

DOE Manipulated Funding Investigation: A project of The Corrupt-o-pedia Wiki

*Advanced Technology Vehicles
Manufacturing (ATVM) & Related Loan
Programs. Not Right Wing, Not Left Wing:
Truth Wing! A very specific example of why
Washington DC is broken, repeated
thousands of times over with every other
issue in DC. Now we are going to fix it!*

Did Goldman push us into Afghanistan for the Lithium?

Posted on [October 29, 2012](#)

From Contributor: **JackieNuls:**

Did Goldman push us into Afghanistan for the Lithium?

Goldman stood to make billions of dollars along with the Russian mining companies, battery companies and electric car companies they represent. Goldman was involved in almost every DOE funding deal and has already taken huge “fees” out of those deals.

The Lithium in the Afghan lake beds is worth over **\$6 TRILLION**.

Naaaa.. probably not.. they wouldn't do something like that.

(Also see the general Goldman Sachs topic on this WIKI)

[Ads by Google](#) [Energy Stocks](#) [Russian Woman](#) [Wind Stocks](#) [Russian Dating](#)

Ownership Questions Dog ENER1 (HEV) As It Competes For Loans And Grants

Posted by [Alison Kroulek](#) | # |
08:40:27 am on March 23, 2009

Ener1 seems like it would be one of the companies most likely to benefit from the stimulus plan. After all, the company makes batteries for electric cars and it has a manufacturing plant in Indiana, so it benefits American workers. Plus, the market for these batteries should take off as America tries to reduce the amount of fossil fuels used to power our vehicles. Here's how [Barron's](#) describes Ener1's growth potential:

If Ener1 were to win 5% to 12% of a million-vehicle battery market, the company estimates, it could pull in \$2.1 billion in annual revenue with 15% margins (based on earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization). "If you want to apply a 15 times multiple to that cash flow, which in any normal market is a reasonable growth market, you're talking about a \$4.5 billion equity-market cap," says CEO Charles Gassenheimer.

To help expand its facilities here, Ener1 has applied for a \$480 million loan from the US Department of Energy and plans to apply for some of a \$2 billion dollar grant that is part of the Advanced Battery Manufacturing Initiative in the stimulus plan.

However, questions about the company's ownership are complicating the application process. Here's how the [Barron's](#) article I linked to above explains the problem:

As of late February, some 62% of Ener1's outstanding shares were owned by privately held Ener1 Group. In turn, 66% of Ener1 Group — a recent participant in a \$5.7 million loan to Think Global, which is trying to emerge from bankruptcy — is held by Bzinfm, a British Virgin Islands company whose "indirect beneficial owner" is Boris Zingarevich, a Russian businessman. Zingarevich has close ties to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

This is a concern for the Department of Energy. There are fears that if Ener1 develops a successful battery, all of the research and development funded with DOE loans and grants could be transferred back to Russia, especially since there are also military applications for the technology.

Speaking to [Barron's](#), Ener1 CEO responded to these concerns by denying that the Russian investors have any influence on the decisions the company makes. Here's how he explains the situation:

Gassenheimer says that Zingarevich joined the company "when the two founders ran into financial difficulties... If it were not for Boris, this company would not be alive today. He's been a tremendous partner, a patient investor. It's nice to have someone with this level of patience that is fully committed to the story." He adds that Zingarevich "as a matter of SEC rules...is deemed to 'beneficially own' a majority of our shares" but has

<http://greenstockscentral.com/ownership-questions-dog-ener1-hev-as-it-competes-for-loa>.

no day-to-day role in the company. And Gassenheimer says that, like many U.S. companies, its investors include Americans and foreigners.

[Get The Top 6 Wind Stocks Set To Soar Here!](#)

More on this topic (What's this?)

[Barron's: "Barely out of beta testing, Wikinvest's Portfolio tracker is already the most advanced portfolio manager online."](#)

[Ener1 \(HEV\) Has An 'Awesome Future' With Hybrid Cars](#) (Contrarian Profits, 12/17/08)

[Lithium-ion Batteries and Nine Years of Price Stagnation](#) (Alt Energy Stocks, 4/5/09)

[Why Advanced Lead-acid Will be Competitive in the HEV Markets](#) (Alt Energy Stocks, 5/29/09)

[Obama grant draws fresh eyes to Ener1 Inc. ahead of earnings](#) (Blogging Stocks, 8/6/09)

Read more on [Ener1](#), [Ener1 Inc](#) at [Wikinvest](#)

Tags: [DOE](#), [ener1](#), [hev](#)

If you enjoyed this post, please consider to [leave a comment](#) or [subscribe to the feed](#) and get future articles delivered to your feed reader.

Comments

Ford Karmer

Mar.24

Write your congressman! The Detroit Big 3 (Who are fronts for the oil companies), the banks (Who conduit the oil company money) and AIG (who keeps the oil companies protected) were handed money in a sack within a few days with no questions asked, no application and no review process but the alternative energy people, ie: wind, solar and electric cars must pay massive fees, file thousands of pages of paper and wait years to see if they MIGHT get some money. It seems as if there is an intentional program going on to delay alternative energy. Already, multiple solar companies that were waiting for that money have been forced to go out of business by the delay and most of the electric car companies are going to die soon too.

[Karl's Mortgage Calculator](#)

Jul.03

AIG was handed a bag of money in a few days no questions asked, no application and review process. Really well written. You should post more about this.

Leave a comment

Name (required)

E-mail (required)

Dreamforce 2010
Dec. 6-9 - Moscone Center • San Francisco

Get your **FREE** keynote & expo pass
(\$200 value) >

salesforce

Business Pundit

Search Business Pundit

- [Home](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [BizNotes](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [About](#)
- [Contact](#)

Filed in archive [Companies](#), [Startups](#), [Strategy](#) by Drea on June 15, 2009 | [No Comments](#)

Ener1 Wants to Win Lithium Ion Battery Race

Share  [Tweet](#)  [Stumble](#)  [Save](#)  [Print](#)  [Email This Post](#)

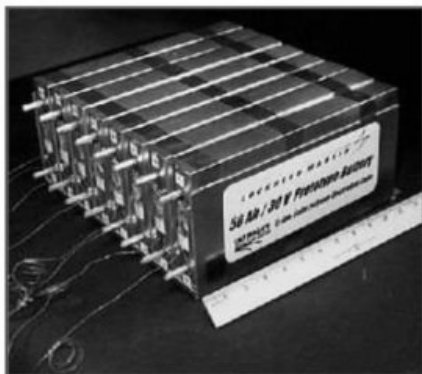


Image: [CarSpace](#)

Lithium ion battery manufacturer Ener1 (HEV) could become the country's first lithium ion battery mass producer—if it wins a \$480M Department of Energy loan. [CNNMoney](#) has more:

Ener1's newly opened production facility near Indianapolis could employ 3,000 workers. Like other renewable energy companies popping up in the Midwest, people are hoping Ener1 can replace some of the fast-disappearing auto and other manufacturing jobs.

