Looking into the next decade, the tin industry faces unprecedented opportunities and challenges. It is important for us in the tin sector to understand what lies ahead. To build this picture, the International Tin Association (ITA) has consulted widely across the sector to see what the future may hold and what action we should take to secure the future of tin.

Our world is changing fast. With rising geopolitical tensions, climate change urgency and a series of macroeconomic shocks, we expect the next decade will see the emergence of a new divided world, competing for vital resources including tin. Tin supply chains will need to adapt rapidly to meet these challenges while also working together to manage increased Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) expectations and demonstrate how the tin sector is building a better future for everyone.

At the same time, we expect it will become increasingly clear that tin is a vital technology metal. It will glue together all of the electronic and electrical infrastructure needed to digitise the world and reach Net Zero. Therefore, we firmly believe that the demand for tin will surge.

For all these reasons, we foresee that the next decade will see a wake-up to tin with a new wave of government-supported investment to secure sustainably sourced supply. As we stand together on the edge of this new era, we at ITA have been engaging with investors, producers, users and ESG experts to begin laying out this vision for tin together. We will use this framework to develop a strategic roadmap that can lead our industry to 2030 and beyond. Thanks to all who have contributed so far, we look forward to continuing the conversation.

Helen Prins
CEO International Tin Association
A VISION FOR TIN 2030

- A Wake-up for Tin
- New Investment
- New Resources
- New Smelting
- Increased Recycling

Shifting Priorities
- A Sustainable Future
- Mainstreaming ESG Transparency
- Moving Beyond ESG Audits
- Working Together on ESG Issues

Markets

Technology

Sustainability

Macro
TIN2030 Themes

- A divided, competitive world
- Securing a sustainable future
- A technology revolution
- A wakeup to tin
MACRO A divided, competitive world

GEOPOLITICAL TRANSITIONS DRIVE A NEW REGIONALISATION

Decades of relative global stability will be challenged at multiple levels by the emergence of new economic and geopolitical influences.

CLIMATE CHANGE A GLOBAL EMERGENCY

Energy transition, green technologies and ESG action are urgent priorities. Solutions need unprecedented global cooperation.

GLOBAL TRADE IS DISLOCATED BY NATIONAL INTERESTS

A decade of competition over increasingly scarce resources will make mineral supply a central focus of government policy.

$5 Trillion

Will be needed annually by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5°C

70%

Increase in global trade, driven by high-growth emerging markets

1.3 Billion more tin-using consumers in middle classes

EMERGED ECONOMIES BECOME NEW CONSUMPTION CENTRES

More than half of the world’s tin-using population will be in middle classes by 2030. India has the world’s fastest growth rate.
Securing a sustainable future

Only 29% of investors today say the quality of ESG reporting is ‘good’

SUSTAINABILITY

COMPANY VALUE MEASURED BY ESG PERFORMANCE

The market will differentiate companies who strive beyond minimum requirements, including to achieve the UN 2030 SDGs.

67% of consumers today say they are willing to pay more for sustainable products

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO MANAGING RISKS

A new momentum for more direct communication and collaboration between the upstream and downstream ends of the supply chain.

Up to 40% ASM tin supply today, with risks and opportunities for sustainable development

PROGRESSIVE IMPROVEMENT ASSURED BY MEANINGFUL STANDARDS

Regular auditing plays an important role but will be re-balanced by prioritisation of progressive improvement through supply chain engagement.
A technology revolution

TIN SURFS THE DATA WAVE

A fusion of machines, biology and data managed by Artificial Intelligence will merge all aspects of modern life to create an interconnected digital datasphere.

10x

more data generated than today because of digitisation

TECHNOLOGY

CLIMATE CHANGE BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR TIN

Tin use in solar and other energy technologies will make a vital contribution to a decarbonised future.

14%
growth rate for tin use in solar ribbon to 55,000 tpa

GREEN TECHNOLOGIES FOR TIN SUPPLY CHAINS

Tin producers and users will explore new technologies to reduce energy and water use, including new extraction chemistries.

TIN USE PROVES MOSTLY RESISTANT TO PRICE PRESSURE

Tin will prove largely robust under increasing substitution pressure. As with all technology metals its unique technical abilities will continue to be mostly unrivalled.
INVESTORS WILL DISCOVER A NEW INTEREST IN TIN

The importance of tin in achieving global goals for climate change and technology transition will finally be realised.

MARKETS A wake-up to tin

$1 Billion+ investment needed to reach 2030 tin demand

SECONDARY TIN SUPPLY WILL BE A PRIORITY

Circular economy trends and industry needs will combine to continue boosting tin recycling.

50,000 tpa more tin needed for the technology supercycle, taking tin use close to 500,000 tpa

LEGACY PROJECTS RE-EVALUATED

Looming deficits and geopolitical concerns will renew the search for new tin projects.

A DIVERSIFIED TIN SMELTING INDUSTRY

Geopolitical and environmental demands will require tin smelter diversification, particularly in key consumer regions.
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