

Making the Future: Tin's Strategic Role in a Changing World

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Welcome

Good morning, dear friends.

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to Seville for the International Tin Conference 2026.

As I look around the room, it's impressive to see so many of you here. Very few sectors bring together such a diverse global community in one event, from miners and smelters to traders, technology companies, investors and policymakers.

The strong international participation we are seeing this week, with delegates from 34 countries, reflects the growing importance of these discussions.

I would also like to take a moment to thank all our sponsors and partners for their support in making this conference possible.

We are delighted to host this year's conference here in Andalusia, a region with a long mining history and an increasingly important role in Europe's critical minerals and industrial future. It is a fitting location for discussions about the changing role of tin in the global economy.

This conference comes at a defining moment for our industry.

A Changing World for Tin

The global tin market has entered a far more complex and uncertain phase.

Over the past year we have seen sharp price volatility, tightening supply, rising geopolitical tensions and far greater government intervention in critical minerals and industrial supply chains. In many ways, this volatility reflects the growing importance and pressure on global tin supply.

For many years, tin was often overlooked in wider discussions around critical minerals. That is changing quickly.

Tin is becoming recognised as a critical or strategic mineral across many major economies, a clear sign of the growing focus on tin and supply chain resilience.

Tin is no longer sitting quietly in the background of industrial supply chains.

It is increasingly recognised as an essential material, economic resilience, technological competitiveness and industrial security.

The reasons for this growing attention are clear.

Tin remains essential to electronics, semiconductors, digital infrastructure, advanced manufacturing and energy systems.

The operating environment for the industry is far more complex than even a few years ago.

The industry is approaching a decisive period.

Demand linked to electrification, digitalisation and industrial transformation continues to grow. ITA forecasts tin consumption will increase 20% to 428,000 tonnes by 2030. Yet future supply growth cannot be taken for granted. ITA anticipates demand to outstrip existing mining capacity by 2028. In two years from now. A timeline that is uncomfortably close for an industry where developing new supply can take many years.

Developing new tin supply is becoming more capital intensive and more politically complex, while downstream industries increasingly require supply chains that are secure, transparent and responsibly managed.

Future supply will not come from one solution alone.

Formalizing artisanal and small-scale mining is essential to sustaining local jobs and livelihoods.

Expanding tin recycling and circularity is vital to boost secondary supply.

The question is no longer simply whether the world needs tin.

That is already clear.

The real question is whether industry, governments, investors, and local stakeholders can work quickly and collaboratively enough to secure resilient future supply.

This creates uncertainty for the industry - but also a significant opportunity to strengthen tin's position in the global economy.

Leading the Future of Tin

At a time when markets are moving rapidly and governments are intervening more directly, credible industry insight and collaboration matter more than ever.

Our vision at ITA is to lead the global tin industry towards a sustainable future, championing innovation, responsible practices and collaboration across the supply chain.

Through TIN2030, we have moved from defining that vision to delivering practical platforms and initiatives that support the industry through a period of profound change. Across our core pillars of Markets, Sustainability and Technology, ITA is helping the industry better understand and respond to a rapidly evolving world.

That means moving beyond discussion and building practical solutions that help the industry navigate change. Through Tin Desk, we are strengthening market intelligence at a time when investment and supply decisions are becoming more complex and geopolitical.

Through Tin Valley, we are accelerating collaboration on innovation, low-carbon technologies and new applications for tin.

The Tin Code and our sustainability and responsible sourcing work are helping strengthen transparency and trust across the supply chain.

Through the Responsible Tin Network, we are bringing stakeholders from across the industry together to address some of the industry's most urgent challenges.

As governments, investors and downstream industries focus more closely on critical minerals and supply chain resilience, ITA has an increasingly important role in helping the tin industry engage constructively in those discussions.

The tin industry remains deeply global and interconnected, even as trade relationships and industrial policies become more fragmented.

The Next Two Days

Over the next two days, this conference will focus on many of the defining issues shaping the future of our industry.

This morning we begin with the broader strategic environment around tin - including critical minerals policy, government perspectives and the changing geopolitical landscape.

We will then move into our leadership dialogue on *Tin's Strategic Role in a Changing World*.

Later today, we will explore how transparency and responsible sourcing are becoming increasingly important strategic issues for the industry.

We will then turn to future tin supply, including discussions with members of our Explorers and Developers Group.

Tomorrow, our focus shifts toward technology and innovation — including low-carbon tin production, green technologies and emerging applications that are expanding the future role of tin.

The conference discussions will also be complemented by opportunities to connect more directly with industry operations and projects.

I would like to thank Atlantic Copper and Elementos for hosting this year's industrial tours.

And of course, this conference is about reconnecting with colleagues and friends from across the industry. We look forward to continuing discussions at tonight's Networking Reception here in Seville.

The strong engagement we are seeing here also reflects something important: the global tin community needs more dialogue, not less.

That is why ITA will move to an annual International Tin Conference from 2027. To continue strengthening dialogue and collaboration.

Closing

In closing, the importance of tin is rising rapidly.

In the past, tin may have sat quietly in the background of the global economy.

That is no longer the case.

The decisions taken by industry, governments and investors over the coming years will help shape the future of global supply chains, technologies and industrial resilience for decades to come.

And that makes the conversations we have here in Seville especially important.

This conference is an opportunity not only to understand those changes, but to help shape how our industry responds to them.

Thank you again for joining us in Seville and I wish you a productive and engaging conference.