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Information that impacts you!

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Hormuz Tensions Flare Again: Iran Re-Closes Key Oil Route Ahead of U.S. Peace Talks

Iran has announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz once again, citing alleged violations of a ceasefire by Israel. The move comes just as diplomatic talks between Iran and the United States are set to begin in Switzerland, aimed at reaching a long-term peace agreement. The renewed closure raises concerns over global oil supplies and shipping, as the Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical energy transit routes. Despite the announcement, the immediate impact on vessel traffic remains uncertain, with some oil shipments reportedly continuing to pass through the waterway.

Source: *Supply Chain Brain*

Oil Slides as Supply Fears Fade; China's Petrochemical Market Takes a Hit

Global oil prices extended their decline on June 25 as concerns over supply disruptions in the Middle East eased amid progress in U.S.-Iran negotiations and the gradual reopening of shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz. Increased expectations of recovering oil exports from the region have reduced fears of a prolonged supply shortage.

At the same time, China's petrochemical sector came under pressure, with futures prices for key products falling sharply due to weak demand and concerns about oversupply. The downturn reflects broader concerns about slowing industrial activity and reduced consumption in the world's largest petrochemical market.

Source: *ICIS*

Pentagon Unveils $1.25 Billion Rare-Earth Push to Challenge China's Dominance

The U.S. Department of Defense has announced $1.25 billion in conditional loans to support the construction of domestic rare-earth processing facilities, aiming to reduce America's dependence on China for critical minerals used in defense, electronics, and advanced technologies.

The funding includes:

- $500 million for Phoenix Tailings to build a large-scale rare-earth separation and metallization plant.
- $725 million for Energy Fuels to expand rare-earth oxide separation and metal production capabilities in the U.S.

Source: *c&en*

EU Tightens Critical Minerals Strategy to Reduce Supply Chain Risks

FDA Clears Coperion Technology for Food-Grade Recycled HDPE & PP

The European Union is preparing a new set of measures to strengthen and diversify supplies of critical raw materials, aiming to reduce its heavy dependence on a limited number of suppliers—particularly China. The initiative is expected to include policies that encourage sourcing diversification, strategic partnerships, recycling, stockpiling, and faster development of domestic mining and processing projects.
The move builds on the EU's existing Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), which targets greater self-sufficiency by 2030 through increased extraction, processing, and recycling capacity within Europe. The EU is also expanding partnerships with resource-rich countries such as Brazil and launching joint procurement mechanisms to secure access to strategic minerals including rare earths, lithium, cobalt, graphite, and nickel.

Source: S&P Global

German recycling technology company Coperion has received a Letter of No Objection (LNO) from the U.S. FDA, confirming that its recycling process can produce food-grade recycled HDPE (rHDPE) and polypropylene (rPP) suitable for direct food-contact packaging.
The approved process combines twin-screw extrusion with EcoFresh silo degassing technology, enabling the removal of contaminants from post-consumer plastic waste. The FDA validation means recyclers can use the resulting recycled material in food packaging applications, including bottles, trays, cups, and containers.
According to the company, the technology supports production capacities ranging from small-scale operations up to 6,000 kg/hour and can enable food packaging containing up to 100% recycled HDPE or PP content.

Source: Chemical Engineering

Freightos Weekly Update: Ocean rates climb again even as fuel costs ease

Bunker fuel prices are down 25% from their March highs and 12% compared just to the start of June, though prices remain about 40% higher than in February. Jet fuel prices are down more than 40% from their peak. Even as fuel costs ease, container rates continue to climb as peaking demand from an early busy season is keeping vessels full at least into July. Spot rates will start easing from the current or near-term levels as demand decreases, regardless of what happens in the Strait.

Source: Container News

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