



Helium Supply Crisis: World's Second-Largest Producer Halts Output, Threatening Semiconductor Industry

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Doha, March 9 – As tensions in the Middle East continue to escalate, the global helium market faces a severe supply shock. Iran's recent attacks on Qatar's natural gas facilities have disrupted operations at Ras Laffan, the world's largest LNG export complex, cutting off nearly one-third of the global helium supply.

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Qatar is the world's second-largest helium producer, accounting for approximately 33% of global output, behind only the United States. Most helium is produced as a byproduct of natural gas extraction.

According to Phil Kornbluth, President of Kornbluth Helium Consulting, all three of Qatar's helium production facilities are now suspended: one closed for pipeline maintenance, while the other two have halted operations due to the aerial attacks.

Helium spot prices have surged 35% to 50% week-on-week. Major industrial gas suppliers have begun imposing surcharges on buyers. A prolonged disruption could lead to global force majeure declarations and widespread supply rationing.

Helium is a critical and irreplaceable material for semiconductor manufacturing,

scientific research, and defense applications. The ongoing shortage adds significant pressure to global technology supply chains already struggling to meet growing demand from artificial intelligence development.

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