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EVION ACCEPTED INTO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CORNERSTONE CONSORTIUM, OPENING DIRECT ACCESS TO THE U.S. INDUSTRIAL BASE

Membership positions Evion inside the only Government-managed Transaction Agreement consortium in the U.S. Department of Defense, directly aligning the Company's Nevada fluorspar and downstream graphite platform with American supply chain priorities.

Key Highlights

- **Evion has been accepted as a member of the Cornerstone Consortium**, the U.S. Department of Defense's public-private industrial base consortium managed by the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center and Army Contracting Command - Rock Island.
- **Cornerstone is the only Government-managed Other Transaction Agreement consortium within the Department of Defense**, established in 2018 under the Office of the Secretary of Defense Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) Program to strengthen the U.S. manufacturing and defence industrial base.
- **Membership provides Evion with direct visibility of, and eligibility to respond to, Cornerstone Initiative Requests** - competitive Department of Defense solicitations issued to consortium members across 18 industrial base sectors, including Materials.
- **Evion's asset base is directly relevant to the Cornerstone mandate** - the high-grade Carp Fluorspar Project in Lincoln County, Nevada, the EU-recognised Maniry Graphite Project in Madagascar, and the Panthera Graphite Processing Plant in India already shipping expandable graphite into the United States and Europe.
- **Membership is a further deliberate step in Evion's U.S. government affairs strategy**, following the appointment of former Australian Ambassador to the United States, The Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO, as Strategic Advisor and the Company's articulation of its downstream critical materials strategy.

Evion Group NL ("Evion" or "the Company") (ASX: EVG) is pleased to advise that it has been accepted as a member of the Cornerstone Consortium, the United States Department of Defense's public-private consortium established to strengthen the resilience of the U.S. manufacturing and defence industrial base.

Acceptance follows execution of a Cornerstone Management Agreement and places Evion inside a Department of Defense framework specifically designed to identify and close capability gaps and supply chain vulnerabilities across the American industrial base

What Cornerstone Is

Cornerstone is a prototype Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) vehicle and consortium supporting a broad spectrum of Department of Defense technology areas. It was created in February 2018 through collaboration between the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Policy, the Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) Program Manager, and Army Contracting Command - Rock Island, and was originally scoped to support Executive Order 13806 on assessing and strengthening the manufacturing and defence industrial base and supply chain resiliency of the United States.

Cornerstone is operated by the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center (DEVCOM CBC) and Army Contracting Command in Rock Island, Illinois, under the oversight of the IBAS Program Manager. It is the only Government-managed OTA consortium within the Department of Defense, which distinguishes it from the industry-managed consortia that make up the majority of the OTA landscape.

The consortium spans 18 industrial base sectors and brings together traditional and non-traditional defence contractors, small businesses, private capital, academic institutions and federally funded research and development centres. Its stated purpose is to accelerate the research, development, prototyping, demonstration, qualification and integration of manufacturing capabilities and capacities into the U.S. industrial base and its supply chains.

Why This Matters for Evion

Sector Area 8 of the Cornerstone framework is Materials, defined as the basic raw materials and associated international trade supply chains that are integral to the U.S. manufacturing base and to the Nation's overall economic and national security. **Fluorspar and graphite are both designated critical minerals in the United States and both sit within that sector.**

The US currently imports the vast majority of its graphite concentrates and all other downstream graphite products including expandable graphite and anode material for battery manufacturing. The US has a long history of importing graphite from Madagascar, and we believe we offer a compelling business case to US government agencies to be a preferred supplier of graphite concentrate to meet the US's future needs.

The United States imports 100% of its fluorspar requirements. There is no domestic primary production. Evion's Carp Fluorspar Project in Lincoln County, Nevada, is a historically producing, high-grade carbonate-replacement system that delivered approximately 44,900 tonnes at an average grade of approximately 69% CaF_2 between 1958 and 1971, sold direct to Kaiser Steel Corporation as metallurgical-grade fluorspar without beneficiation. Independent verification of surface rock chip sampling confirmed grades of up to 88.15% CaF_2 across all four historically mined pit areas[1].

On the expandable graphite side, through Panthera Graphite Technologies[2] processing operation, the Company already manufactures expandable graphite to customer specification and ships it into the United States and Europe, with the business unit delivering positive EBITDA in FY2026[3]. The Company set out the

[1] ASX announcements 12 and 25 May 2026
[2] https://pantheragraphite.com/
[3] ASX announcements 4 and 12 June 2026

strategy underpinning that business, and its application to AI infrastructure, defence and energy security markets, in its announcement of 2 July 2026.

Cornerstone membership connects those two positions to the specific U.S. Government mechanism built to fund and accelerate industrial base capability.

Evion Managing Director, David Round, commented:

> *"Cornerstone is where the U.S. Department of Defense actually does its industrial base work. Being inside it means we see the requirements when they are issued and we are eligible to respond to them. For a company with a domestic American fluorspar asset and an operating non-China graphite processing business, that is exactly where we want to be."*
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> *"The United States imports every tonne of fluorspar it consumes. Graphite is not far behind. Washington has been explicit that it intends to fix that, and it has built the funding architecture to do it. Our job is to be positioned, credible and known when those requirements come out, and this is a deliberate step toward that."*
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> *"This follows the appointment of Arthur Sinodinos AO as Strategic Advisor and sits alongside the field programme now underway at Carp. Each of these is a building block in the same strategy. We look forward to progressing all of them."*

Next Steps

- Preparing Evion's capability positioning across the Cornerstone Materials sector, supported by the Company's Strategic Advisor and U.S. adviser network[4].
- Advancing the current field programme at the Carp Fluorspar Project toward drill targeting[5].
- Continuing to progress the downstream critical materials strategy outlined on 2 July 2026.

About Evion Group NL

Evion Group NL (ASX: EVG) is a vertically integrated critical minerals company spanning mining and downstream processing across allied jurisdictions. The Company holds an option over the high-grade Carp Fluorspar Project in Lincoln County, Nevada, comprising 59 unpatented lode claims covering approximately 493 hectares on Bureau of Land Management administered land. Evion also holds the Maniry Graphite Project in Madagascar, recognised by the European Union as a Strategic Project under its Critical Raw Materials Act[6], and a 50:50 interest in the Panthera Graphite Technologies downstream processing joint venture in India, which commenced shipments of expandable graphite to the United States and Europe in 2025[7].

This announcement has been authorised for release by the Board of Evion Group NL.

[4] ASX announcement 2 June 2026
[5] ASX announcement 29 June 2026
[6] ASX announcement 5 June 2026
[7] ASX announcements 12 March and 28 August 2025

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