

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Mineral profile - Lithium

Mineral profile – Lithium is a new addition to the series of BGS mineral profiles.



Lepidolite in pegmatite, Western Mauritania BGS © NERC

BGS mineral profiles present essential information on individual mineral commodities for the non-specialist user. They are not intended to be highly technical but contain sufficient detail to enable the reader to gain a broad understanding. Each profile summarises: the nature and geological occurrence of deposits; extraction and processing methods; specifications and uses; world production, trade and prices; and the situation relating to the United Kingdom.

This new addition relates to lithium, a mineral that most of us are aware of due to its use in lithium-ion batteries in our mobile phones and tablets. Lithium is also topical at the moment due to the increasing availability of electric cars, which all need batteries containing lithium. However, lithium has numerous other uses too; it is used in ceramics and glass, lubricating greases, air treatment, pharmaceuticals and optics, for example. Lithium is also unusual in that it comes from two very different sources: hard rock mining and the extraction of brine from beneath salt pans. The world's supply is dominated by Chile (brine) and Australia (hard rock) with just six other countries producing lithium in 2015.

**\*Ends\***



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**Notes for Editors**

The following are available for interview:

- Andrew Bloodworth, Science Director Minerals and Waste, British Geological Survey

Download the Lithium profile here: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/downloads/start.cfm?id=3100>

For additional information go to: [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)

Photographs are available from our ftp server:

[ftp://ftp.bgs.ac.uk/pubload/MineralsUK/Lithium\\_Profile/](ftp://ftp.bgs.ac.uk/pubload/MineralsUK/Lithium_Profile/)

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