Its lithium-ion battery technology is praised for being one of the best available. But Ener1 must compete for big contracts against larger, mostly Asian firms with much more experience in this field. The company has applied

<http://www.businesspundit.com/ener1-wants-to-win-lithium-ion-battery-race/>

for a \$480 million government loan to expand its facility and hopefully allow it to land a big contract. If that happens, Ener1 says it will go on a hiring spree.

Many of its competitors, including Japan's Panasonic and NEC, South Korea's LG, and a joint venture between U.S.-based Johnson Controls (JCI, Fortune 500) and the French company Saft, have been making batteries in high volumes for decades. (Ed: [The WSJ reports](#) that these are mainly for small devices like laptops and mobile devices. The lithium ion specialty remains a new one.)

If Ford or General Motors are going to buy batteries for an electric car, they need confidence the company they're buying from can deliver. The lack of experience may be one reason why GM decided to go with LG when choosing a battery supplier for its much-hyped Volt.

As the automobile industry prepares to shift from gas to electric power, grant-hungry battery manufacturers are lining up to gather \$2.4 billion worth of loans and grants from the Department of Energy. [The WSJ](#) has more:

At the (application) deadline last week, the department said it had received 165 (grant and loan) applications. Companies vying for the federal money include General Motors Corp., Dow Chemical Co., Johnson Controls Inc. and A123 Systems, a closely held battery maker backed by General Electric Co. and others. States including Michigan, Kentucky and Massachusetts are also weighing in with applications, usually in alliance with their favored battery makers.

When the winners are decided, as soon as the end of July, the Energy Department may anoint Livonia, Mich., or Indianapolis or Glendale, Ky., as the future U.S. hub of car batteries. A 2008 study by researchers at Alliance Bernstein forecast the current \$9 billion-a-year auto-battery market, based on lead-acid batteries, could reach more than \$150 billion by 2030.

The Obama administration is trying to position the United States to become the world's foremost manufacturer of lithium ion batteries. If the plan works, Ener1's domestic first-mover advantages could poise it to control the global LI battery industry. "Ener1 estimates it could win 5-12% of a million-vehicle battery market, creating \$2.1B in annual revenue with 15% margins," according to [Seeking Alpha](#). As it stands, nobody knows yet whether the DOE will give it the necessary grant.

There's an interesting twist to this potentially All-American story. [Seeking Alpha reports that...](#)

...66% of Ener1 Group is held by a company whose 'indirect beneficial owner' is Boris Zingarevich, a Russian businessman with close ties to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Foreign control theoretically shouldn't matter to the Department of Energy, but it is looking to foster an American advanced-battery industry, not a Russian-controlled one. This is especially true since advanced batteries are likely to have military uses in addition to civilian ones.

For now, Ener1 remains optimistic. And the lithium ion battery story is just beginning.

Related Articles:

- [Panasonic Stake Adds Promise to Tesla](#)
- [Daimler Buys Stake in Tesla Motors](#)
- [Racing in the Heat](#)

- [Mining](#)
- [Natural Resources](#)

Afghanistan has nearly \$1 trillion in mineral deposits, according to a study, but there are doubts the war-torn and graft-prone country can manage the windfall offered by the untapped riches.

President Hamid Karzai said in January that the deposits could help the war-ravaged nation become one of the richest in the world, based on preliminary findings of the United States Geological Survey.

The final results, reported in the *New York Times* Monday, found previously unknown reserves of lithium, iron, gold, niobium, cobalt and other minerals that the paper said could transform Afghanistan into a global mining hub.

"The natural resources of Afghanistan will play a magnificent role in Afghanistan's economic growth," Jawad Omar, spokesman for the country's ministry of mines and industries, told AFP.

"The past five decades show that every time new research takes place, it shows our natural reserves are far more than what was previously found," he said.

Afghanistan's potential lithium deposits are as large of those of Bolivia, which currently has the world's largest known reserves of the lightweight metal, the Times said.

There is ever-growing demand for lithium, which is used to make batteries for everything from mobile phones and cameras to iPads and laptops. Future growth in electric and hybrid cars could create still more demand.

Afghanistan has so much of the metal that it could become the "Saudi Arabia of lithium," according to an internal Pentagon memo quoted by the *New York Times*.

The iron and copper deposits are also large enough to make Afghanistan one of the world's top producers, U.S. officials said.

"There is stunning potential here," General David Petraeus, head of the U.S. Central Command which oversees Afghanistan, told the newspaper. "There are a lot of ifs, of course, but I think potentially it is hugely significant."

Little has been exploited because the country has been mired in conflict for three decades, and is today embroiled in a vicious insurgency by Islamist rebels led by the Taliban.

The country would have to find a way of bringing the minerals to markets but its infrastructure is rudimentary, with only one national highway connecting north to south and its ramshackle roads often targeted by Taliban bombs.

Analysts worried the country, hobbled by rampant corruption and a weak central state, was not ready to manage its potential mineral wealth.

"I highly doubt it will be able to either properly manage these resources or use the riches to build a more peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan for all Afghans," Janan Mosazai, a political analyst, told AFP.

"We have living examples of other countries where natural riches have actually turned into a curse for peace and prosperity for people," he said, citing Nigeria's endemic poverty and conflict despite vast oil exports.

The Afghan government has already reported large deposits of chromite, natural gas, oil and precious and semi-precious stones.

"The only significant new bit of information (this year) is the dollar figure, as Afghan and Soviet geologists already had evidence of the riches," Mosazai said.

China and India have bid for contracts to develop Afghan mines, with the Chinese winning a huge copper contract. An iron-ore contract is due to be awarded later this year.

A new minerals rush could pit U.S. and Chinese interests against each other. Some critics in Washington grumble that China is reaping rewards from the copper mine while U.S. troops are heavily committed against the Taliban.

204 people like this.

