

Quarterly NEWS Letter Winter 25-26

BeST Beryllium Science and Technology Association

Dear Readers,

In this edition, you will read about how the UK identified beryllium as a Growth Mineral, the latest scientific evidence regarding beryllium, the RESourceEU Plan, and the EU Defence Readiness Roadmap.

Wishing you a very pleasant read and a happy new year 2026!

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BeST Secretary General***



Table of Contents

Beryllium Named a UK Growth Mineral	03
Evidence Mounts to Rethink Beryllium's Classifications	04
EU Launches the REsourceEU Plan	05
EU Defence Roadmap Targets Raw Materials	06
BeST Meets the EU	07
BeST Positions	08



Beryllium Science & Technology Association

Beryllium Named a UK Growth Mineral

The UK's Critical Minerals Strategy for 2035 has identified beryllium as a "Growth Mineral" due to its strategic relevance for the coming decade.

Introduced alongside the already established Critical Minerals list, the Growth Minerals list anticipates which minerals will be most needed in future UK manufacturing across key industrial sectors.

Beryllium is one of the minerals newly identified as a Growth Mineral, reflecting its crucial role in the aerospace and defence sectors.

While this designation is a strong symbolic signal of beryllium's rising importance to the UK economy, its implications are also practical.

Increased financial and administrative support for the beryllium sector can accelerate industrial development and strengthen supply-chain resilience.

BeST welcomes this initiative and the recognition of beryllium's importance, and stands ready to provide expertise to support effective implementation.

Evidence Mounts to Rethink Beryllium's Classification

A newly published study of beryllium workers supports rethinking classifications of beryllium metal under the EU Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation (CLP), the GB Mandatory Classification and Labelling List (GBMCL), and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

Updated evidence shows that the existing classifications do not accurately reflect scientific realities and risk information related to beryllium-containing materials in the workplace, and should therefore be reconsidered.

The study, "An updated mortality study of beryllium workers, 1925–2020," followed 17,149 workers across 15 US facilities over nearly a century, making it the largest epidemiologic study on beryllium.

Its central aim was to reassess mortality risks, especially lung cancer, while explicitly accounting for whether workers were exposed to soluble, insoluble, or mixed forms of beryllium.

By splitting facilities according to beryllium solubility, results show that insoluble-only settings show no increased lung cancer or other mortality for any timeframe for workers.

The study therefore adds momentum to align classification with scientific evidence and modern industrial contexts, while still maintaining strong protections against sensitisation and chronic beryllium disease.

BeST stands ready to provide expertise through its Be Responsible program, helping employers and regulators deliver the highest standards of worker protection.

EU Launches the RESourceEU Plan

In December, the European Commission launched the RESourceEU Plan, which aims to strengthen the EU's supply of critical raw materials.

One pillar of the plan is the launch of a European Critical Raw Materials Centre in 2026, expected to improve market oversight and to help guide strategic investments.

The Commission also intends to push forward on strategic stocks, starting with a pilot stockpiling scheme in 2026. Furthermore, RESourceEU seeks to speed up new mining, processing and recycling capacity inside Europe.

Finally, the plan underscores cooperation with partner countries, building on existing strategic partnerships and preparing additional investment frameworks to diversify value chains.

BeST welcomes the Action Plan and its focus on strengthening Europe's resilience in critical raw materials.

At the same time, its impact will depend on how measures are implemented. As discussions progress, it will be important to take a material-specific approach that recognises beryllium's unique properties as well as the particularities of its supply chain and circularity landscape.

In this context, BeST stands ready to provide expertise and support so that the proposed measures can be translated into practice in the most effective way.

EU Defence Roadmap Targets Raw Materials

In October, the European Commission presented its Defence Readiness Roadmap, setting out how the EU plans to strengthen defence capabilities and industrial readiness by 2030.

The Roadmap recognises that defence manufacturing depends on secure supply of critical raw materials, and therefore links defence readiness to the Critical Raw Materials Act.

The Commission also sets milestones: in the second half of 2026, it plans to publish an analysis of risks from dependencies and bottlenecks in critical raw materials, alongside an Action Plan to reduce vulnerabilities in defence supply chains.

BeST welcomes the Roadmap's focus on critical raw materials as a foundation for defence readiness. Beryllium, widely used in high-performance defence systems and components, illustrates the importance of securing supply through global partnerships with trusted partners.

In December 2024, beryllium was included on NATO's list for defence-critical raw materials.

BeST stands ready to provide support for more resilient supply chains for defence-relevant raw materials.

BeST Meets the EU

In November 2025, BeST carried out an intensive two-day advocacy tour in Brussels, meeting with key institutions and policy stakeholders to discuss regulatory developments impacting the beryllium industry.

In Brussels, discussions took place with member states and the US Mission to the EU, alongside meeting the First Secretary for Economic Security, Trade & Industrial Policy at the Mission of Japan to the EU.

Furthermore, BeST met with the International Wrought Copper Council, the European Defence Agency and the ASD or the Association for the European Aerospace, Security and Defence industry.

Key topics included the Defence Readiness Omnibus, the review of the End-of-Life Vehicles Directive, the REACH review, and the Circular Economy Act.

BeST members highlighted beryllium's role in defence applications and the importance of regulatory coherence.

These engagements reinforced BeST's commitment to promoting a balanced, science-based approach both in Europe and beyond.

BeST Positions

Endorsing the EU's transition to a circular economy, BeST calls for a **differentiated, material-specific policy approach** due to beryllium's specific applications and economic considerations.

[READ HERE](#)

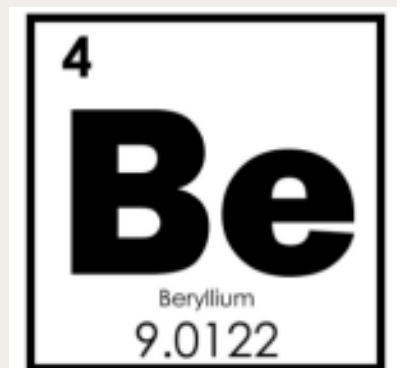


BeST Charter 2024-2029 expresses the expectations of the beryllium industry for the next five years.

[READ HERE](#)

BeST stresses the **importance of regulatory coherence for the defence industry**. BeST calls for consistency in policy making and regulation that promotes the use of beryllium.

[READ HERE](#)



BeST to join forces with industry coalitions

BeST will continue to support the CRM Alliance in promoting beryllium as critical to the EU economy under the CRM Act, which advances processing, circularity, and trade. BeST remains keen to support relevant industry coalitions during the REACH review, advocating for a risk-based approach and worker protection solutions.

Working Safely With Beryllium

BeST Easy Guides

BeST Easy Guides are a communication tool launched at the end of 2021 to complement the 12 Guides developed under the Be Responsible Voluntary Product Stewardship Program. Nine of these Easy Guides focus on the most frequent operations on beryllium-containing materials processes, with the most recent one dedicated to welding operations, completing the series of process-specific publications.

[ACCESS ALL EASY GUIDES HERE](#)

BeST is pleased to announce the renewal of its **Voluntary Product Stewardship Program** and its dedicated websites, now available in all 24 official languages of the European Union.

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Be Responsible
Beryllium Product Stewardship

[ACCESS OUR DEDICATED WEBSITE HERE](#)

Stay in Touch

The BeST website features a dedicated 'Latest News' section, keeping readers informed with updates and articles on beryllium. This section complements the site's extensive resources on environment, health, and safety, ensuring stakeholders have access to the most recent developments. Stay up to date with the latest news from BeST online.

BeST ONLINE



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