How to Rise Above the Helium Shortage

NIST grants for UC physicists, scientists and researchers to work towards healthcare and research sustainability.

**Problem: Global Helium Shortage**

- A rise in industrial usage, many industries using helium, including healthcare, electronics, and computers.
- A global helium shortage has developed that a supply of the gas dried up.
- The cost has increased by more than 40% in the last 5 years, and the market is not expected to stabilize for years.

**Helium Production Issue**

- About 60% of helium production is via Qatari and Russian production, with an additional 24% of the world's helium production.
- Qatari production decreased by 24% in the past year.
- US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was previously managing most helium production in the US, but this is a standalone decision for Haliburton.
- The increased US production ability for healthcare, medical equipment, and other research needs.

**Helium Shortage Impact on UC**

- Reduced helium supplies due to US policy change and complex federal agency involvement.
- Federal research funds, including health care, electronic, and aerospace research.
- UC's ability to provide Healthcare, world-class researchers, and secure future research funding.

**Reduced Helium Allocation**

- UC currently has contracted for the following: Airgas - 84% allocation, Matheson - 67% allocation.
- UC was reduced to 64% allocation with one supplier for out of 2021 with increasing price.
- A plan to increase a budget in the next year, but this is not a permanent solution.

**Environmental Factors**

- Producers increased the helium supply, due to US policy changes.
- UC requested and received relief to extend their allocation.
- UC's allocation is reduced by about 3% in 2022.
- UC's allocation is reduced by about 22% in 2022.
- The helium market is expected to stabilize in the next 5 years.
- The reduction in helium supply will impact research projects.

**Solution: Helium Recycling**

- The best way to reduce carbon footprint, optimize market, and reduce waste.
- UC researchers identified a potential solution.
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**Federal Grants Available**

- This project could be funded by federal government and national scientific bodies to protect and ensure helium supply.

**Click to Apply**

- For more Grant Information.

**Proposal Sub Mission Deadline:**

October 16, 2023 — November 15, 2023 (by 5 pm)

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*The NIST grants page is very long and may require additional reading.*