



Integrating Geothermal Energy and Critical Mineral Recovery: A Novel Approach on a Remote British Overseas Territory

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Ascension

Ascension Island

Ascension is a UK Overseas Territory situated in the South Atlantic.

It is volcanic in origin with little to no fresh water

Discovered by the Portuguese in 1501, garrisoned by the British in 1815, it has had a long naval history.

It houses a USAF base, an RAF base & the BBC South Atlantic relay.

Ascension is governed jointly with St Helena.



The Challenge

- Ascension had a geothermal exploration programme in the 80s
- Could REE and geothermal be coupled to allow the heat to act as a catalyst?
- Logistically difficult
- Politically 'unusual'
- Potential for clean REE recovery worth pursuing
- Geothermal power – too late?

