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The Arctic Premium: What the Greenland Pact Means for Markets and Minerals

A three-way security agreement between Washington, Copenhagen and Nuuk is set to be signed at the UN General Assembly this week. Investors did not wait for the ink: Greenland-linked stocks exploded, and the critical-minerals map of the Arctic just got redrawn.

By **Ankit Kankar** | September 22, 2026



Few security pacts move share prices within hours. This one did. After Donald Trump announced that the United States, Denmark and Greenland had agreed a security deal covering the Arctic island, Greenland-linked stocks surged in US trading, with Greenland Energy soaring more than 144 percent premarket, Greenland Mines up nearly 70 percent and Critical Metals Corp more than 30 percent higher. The agreement is expected to be signed during the UN General Assembly in New York this week.

The deal updates a NATO-era arrangement dating back to 1951. Trump has described it as giving the United States permanent control over security in Greenland, while Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen has been careful to stress that the pact recognises the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Denmark. Under the agreement, the US, which currently operates Pituffik Space Base in the island's north, is expected to establish two additional bases. During the Cold War, it maintained as many as 17.

The minerals clause is the business story

For decision makers, the most consequential line is not about troops. A US State Department official has said the deal guarantees that China and Russia cannot establish a base in Greenland or send troops there, and that mechanisms are in place to prevent investment in sensitive sectors, including mineral extraction. Greenland holds some of the largest undeveloped rare-earth and critical-mineral deposits outside China, and this pact effectively rings-fences them inside the Western supply chain at exactly the moment Beijing's rare-earth leverage is at the centre of the Xi-Trump summit agenda.

The market reaction tells its own story about scarcity. Investors are not pricing producing mines; most Greenland-linked names are exploration-stage companies years from output. They are pricing the removal of geopolitical ambiguity, the single biggest discount factor hanging over Arctic resource projects. With Chinese investment now formally excluded, Western capital has a clearer runway, and the premium reflects that.

The WBW view

Three cautions belong next to the euphoria. First, triple-digit single-day moves in pre-revenue mining stocks are sentiment, not valuation; the gap between a security guarantee and a producing mine is measured in a decade and billions of dollars. Second, the fine print is still unpublished, and key details of the pact have yet to be made public; commitments on investment screening can be looser in text than in headline. Third, the politics are not settled. Danish public opinion has swung sharply,

with one veteran Copenhagen journalist noting that Danes have gone from among the most pro-American publics in Europe to among the most sceptical. For supply-chain planners, though, the direction is unmistakable: the Arctic is now an explicit theatre of economic security, and Greenland's minerals have moved from the periphery of the critical-materials conversation to its centre.

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