[3 Comments](#) | [Post a Comment](#)

[Print](#)
[Email](#)

- [Facebook](#)
- [Tweet](#)
- [Digg](#)
- [Yahoo! Buzz](#)

Friend's Name:

Email:

Your Name:

Email:

Message:


characters left = 100

[submit](#) [reset](#)
[close](#)

NEXT STORY: [For Atlantic Hurricanes, the Heat is On](#) next

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

<http://news.discovery.com/earth/afghanistan-minerals-lithium.html>




Booming is
getting paid by a small amount
of social media.

SONIA GUGLIEMINI
WORLD'S 100 LARGEST
MEMBER SINCE '98

Start Booming

OPEN

Become a member | [Log In](#)
Portfolio | [Forbes Stock Market Course-Save \\$50](#)
[Make Forbes.com My Home Page](#)
[Bookmark This Page](#)



Forbes
U.S. EUROPE ASIA

Home Page for the World's Business Leaders

Search

Free Trial Issue

Stock Quote

Home Lists **Business** Tech Markets Personal Finance Entrepreneurs Leadership ForbesLife Opinions Newsletters

Autos Billionaires Energy Logistics Media & Entertainment Pharma & Health SportsMoney Wall Street Washington

Energy & Genius

The Saudi Arabia of Lithium

Brendan I. Koerner, 10.30.08, 06:00 PM EST
Forbes Magazine dated November 24, 2008

The gas engine made petroleum the world's biggest commodity. The electric car could do the same for the third element on the periodic table.



By Greg Gidycz / Associated Press
Mounds of magnesium chloride ring SQM's mine, creating the illusion of snow in the ultra-arid salar.

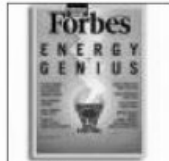
The gas engine made petroleum the world's biggest commodity. The electric car could do the same for the third element on the periodic table.

Nothing grows in the heart of the Salar de Atacama, this ancient Chilean lake bed 700 miles north of Santiago may be the driest place on Earth, a wasteland strewn with salt-encrusted rocks that resemble cow pies. Annual rainfall on the salar (which in Spanish means "salt lake") rarely tops a few millimeters. The cloudless skies combine with the high altitude, 1.4 miles above sea level, to produce punishing solar radiation, capable of frying exposed flesh in minutes.

Humans would steer clear of the Salar de Atacama were it not for the precious brine that bubbles 130 feet below its surface. When first pumped from the ground, the brine looks like slushy, dirt-stained snow, of the sort that piles up on Manhattan sidewalks after a spring flurry. But when left to broil beneath the desert sun, the water in the brine slowly evaporates, leaving behind a yellowy mineral bath that could easily be mistaken for olive oil.



The Lithium Gold Rush
Saudi Arabia's Next Act
Mr. Ethanol Fights Back
Beaker Fuel
A Mighty Wind/Carbon Hangover
Shell's Radical Rig
Special Report:
ENERGY+GENIUS




Energy & Genius
The Saudi Arabia of Lithium
The Octopus
Complete Contents

This greasy solution yields the substance that makes modern life possible: lithium. The lightest of all metals, lithium is the key ingredient in the rechargeable batteries that keep cell phones and laptops humming. Chile is the Saudi Arabia of lithium. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, this single ancient lake bed contains 27% of the world's reserve base of the metal.

Article Controls

- EMAIL
- PRINT
- REPRINT
- NEWSLETTER
- COMMENTS (7)
- SHARE
- YAHOO! BUZZ



How can you grow for tomorrow, and still preserve your family's legacy?


help² make all your money work together

Ask a Financial Advisor for insights to help you achieve more.

[Learn More](#)

Merrill Lynch
Wealth Management
Bank of America Corporation

Forbes VIDEO NETWORK POWERED BY INTEGRATED



After Hours

Texas Instruments' Warning

Google Knows More Than Previously Thought
After hours: Search giant accidentally collects passwords; Fed shuts down more banks.

Amazon's Costly Sales
After hours: Toyota recalls more cars; American Express' CEO vows to fight Feds.

Get Stories By Email

Until recently lithium was a minor commodity, used in small quantities by manufacturers of glass, grease and mood-stabilizing drugs. But demand has skyrocketed in recent years, as BlackBerrys and iPods have become middle-class staples. Between 2003 and 2007 the battery industry doubled its consumption of lithium carbonate, the most common ingredient used in lithium-based products.

The lithium bonanza may just be starting. Lithium-ion batteries are integral to the automobile industry's plans to wean itself off fossil fuels. The hotly anticipated Chevrolet Volt, a plug-in hybrid car slated to debut in 2010, will use a lithium-ion battery alongside a 1.4-liter gas engine. Mercedes plans to roll out a hybrid version of its S-Class sedan in 2009 and will similarly rely on lithium-ion technology to produce superior mileage. Nissan (nasdaq: NSANY - news - people) is working with NEC to mass-produce lithium-ion batteries for hybrids, in hopes of churning out 65,000 per year by 2010.

Since a vehicle battery requires a hundred times as much lithium carbonate as its laptop equivalent, the green-car revolution could make lithium one of the planet's most strategic commodities. The rush is on to find and develop new sources of it, a race that has mining companies scouring the globe's remotest corners, from the high-altitude deserts of Chile and Bolivia to the wilds of northern Tibet. The prospectors seem undeterred by the possibility that lithium's automotive heyday could be cut short by the cost and complexity of lithium-ion batteries. They prefer instead to focus on optimistic forecasts. Kevin McCarthy, a commodity chemicals analyst at **Bank of America** (nyse: BAC - news - people), sees the potential for double-digit annual sales growth for lithium carbonate at least through 2012.

Such rosy short-term predictions have investors swooning over Sociedad Quimica y Minera de Chile S.A., or SQM, the Chilean fertilizer and mining company that produces nearly a third of the world's lithium carbonate and whose leather-skinned employees brave the Salar de Atacama for the sake of gadget lovers. In the past three years the Big Board-traded shares of SQM have climbed from \$11 to \$22. In the first six months of 2008 SQM reported a profit of \$191 million, up 103% from a year earlier, on sales of \$787 million, up 41%.

[Comment On This Story](#)

SQM is controlled by Julio Ponce Lerou, who heads Pampa Calichera, a Chilean investment group; he is also the ex-son-in-law of Augusto Pinochet, Chile's military dictator for 17 years. But **Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan** (nyse: POT - news - people) has coveted SQM since at least 2002, and it now owns 32%, roughly the same amount as Ponce Lerou and the maximum allowable under SQM's bylaws. Ponce Lerou controls SQM via a deal he struck with Kowa, a Japanese firm that owns 2% of SQM's shares. But he has also had to take on a huge amount of debt to increase his stake in Pampa Calichera, which Standard & Poor's placed on negative credit watch in July. That turmoil might open the door for Potash, which briefly seized control of SQM in 2005.

