of Swedish Lapland. This ambitious venture aspires to not merely scale up production but to catalyze a sweeping decarbonization of Sweden's steel industry, targeting a reduction of 10% in the nation's emissions—a monumental stride towards a more sustainable future.

With this visionary initiative, the confluence of advanced scientific research and practical industrial application propels us into an epoch where the reverberations of innovation echo through the very foundations of our technological and environmental landscapes".

Forbes celebrates Sahit Muja as a quintessential self-made billionaire, his personal fortune exceeding \$3.5 billion USD. As the visionary Founder and CEO of Albanian Minerals, Green Minerals, and Global Mining, he oversees a mineral asset portfolio that surpasses \$100 billion USD. This eminent Albanian-American magnate's leadership transcends borders, with his investments encompassing over 500 companies worldwide. His profound business acumen has earned him acclaim as a distinguished luminary in global commerce, an audacious entrepreneur, and a perceptive investor.

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