

WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT RARE EARTHS?

Critical Materials Institute **An Energy Innovation Hub**

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Rare earths are a big part of our modern world. They are in our clean energy technologies like wind turbines and efficient lighting, and in many things we use every day—cars, cell phones, computers and televisions.

Commercial demand, mining challenges, and international politics have created instabilities in the market. That makes these rare earths critical materials.

The Critical Materials Institute, an **Energy Innovation Hub** created by the **U.S. Department of Energy**, has a big problem to solve—eliminate materials criticality as an impediment to the commercialization of clean energy technologies for today and tomorrow.

The Critical Materials Institute is a multidisciplinary team of U.S. Department of Energy national laboratories, universities and industry partners led by the Ames Laboratory working together to solve this problem.

The CMI is the DOE's investment in timely, cost-effective, and energy-efficient solutions to this global challenge.

What's the solution? This Energy Innovation Hub will deliver technologies to help find new sources of and substitutes for rare earths and other critical materials, as well as develop recycling and recovery methods. It will also use its expertise to predict future shortages.