Energy & Genius
Power Supply
Fuel Demand
Fuel Supply
Power Demand

Select Topics:

Sony Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan
 Bank of America Nissan

Not a member yet? Join Now! [Already a member? Log In](#)

Enter Username Enter Email

Receive Special Offers?

[SIGN ME UP >](#) [FAQ](#) [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Jim Cramer Calls Potash [www.TheStreet.com](#)
 Jim's Call Was Right On The Money. Find Out What Jim's Trading Next.

2 Stocks to Hold Forever [www.StreetAuthority.com](#)
 Buy them, forget about them, and never sell them.

Top 12 Stocks to Buy Now [www.TopStockAnalysts.com](#)
 Panel of nation's leading analysts just announced their favorite picks

Bipolar Disorder [myOptumHealth.com](#)
 Symptoms, causes, treatments of Bipolar Disorder.

Ads by Google

Content Management Software Accounting Software
 Email Marketing Software eCommerce Software
 Project Management Software Help Desk Software

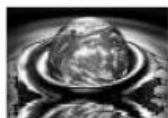
[>> Browse All Directories](#)

- Most Popular**
1. Ty Ku's Illuminating Asian Spirits | Video
 2. PepsiCo's Healthy New Vision | Video
 3. Suze Orman: The Helper | Video
 4. Katherine Oliver: NYC Commissioner | Video
 5. Analyst Moves: NextEra, Akamai | Video
 6. Twenty-One Cool Products And Services You Can Get For Free | Story
 7. The World's Billionaires | Story
 8. The Year's Most Ridiculous Excuses For Calling In Sick | Story
 9. America's 100 Cheapest Places To Live | Story
 10. Caterpillar Keeps Mining Emerging Markets With Bucyrus Buy | Story

Free Trial Issue

Name
 Address
 City
 State Zip
 Email





ENERGY + GENIUS

CLICK HERE FOR FULL COVERAGE ->

The lithium craze explains only a portion of Potash's interest in taking over SQM. The Chilean company gets 58% of its revenue from fertilizers,

compared to 11% from lithium. But it's clear that investors are intrigued by SQM's rapidly expanding operations in the Atacama desert. Chile boasts at least ten more salars that have yet to be explored for lithium reserves. If GM is right and drivers are willing to pay a steep premium for lithium-powered cars, SQM could be poised for a windfall.

But the lithium industry is still young, even embryonic. China, which produces 23% of the world's lithium carbonate but most of it at a far higher cost than Chile does, recently started extracting brine cheaply from a Tibetan salar. This operation has already had an impact. When SQM's lithium revenue fell 10% in the first quarter of 2008, the company blamed "the growing presence of Chinese producers."

SQM's lithium fields are ringed by blindingly white knolls of magnesium chloride, a salty substance that looks suitable for skiing. These magnesium hills, the by-products of a neighboring potassium chloride plant, provide an excellent vantage point from which to view the rectangular lithium ponds that stretch out toward the dull-brown Andes. From atop the tallest of these snowy mounds, one can see dozens of rectangular man-made ponds, each one bigger than a hockey rink.

The plastic-lined ponds, arranged in neat grids, are filled with brine in various states of evaporation. Ponds awash in the freshest brine are tinged a brilliant turquoise; others, nearly ready for harvest, are richly yellow around the edges. Scarcely any human intervention is needed, the sun does all the work. After the brine reaches a lithium concentration of 6%, which takes not quite a year, it is pumped into tanker trucks and driven three hours west to a plant near the Chilean coast. There the solution is purified and dried until all that remains are crystals of lithium carbonate. These crystals are then granulated into the finished product coveted by battery manufacturers, a fine white powder resembling cocaine.


The solar energy keeps SQM's costs to an estimated \$1,260 per ton of lithium carbonate. It sells that ton for up to \$12,000.

Lithium production wasn't always this simple, or this cheap. For almost half a century, starting in the early 1950s, the world's primary source of lithium was North Carolina, much of it from a mine in the town of Kings Mountain. The soft metal, vital to the military's H-bomb program, was laboriously extracted from spodumene, a silicate mineral occasionally used as a gemstone. By the mid-1970s the U.S. was producing about 2,900 tons of lithium per year.

Around that same time an Exxon chemist named M. Stanley Whittingham was working on a novel rechargeable battery, one that volleyed lithium ions between anode and cathode. Whittingham's design took advantage of the fact that lithium stores an unusually large amount of energy for its volume, making it ideal for portable electronics. Though Exxon failed to commercialize the technology, probably because it couldn't easily eliminate the risk of fires, the engineering world realized that lithium might someday go places.

CEO Book Club
BOOK REVIEW
The Other India

BOOK REVIEW
Taylor Rules
David R. Henderson
In a new book, economist John Taylor explains the cause of the crisis.



What's Driving Gold?



LEARN MORE >

Forbes.com
Newsletters
Stay Informed!

Forbes.com
Newsletters
Stay Informed!

Forbes.com
Newsletters
Stay Informed!

Footo Mineral, which owned the Kings Mountain mine, hoped to get the jump on the lithium boom by expanding to northern Chile, where desert brines were rumored to contain vast, cheaply obtainable amounts. In 1975 Footo signed an agreement with the Chilean government, then run by Pinochet, to explore the Salar de Atacama. Nine years later Footo began extracting lithium from a sliver of the lake bed. (The Footo subsidiary that worked the salar is now owned by Rockwood Holdings of Princeton, N.J., which continues to produce lithium on the tract.)

Newly wise to the desolate salar's value, Pinochet's government decided to auction off the rest of the region's mining rights. The American firm Amax (now part of Freeport-McMoran) won the bidding but didn't develop the property. In 1992 Amax sold its rights to a former arm of the Chilean government that had recently been privatized and handed over to Pinochet's then son-in-law, Julio Ponce Lerou.

Lithium's boom had begun in earnest just a year before, when Sony (nyse: SNE - news - people) launched its first generation of lithium-ion batteries for consumer electronics. By the end of 1991 Sony was making 100,000 a month. SQM began selling lithium carbonate in late 1996, and within a matter of weeks, lithium carbonate prices fell by a third, to \$2,000 a ton. The American lithium industry vanished overnight.

Sidebar:

White Gold

[Buffett's Latest Pick](#) www.DailyTradeAlert.com

What's the Worlds Greatest Investor Buying Today? Find Out Right Now.

