

Copper demand predicted to grow with smart cities

Copper demand is expected to almost double cumulatively over the next seven years as cities around the world implement smart technologies. A global study, conducted by the Martec Group and commissioned by the International Copper Association (ICA), found that total volume looks set to rise from 2.7 million tonnes in 2019 to 4.8 million tonnes in 2025.

Copper is the material of choice for smart city technology thanks to its unique conductive properties which lead to enhanced efficiency. Sectors including transport mobility, energy, infrastructure, and smart buildings all use copper. As the adoption of new copper-based technologies increase, forecasts show copper demand in smart buildings will be a large growth area.

Asia and Europe currently lead the world in copper demand for use in smart cities, with 40 percent and 35 percent respectively. However, North America is predicted to increase in share from 20 percent in 2020 to 35 percent in 2030, making it the leader in copper demand for smart city technology implementation.

Emily Bielak, Project Manager at The Martec Group, said, “Our research shows that the deployment of smart city technology will lead to a rise in copper demand. The building and mobility sectors have the highest growth potential as we expect to see significant technological advancement over the next five years. The energy sector, which is more mature, is expected to remain stable at around 25 percent of copper demand over the same time period.”

Colin Bennett, Market Intelligence Director at International Copper Association, stated, “Copper continues to be the material of choice for the development and implementation of smart cities and the energy transition thanks to its unique properties. This research demonstrates the clear correlation in copper demand with smart city development, across a wide spectrum of applications and geographical regions.”

About the International Copper Association

The International Copper Association’s members represent a majority of global copper production and include some of the world’s largest manufacturers of copper semi-end-use products. ICA brings together the global copper industry to develop and defend markets for copper and to make a positive contribution to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. ICA’s status as a not-for-profit trade association provides its members with a credible, independent advocate to address challenges faced by the collective industry. ICA is headquartered in Washington, D.C. ICA and its Copper Alliance® partners are active in more than 60 countries worldwide. For additional information visit copperalliance.org.

Notes to Editors

The Martec Group research, commissioned by the International Copper Association, will be further explored in a webinar – The Material Opportunity in Smart Cities. The webinar, which is hosted by CESCO and Fastmarkets, is the first of a three part series which explores the latest developments in the copper sector. The series is free to attend, please find further information and registration [here](#).

Contact

Simon Rendell
Account Director Energy+Industrials
Hill+Knowlton Strategies
simon.rendell@hkstrategies.com
+44 (0)20 7413 3161