[Investing in Lithium](#) www.pinetreecapital.com

Diverse investments in Lithium Exploration and Development Stocks

[Orange County Coupons](#) www.Groupon.com/Orange-County

1 ridiculously huge coupon a day. It's like doing O.C. at 90% off!

[3 Stocks Ready to Explode](#) www.agorafinancial.com/ST

Free Updates & Hot Tips On Penny Stocks. Sign Up Now!

Ads by Google

Wall Street Trending Lower After Monday Rally

Ford CEO's Pay Cut

The Most Dependable Cars On The Road

Street Readies For Restart

Page: 1 | 2 | Next > |

Rate This Story

Your Rating ☆☆☆☆☆ Overall Rating ★★★★★

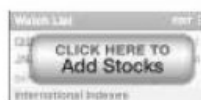
Reader Comments

I've been thinking a fair amount about lithium-ion battery use in electric vehicles. You might want to check out my article here:
<http://carbonpig.com/article/electric-cars-dont-use-fossil-fuel-w> [\[Read More\]](#)

Tags: environment, energy, electric vehicles, batteries, transportation

Posted by CarbonPig | 01/18/10 02:01 PM EST [Report Abuse](#)

Just a thought, but what if the lithium and salt content is providing a natural radiant barrier to the extreme



<http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2008/1124/034.html>

Welcome to TimesPeople
Get Started

TimesPeople recommended: **This Is Your Brain on Metaphors**

5:33 PM

Recommend

HOME PAGE TODAY'S PAPER VIDEO MOST POPULAR TIMES TOPICS

Subscribe to The Times | Log In | Register Now

The New York Times

Asia Pacific

Search All NYTimes.com

Go

ING DIRECT

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION ARTS STYLE TRAVEL JOBS REAL ESTATE AUTOS
AFRICA AMERICAS ASIA PACIFIC EUROPE MIDDLE EAST



The \$3 Trillion Lie:
How to protect your wealth and profit from the Fed's new money-printing scheme with the approach that could have turned every \$25,000 you invested into \$644,500!

▶ Watch the Video

www.MinusandMarkets.com

Advertise on NYTimes.com

U.S. Identifies Vast Mineral Riches in Afghanistan



Tyler Hicks/The New York Times

A bleak Ghazni Province seems to offer little, but a Pentagon study says it may have among the world's largest deposits of lithium.

By JAMES RISEN
Published: June 13, 2010

WASHINGTON — The United States has discovered nearly \$1 trillion in untapped mineral deposits in Afghanistan, far beyond any previously known reserves and enough to fundamentally alter the Afghan economy and perhaps the Afghan war itself, according to senior American government officials.

At War

Notes from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and other areas of conflict in the post-9/11 era.
Go to the Blog »

Multimedia



Graphic
Minerals in Afghanistan

Readers' Comments

Readers shared their thoughts on this article.

The previously unknown deposits — including huge veins of iron, copper, cobalt, gold and critical industrial metals like lithium — are so big and include so many minerals that are essential to modern industry that Afghanistan could eventually be transformed into one of the most important mining centers in the world, the United States officials believe.

An internal Pentagon memo, for example, states that Afghanistan could become the "Saudi Arabia of lithium," a key raw material in the manufacture of batteries for laptops and BlackBerrys.

The vast scale of Afghanistan's mineral wealth was discovered by a small team of Pentagon officials and American geologists. The Afghan government and

RECOMMEND

TWITTER

COMMENTS
(1460)

SIGN IN TO E-MAIL

PRINT

SINGLE PAGE

REPRINTS

SHARE

In Theaters Now

Log in to see what your friends are sharing on nytimes.com.
Privacy Policy | What's This?

Log In With Facebook

What's Popular Now

A Conversation With Jane Goodall: 50 Years of Chimpanzees



The Day Facebook Changed - Messages to Become Public by Default



The \$3 Trillion Lie:
How to protect your wealth and profit from the Fed's new money-printing scheme with the approach that could have turned every \$25,000 you invested into \$644,500!



www.MinusandMarkets.com

Advertise on NYTimes.com

MOST POPULAR

E-MAILED | BLOGGED | SEARCHED | VIEWED

1. Digital Domain: Should You Be Smuggling With Your Cellphone?
2. Investors Put Money on Lawsuits to Get Payouts
3. Paul Krugman: The World as He Finds It
4. The Stone: This Is Your Brain on Metaphors
5. Top 10 Must-Have Apps for the iPhone, and Some Runners-Up
6. Frank Rich: Who Will Stand Up to the Superrich?
7. Budget Puzzle: You Fix the Budget
8. Even Reusable Bags Carry Environmental Risk
9. For Cats, a Big Gulp With a Touch of the Tongue
10. Well's Vegetarian Thanksgiving

Go to Complete List »

Read All Comments (1460) »

President [Hamid Karzai](#) were recently briefed, American officials said.

While it could take many years to develop a mining industry, the potential is so great that officials and executives in the industry believe it could attract heavy investment even before mines are profitable, providing the possibility of jobs that could distract from generations of war.

"There is stunning potential here," Gen. [David H. Petraeus](#), commander of the United States Central Command, said in an interview on Saturday. "There are a lot of ifs, of course, but I think potentially it is hugely significant."

The value of the newly discovered mineral deposits dwarfs the size of Afghanistan's existing war-bedraggled economy, which is based largely on opium production and narcotics trafficking as well as aid from the United States and other industrialized countries. Afghanistan's gross domestic product is only about \$12 billion.

"This will become the backbone of the Afghan economy," said [Jalil Jumriani](#), an adviser to the Afghan minister of mines.

American and Afghan officials agreed to discuss the mineral discoveries at a difficult moment in the war in Afghanistan. The American-led offensive in Marja in southern Afghanistan has achieved only limited gains. Meanwhile, charges of corruption and favoritism continue to plague the Karzai government, and Mr. Karzai seems increasingly embittered toward the White House.

So the Obama administration is hungry for some positive news to come out of Afghanistan. Yet the American officials also recognize that the mineral discoveries will almost certainly have a double-edged impact.

Instead of bringing peace, the newfound mineral wealth could lead the [Taliban](#) to battle even more fiercely to regain control of the country.

The corruption that is already rampant in the Karzai government could also be amplified by the new wealth, particularly if a handful of well-connected oligarchs, some with personal ties to the president, gain control of the resources. Just last year, Afghanistan's minister of mines was accused by American officials of accepting a \$30 million bribe to award China the rights to develop its copper mine. The minister has since been replaced.

Endless fights could erupt between the central government in Kabul and provincial and tribal leaders in mineral-rich districts. Afghanistan has a national mining law, written with the help of advisers from the [World Bank](#), but it has never faced a serious challenge.

"No one has tested that law; no one knows how it will stand up in a fight between the central government and the provinces," observed [Paul A. Brinkley](#), deputy undersecretary of defense for business and leader of the Pentagon team that discovered the deposits.

At the same time, American officials fear resource-hungry China will try to dominate the development of Afghanistan's mineral wealth, which could upset the United States, given its heavy investment in the region. After winning the bid for its Aynak copper mine in Logar Province, China clearly wants more, American officials said.

Another complication is that because Afghanistan has never had much heavy industry before, it has little or no history of environmental protection either. "The big question is, can this be developed in a responsible way, in a way that is environmentally and socially responsible?" Mr. Brinkley said. "No one knows how this will work."

With virtually no mining industry or infrastructure in place today, it will take decades for Afghanistan to exploit its mineral wealth fully. "This is a country that has no mining culture," said Jack Medlin, a geologist in the [United States Geological Survey's](#) international affairs program. "They've had some small artisanal mines, but now there could be some very, very large mines that will require more than just a gold pan."



Renée Zellweger's big deal

ALSO IN REAL ESTATE »
Exclusive Connecticut vacation homes
Vacation rentals in Alabama

[nytimes.com](#) REAL ESTATE

ADVERTISEMENTS

Find your dream home with
The New York Times Real Estate



Fun The New York Times on Facebook

The new issue of T is here

See the news in the making. Watch
TimesCast, a daily news video.



The Opinion Pages
REFRESH YOUR PERSPECTIVE
VISIT TODAY » [nytimes.com/opinion](#)

Ads by Google what's this?

Sea Mineral Buy SEA-90
Organic Fertilize Soil/Foliar Feed
Offer to Livestock. Great Results.
[www.SeaAgri.com](#)

Lubricants & Mineral Oils
Lubriplate Loctite CRC LPS 3M Dow
Compressor Fluids Silicones Grease
[www.industrialchemicalonline.com](#)

We Buy Mineral Rights
Cash Upfront, Fast Closings, Free
Consultations, Call Us 888-916-0220
[www.UntRoyalties.com/MineralRights](#)

The mineral deposits are scattered throughout the country, including in the southern and eastern regions along the border with Pakistan that have had some of the most intense combat in the American-led war against the Taliban insurgency.

INSIDE NYTIMES.COM



1 | 2 | [NEXT PAGE >](#)

A version of this article appeared in print on June 14, 2010, on page A1 of the New York edition.

Start your day with the Today's Headlines e-mail newsletter.

COMMENTS

SIGN IN TO E-MAIL

PRINT

SINGLE PAGE

REPRINTS

Ads by Google

what's this?

Cheap Kabul Hotels

Compare Room Rates, Find Deals & More. Make Decisions w/Bing™ Travel
bing.com/travel

Rare Earth Elements

Leverage to Uranium & REE Prices
TSX Venture Symbol: GEM
www.pelismountain.com

Afghanistan Minerals

Will investors be able to profit
From Afghanistan's new wealth?
MoneyMorning.com/Afghanistan_Mine

Past Coverage

UNEASY ENGAGEMENT; China Is Willing to Spend Big In Afghanistan, on Commerce (December 30, 2009)
Pakistan Marble Helps Taliban Stay in Business (July 14, 2008)

Related Searches

Afghanistan

[Get E-Mail Alerts](#)

Metals and Minerals

[Get E-Mail Alerts](#)

Gold

[Get E-Mail Alerts](#)

Lithium (Metal)

[Get E-Mail Alerts](#)

MOVIES >



The Older Side of Hollywood Gets Its Due

OPINION >



Room for Debate: 16 Ways to Cut the Deficit

U.S. >



How Smoky Plume Drew the Eyes of the World

SPORTS >



Wrestling Pendulum Swings Farther East

OPINION >

Editorial: Grand Disillusion
Grand Central gets grander, Penn Station stays penal: That is a rule of New York City, writes Lawrence Downes.

N.Y. / REGION >



Even Reusable Bags Can Carry Risk

Investing in Lithium Mining Stocks

How To Profit from the Lithium Boom

By Brian Hicks

Friday, October 16th, 2009

Editor's Note:

While Western Lithium remains a buy, the *Pure Asset Trader* team tells me they have 2 rare earth trades — and possibly a third — they're looking to issue over the next two weeks... with an opportunity to double if not triple your money in mere months.

Ian Cooper heads up this team. And when they talk energy, our readers are all ears. That's because they've closed 33 winners in 35 tries this year. The gains have been exceptional.

For more information on the *Pure Asset Trader's* next move, [click here](#).

For now, here's the lithium piece I wrote a few months ago. This market is just heating up. And as you'll see below, it's a call that's already made readers a quick 30% gain.

Warren Buffett stunned the market back in September 2008 when he announced that he was investing \$250 million in a Chinese electric car company.

I say *stunned* because Warren Buffett seemed to violate one of his own rules of investing: Invest in companies you understand.

He admitted that he doesn't know a thing about electric cars.

So why did he invest?

Because maybe, just maybe, he knows that electric cars are a guaranteed winner.

I'm not recommending GM, Nissan, or any other automobile stock that's developing electric cars.

..

Instead, I'm going to recommend the commodity that is vital to the battery technology that'll be used in electric cars: **lithium**.

My play is a tiny mining outfit called Western Lithium (WLC.V: WLCDF). The stock currently trades for about \$1.08 a share.



If you're skeptical or concerned that fuel efficiency alone is not enough to entice Americans to buy electric cars, consider the Silicon Valley company Tesla Motors (pictured above). While their roadster is the first production automobile to use lithium-ion battery cells and travel more than 200 miles per charge, it is also capable of going from 0-60mph in under four seconds.

Not only will the Roadster leave most sports cars in the dust, the car recently set a distance record in April 2009 when it completed the 241-mile Rallye Monte Carlo d'Energies Alternatives with 36 miles left on the charge.

Even though the Roadster is probably too pricey for the average consumer at just over \$100,000, Tesla has taken more than 1,000 reservations for the car and expects to begin production of an all-electric and more affordable sedan starting in late 2011.

But just remember, the Tesla - as well as every other electric car - needs lithium. And demand for lithium is skyrocketing.

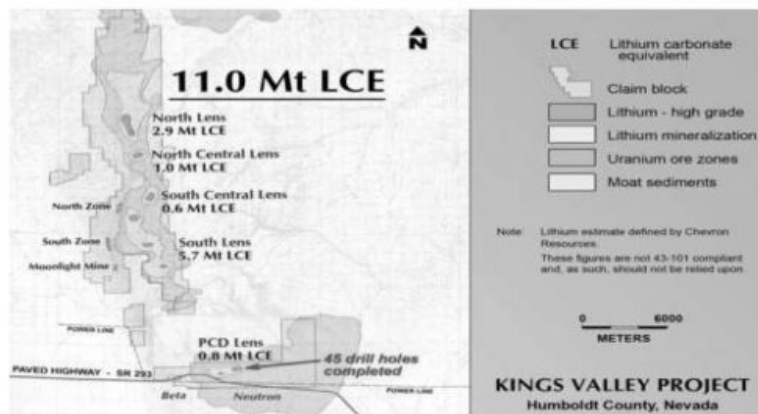
Lithium prices have nearly tripled over the past decade with 22% compound annual growth since 2000 for use in laptops, cell phones, and other electronics.

Demand is expected to continue rising, the recent lithium mania has been ignited by the fact that electric cars require about 3,000 times the lithium needed for an average cell phone, or 100 times the lithium used in a computer battery.

This huge spike in demand should propel lithium prices much higher over the next few years.

The best way to profit from the lithium boom is Western Lithium, which owns the largest known lithium deposit in North America. Take a look. . .

<http://www.wealthdaily.com/articles/western-lithium-stock-investing/2134>



According to a recent investment report:

The near surface lithium clay deposit is located in Nevada, USA and was initially discovered by the US Geological Survey and Chevron USA in the 1970's. Engineering work completed by Chevron, and later by the US Bureau of Mines in the 1980's, is now being advanced by Western Lithium.

The company's flagship Kings Valley property has a National Instrument 43-101 resource estimate for the initial stage of development and in total hosts a historically estimated 11 million tonnes of lithium carbonate equivalent (LCE). The project has a well developed local infrastructure and Nevada has a long history in the metals and industrial mineral mining industry. The company plans a scoping study during Q3 of 2009, a pre-feasibility study with results from additional drilling during 2010 and projected production by 2013. A chart with the world's largest lithium deposits is below.

While brine is usually the cheapest to mine and process, followed by clay and then pegamite (hard rock), it really depends on the quality of the material and presence of contaminants. It can be cheaper to develop a good rock or clay than a low-quality brine. Access to roads and infrastructure also play important roles in a project's economic feasibility. Western Lithium has a clear advantage to competition in this regard as their clay deposit is touted as high-quality (99% commercial quality) and the project already has all of the necessary road access and infrastructure needed to begin construction and production.

Western Lithium is well-funded and debt free, with \$7.3 million cash on the books. They recently completed a \$5.5 million private placement in May of this year and have a market cap of 70 million.

Yes, the stock is up a lot this past year. . . but I believe the lithium bull market is just getting started.

I think we'll witness something similar to a uranium-style bull market that lasted several years.

I personally own Western Lithium around \$1 per share. I will continue to add to my position on dips.

Profitably yours,

<http://www.wealthdaily.com/articles/western-lithium-stock-investing/2134>

Goldman Sachs discloses ownership in Talison Lithium Corp.

Share Report Abuse Next Blog» Create Blog Sign In

RetireFunds

News

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

Goldman Sachs discloses ownership in Talison

Lithium Corp.

Talison Lithium Ltd's

ore stockpiled at one of

it's plants in

Greenbushes,
Australia>>>
Talison Lithium
Limited – Press Release
TORONTO, Sept. 29

The
Goldman Sachs
Group, Inc.
("GS & Co."), 200 West
Street, ("GS Group"),
200 West Street,
New York, NY, 10282 New York, NY, 10282
GS&Co. & GS Group are hereinafter referred to collectively as the
"Offeror".

2. The designation and number or principal amount of securities and the offeror's securityholding percentage in the class of securities of which the offeror acquired ownership or control in the transaction or occurrence giving rise to the obligation to file the news release, and whether it was ownership or control that was acquired in those circumstances.

In connection with a plan of arrangement completed on September 22, 2010 involving Talison Lithium Limited (the "Company") and Salares Lithium Limited ("Salares"), the Company acquired all of the issued and outstanding securities of Salares in exchange for either ordinary shares in the capital of the Company ("Shares") or the equivalent number of exchangeable shares (which may be exchanged for Shares on a one-for-one basis) (the "Arrangement"). Further details regarding the Arrangement are set out in the joint press release of the Company and Salares dated September 22, 2010, which has been filed with the applicable regulatory authorities and is available on the Company's SEDAR profile at www.sedar.com.

Prior to the Arrangement, the Company was a private issuer and the Offeror and certain direct or indirect subsidiaries of GS Group beneficially owned and controlled 11,270,431 Shares (the "Offeror Shares"). The Offeror did not acquire any additional Shares in connection with the Arrangement. On September 23, 2010, in connection with the Arrangement, the Shares commenced trading on the Toronto

6/7/2012<http://retirefunds.blogspot.com/2010/09/goldman-sachs-discloses-ownership-in.html>

Page 2 of 4RetireFundsNews: Goldman Sachs discloses ownership in Talison Lithium Corp.

Stock Exchange ("TSX") under the symbol "TLH". Following the completion of the Arrangement, the Offeror Shares represented approximately 12.78% of the issued and outstanding Shares of the Company.

3. The designation and number or principal amount of securities and the offeror's securityholding percentage in the class of securities immediately after the transaction or occurrence giving rise to the obligation to file a news release.

Following the completion of the Arrangement noted in item 2 above, the Offeror and certain direct or indirect subsidiaries of GS Group beneficially owned and controlled 11,270,431 Shares, representing approximately 12.78% of the issued and outstanding Shares of the Company.

4. The designation and number or principal amount of securities and the percentage of outstanding securities of the class of securities referred to in paragraph 3 over which:

(i) the offeror, either alone or together with joint actors, has ownership and control,

Following the completion of the Arrangement noted in item 2 above, the Offeror and certain direct or indirect subsidiaries of GS Group beneficially owned and controlled 11,270,431 Shares, representing approximately 12.78% of the issued and outstanding Shares of the Company.

(ii) the offeror, either alone or together with joint actors, has ownership but control is held by other persons or companies other than the offeror or any joint actor,

Not Applicable.

(iii) the offeror, either alone or together with joint actors, has exclusive or shared control but does not have ownership.

Not Applicable.

5. The name of the market in which the transaction or occurrence that gave rise to the news release took place. Not applicable.

The transactions effected in connection with the Arrangement and completed on September 22, 2010, were effected in pursuant to a statutory plan of arrangement under Section 288 of the Business Corporations Act (British Columbia), which was approved by the Supreme Court of British Columbia on September 21, 2010.

6. The value, in Canadian dollars, of any consideration offered per security if the offeror acquired ownership of a security in the transaction or occurrence giving rise to the obligation to file a news release.

Not applicable. No Shares were acquired by the Offeror in connection with the Arrangement. See Item 2, above.

7. The purpose of the offeror and any joint actors in effecting the transaction or occurrence that gave rise to the news release, including any future intention to acquire ownership of, or control over, additional securities of the reporting issuer.

The Offeror Shares were acquired in the ordinary course of the investment activities of the Offeror and certain direct or indirect subsidiaries of GS Group. The Offeror and certain direct or indirect subsidiaries of GS Group may purchase or sell securities of the Company in the future on the open market or in private transactions, depending on market conditions and other factors material to the investment decisions of the Offeror and certain direct or indirect

subsidiaries of GS Group.

8. The general nature and the material terms of any agreement, other than lending arrangements, with respect to securities of the reporting issuer, entered into by the offeror, or any joint actor, and the issuer of the securities or any other entity in connection with the transaction or occurrence giving rise to the news release, including agreements with respect to the acquisition, holding, disposition or voting of any securities.

Not applicable. No Shares were acquired by the Offeror in connection with the Arrangement. See Item 2, above.

9. The names of any joint actors in connection with the disclosure required by this form.

The securities being reported on by GS Group, as a parent holding company, are owned, or may be deemed to be beneficially owned, by GS & Co. GS & Co. is a direct and indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of GS
6/7/2012<http://retirefunds.blogspot.com/2010/09/goldman-sachs-discloses-ownership-in.html>
Page 3 of 4RetireFundsNews: Goldman Sachs discloses ownership in Talison Lithium Corp.
Group.

In accordance with Section 5.1 of National Instrument 62-103 (the “National Instrument”), this filing reflects the securities beneficially owned or controlled by certain business units of GS Group and its subsidiaries and affiliates which include business units engaged in principal investing activities, managing discretionary accounts and customer facilitation trading (collectively, the “Goldman Sachs Reporting Unit”). This filing does not reflect securities, if any, beneficially owned or controlled by any business units of GS Group whose beneficial ownership of or control over securities is disaggregated from that of the Goldman Sachs Reporting Unit in accordance with the National Instrument. The Goldman Sachs Reporting Unit disclaims beneficial ownership of the securities beneficially owned by (i) any client accounts with respect to which the Goldman Sachs Reporting Unit or its employees have voting or investment discretion, or both and (ii) certain investment entities of which the Goldman Sachs Reporting Unit acts as the general partner, managing general partner or other manager, to the extent interests in such entities are held by persons other than the Goldman Sachs Reporting Unit.

10. In the case of a transaction or occurrence that did not take place on a stock exchange or other market that represents a published market for the securities, including an issuance from treasury, the nature and value in Canadian dollars of the consideration paid by the offeror.

Not applicable. No Shares were acquired by the Offeror in connection with the Arrangement. See Item 2, above.

11. If applicable, a description of any change in any material fact set out in a previous report by the entity under the early warning requirements or Part 4 of National Instrument 62-103 in respect of the reporting issuer’s securities.

Not applicable.

12. If applicable, a description of the exemption from securities legislation being relied on by the offeror and the facts supporting that reliance.

Not applicable.

1. Name and address of the offeror

Robert Belva, Telephone: 212-902-7941

Source: Canada Newswire (September 29, 2010 – 2:24 PM EDT)

R

related:

Talison Lithium goes public on Toronto Stock Exchange

Talison Lithium goes public -expands output – Financial Post

Posted by Retirefunds at 4:40 PM

Labels: disclosure, Goldman Sachs, Goldman Sachs Group, GS, Investing, New York, ownership, Stocks, Talison Lithium, Toronto Stock Exchange, tsx

0 comments:

<http://retirefunds.blogspot.com/2010/09/goldman-sachs-discloses-ownership-in.html>

Page 4 of 4RetireFundsNews: Goldman Sachs discloses ownership in Talison Lithium Corp.

Post a Comment

Comment as:

Select profile...

Publish Preview

<http://retirefunds.blogspot.com/2010/09/goldman-sachs-discloses-ownership-in.html>

Share this:

Email

Twitter

Facebook

Google +1

Print

Pinterest

StumbleUpon

LinkedIn

Digg

Tumblr

Reddit

Like this:

Like

Be the first to like this.

This entry was posted in [Uncategorized](#) and tagged [Abound](#), [argonne national laboratory](#), [ATVM](#), [brent petterson](#), [Bright Automotive](#), [christina johnson](#), [Chrysler](#), [cinthia andersen](#), [citibank](#), [coda automotive](#), [daniel cohen](#), [daniel tobin](#), [david axelrod](#), [david frantz](#), [debevoise](#), [dianne feinstein](#), [DOE](#), [DOE LOAN](#), [elon musk](#), [fisker automotive](#), [Ford](#), [General Motors](#), [goldman sachs](#), [ibm consulting](#), [jack abramoff](#), [james markowsky](#), [john doerr](#), [jonathan levy](#), [jonthan silver](#), [k&l gates](#), [kathy zoi](#), [kevin czinger](#), [kleiner perkins](#), [lachlan seaward](#), [lloyd blankfein](#), [mark tercek](#), [matt rogers](#), [mckinsey & company](#), [midland services](#), [morgan stanley](#), [rahm emanual](#), [raj gupta](#), [robert gibbs](#), [rod o'conner](#), [scott harris](#), [sentech](#), [Solyndra](#), [steve rattner](#), [Steve spinner](#), [steve westley](#), [Steven Chu](#), [steven heller](#), [technology & management services](#), [Tesla](#), [tesla motors](#), [the westly group](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

DOE Manipulated Funding Investigation: A project of The Corrupt-o-pedia Wiki

Theme: *Twenty Ten* Blog at *WordPress.com*.

Follow

Follow "DOE Manipulated Funding Investigation: A project of The Corrupt-o-pedia Wiki"

Get every new post delivered to your Inbox.

Enter your email address